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31 October 2023 – Daily Current Affairs

<p>Bangladesh is building memorial to honour Indian heroes of 1971 war</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
<p>IITM Pune demonstrates cloud seeding can produce rainfall</p>	<p>Context</p> <p>A cloud seeding experiment carried out in Solapur city, was able to achieve 18% relative enhancement in rainfall, which is approximately 8.67mm more rainfall than usual.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX phase-4)• Calcium chloride flare was used for seeding the clouds.
<p>Salt Consumption in India</p>	<p>Context</p> <p>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</p>



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	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <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 security situation in West Asia with Egypt 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 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 for Gaza remained stuck inside Egypt because of intense military activity by Israel as well as



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	<p>due to the shortage of fuel for the trucks inside Gaza.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India abstained at the UN General Assembly during a resolution calling for 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 finalising 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 dollars developed economy by 2047. ● It will include government process re-engineering, 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 on trade, investment, technology, capital, research and development entities. ● 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</p> <p>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>



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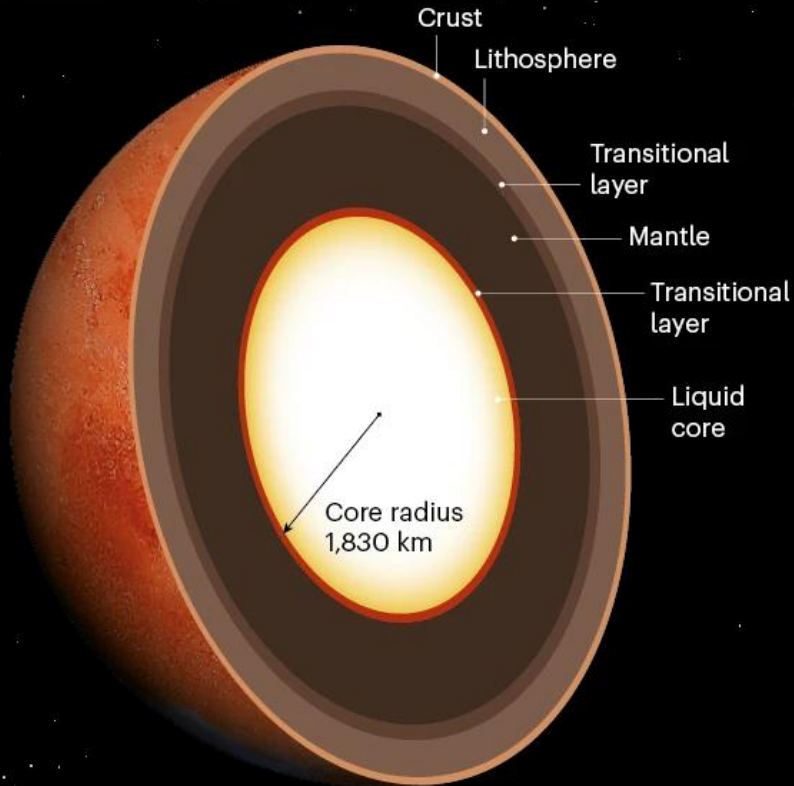
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The NDCs of developed countries already fall short of the global average reduction of emissions to 43% below 2019 levels that is needed to keep temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius.• Instead, developed countries' collective NDCs only amount to a 36% cut.• 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.



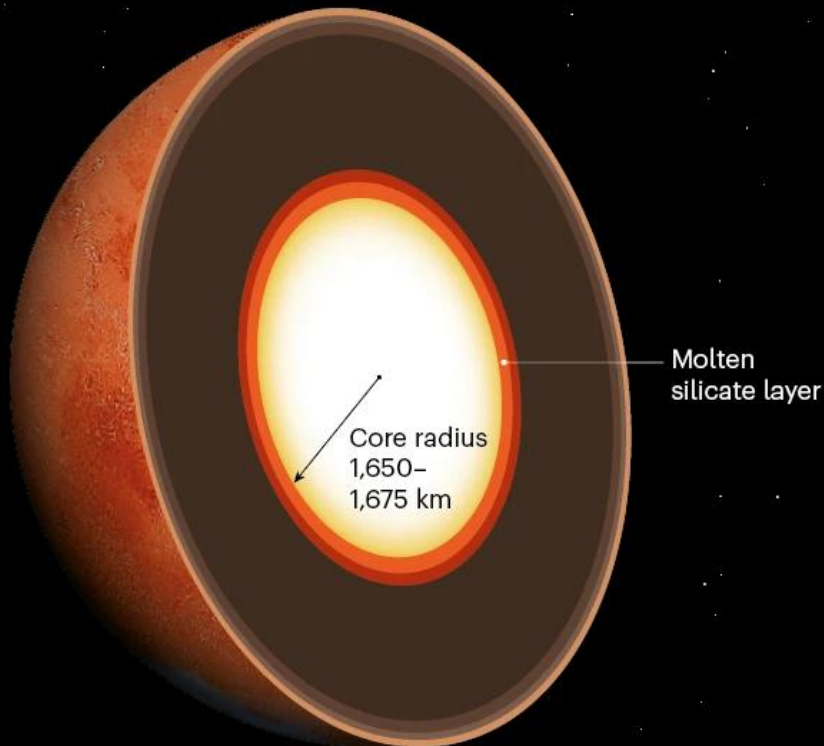
RETHINKING THE MARTIAN CORE

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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Stone inscription throws light on agraharam existence 550 yrs ago



In News:

- An ancient stone inscription discovered at Bramanakurichi near Ilayangudi in Sivagangai district recently has revealed the existence of an agraharam built by Vanathirayar 550 years ago.

Key Points:

- The nine-line inscription on a six-and-a-half feet tall and one foot-wide granite stone in front of the Thadiyar Udayar Ayyanar Temple at Bramanakurichi was found by a team, led by V Rajaguru, president of Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Foundation,
- Vanathirayars were chieftains and royal officers during the **Pallava, Chola and Pandya periods.**
- **After the fall of the Pandyas**, a separate State was established with Madurai Alagarkoil as its headquarters under the Vijayanagara and Nayak kings.
- The inscription has “**Sundarathol Mahavali Vanathirayar Dhanmam Anakurichi Akirakaram**” written on it.
- There are kamandala and tridanda symbols engraved on top of the stone

Samba and thalady policy



In News: Count our views before announcing samba policy: Delta ryots

- Delta farmers, who have been waiting for the announcement of **samba and thalady policy**, have urged the State government to hold an interactive session, headed by the Chief Secretary, with officials so that they can put forth their expectations and requirements.

About Samba and thalady policy:

- The **Samba and Thalady Policy is a set of guidelines issued by the Tamil Nadu government** to regulate the cultivation of **paddy during the Samba and Thalady seasons.**
- The policy aims to ensure that farmers have access to adequate water and other resources, and that they receive a fair price for their produce.
- Samba and Thalady are two of the three main cropping seasons in Tamil Nadu, India.
- The Samba season runs from September to January.
- Thalady season runs from February to June.
- The Samba season is the most important cropping season in Tamil Nadu, as it **accounts for over 60% of the state's rice production.**

Blue Flag Status

In News:



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BLUE FLAG

- Some of the beautiful beaches along Tamil Nadu's coastline may soon be able to boast of **coveted Blue Flag status**

Key Points:

- It is one of the world's most recognisable voluntary **eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, etc.**
- The Tamil Nadu government has decided to commence works on identifying beaches across the State's coastline to vie for Blue Flag status, which could get their names enlisted among tourist hotspots and attract more travelers.

About Coveted Blue Flag Status:

- The Blue Flag is a voluntary eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable tourism boats that meet high environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility standards.
- The Blue Flag program is run by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a **non-governmental organization with headquarters in Denmark.**
- **Kovalam Beach, Chengalpattu** has already been chosen to develop, as per the principles of the Blue Flag Beach Programme in Tamil Nadu.

To be eligible for the Blue Flag, a beach or marina **must meet a set of 33 criteria**, including:

1. Excellent water quality
2. Clean sand or pebbles
3. Effective environmental management
4. Provision of lifeguard services and other safety measures
5. Educational initiatives about the coastal environment

TN logs 1,500 dengue cases in Sept

In News:

- The health department said that Tamil Nadu recorded nearly 1,500 dengue cases in the last month alone

Key Points:

- Six deaths have been reported due to the disease, so far.
- Among districts, Chennai saw the highest number of dengue with about 500 cases in the last month.

Dengue:

- **Dengue (break-bone fever)** is a viral infection that spreads from mosquitoes to people.
- It is more common in **tropical and subtropical climates.**
- Most people who get dengue won't have symptoms.
- But for those that do, the most common symptoms are **high fever, headache, body aches, nausea and rash.**



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Dengue Symptoms

Fever with any of the following



- Most will also get better in 1–2 weeks.
- Some people develop severe dengue and need care in a hospital.
- In severe cases, dengue can be fatal.
- Dengue is treated with pain medicine as **there is no specific treatment currently.**
- The virus is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the **Aedes aegypti mosquito.**
- Other species within the Aedes genus can also act as vectors, but their contribution is secondary to Aedes aegypti.



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