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National and International News

<p>Vitiligo</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New research from Northwestern University from a pre-clinical trial in mice has shown that a natural compound derived from gut-friendly bacteria significantly slows down the progression of vitiligo and may restore pigmentation. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current decade will probably be known as the decade of the gut, given the incredible number of significant biological connections we are making between the gut and human well being. • However, this is not about the gut per se; this is about the role of gut-friendly bacteria in the process of re-pigmentation, particularly in persons with vitiligo. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitiligo is a skin disorder that causes loss of pigmentation, leading to white patches on the skin. It occurs when melanocytes, the cells responsible for skin color, are destroyed. • The exact cause is unknown, but it is linked to autoimmune factors. • Vitiligo is non-contagious and can affect any part of the body.
<p>Indus River</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan has discovered a significant gold reserve worth approximately ₹80,000 crore in the Indus River, specifically in the Attock district of Punjab province. • This discovery is considered a major economic opportunity for Pakistan, which is currently facing financial challenges, including high inflation and dwindling foreign reserves. <p>India Connection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geological Origin: The gold deposits found in the Indus River are believed to have originated from the Himalayan region of India. • Geologists suggest that the Indus River carries these gold particles downstream, where they accumulate as placer gold in Pakistan. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indus River is one of the longest rivers in the world, flowing 3,180 km from Tibet through India and Pakistan into the Arabian Sea. • It is vital for agriculture, supporting the Indus Valley Civilization.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indus River has several major tributaries, categorized into left-bank and right-bank tributaries. <p>Left-Bank Tributaries (Eastern side)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jhelum River – Originates in Jammu and Kashmir, India. Chenab River – Formed by the confluence of Chandra and Bhaga rivers in Himachal Pradesh, India. Ravi River – Flows through India and Pakistan. Beas River – Originates in Himachal Pradesh, India. Sutlej River – The longest tributary, originating from Tibet. <p>Right-Bank Tributaries (Western side):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shyok River – Flows through Ladakh and Gilgit-Baltistan. Gilgit River – Joins the Indus in Pakistan. Kabul River – Originates in Afghanistan and merges in Pakistan. Gomal River – Flows through Afghanistan and Pakistan. Kurram River – Flows through Afghanistan and Pakistan. Swat River – Flows in northern Pakistan.
ASTRA MK-III	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Astra MK-III, also known as Gandiva, is India's most advanced air-to-air missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). This missile is poised to significantly alter the balance of power in air combat due to its unmatched range and advanced technology. <p>Key Features of Astra MK-III (Gandiva):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propulsion System: The Astra MK-III employs a Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion system, which uses atmospheric oxygen as an oxidizer, making it lighter and more efficient. This system allows the missile to sustain supersonic speeds up to Mach 4.5 over extended ranges of 300–350 kilometers. Throttle-Able Ramjet: The missile features a throttle-able solid fuel ducted ramjet, enabling it to dynamically adjust its speed and trajectory during flight. This capability allows the missile to accelerate in the terminal phase to outmaneuver evasive targets or conserve energy for longer engagements Range and Speed: The Astra MK-III has a significantly longer range compared to its predecessors, with estimates suggesting it can engage targets at distances exceeding 300–350 kilometers. Its speed capabilities make it highly effective in both short and long-range combat scenarios. Guidance and Control: The missile uses advanced guidance systems, including mid-course inertial guidance and terminal homing, ensuring high accuracy and a large autonomous range for the terminal phase.
Ayushman Arogya Mandirs	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delhi has recently established three Ayushman Arogya



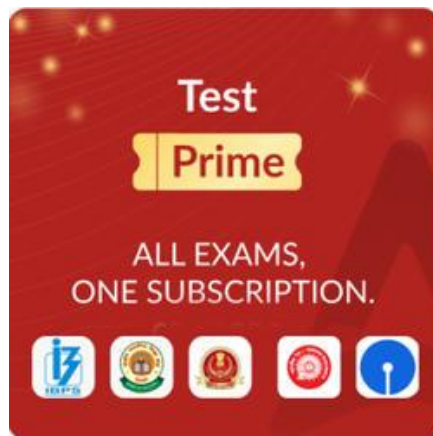
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	<p>Mandirs, marking a significant step in enhancing primary healthcare services in the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These centers are part of a broader initiative to provide holistic patient care, integrating preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative services. • The establishment of these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs follows the renaming of Delhi's Mohalla Clinics, which were previously the flagship healthcare initiative of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. <p>Key Features of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic Care: These centers aim to offer a comprehensive range of healthcare services, including screening, prevention, and management of non-communicable diseases, mental health support, and emergency care. • Integration with PM-JAY: The Ayushman Arogya Mandirs will be linked with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), providing health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care. • Upgraded Services: The transition from Mohalla Clinics to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs is intended to improve service delivery, address past allegations of corruption, and ensure more efficient healthcare access for residents. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is India's largest health insurance scheme, launched in 2018. • It provides free medical coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families. • It covers hospitalization costs for secondary and tertiary care in empaneled hospitals nationwide.
Dnipro River	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia is launching repeated "suicidal" assaults to cross the Dnipro River in Kherson, despite heavy casualties, as part of a strategy to seize more territory before potential peace talks. • With U.S. military aid to Ukraine suspended, Kyiv faces increasing battlefield challenges while refusing to surrender territory. • Russia continues to engage in offensive operations in Ukraine, focusing on areas like Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Donetsk. • Also, Russian forces have made some advances, particularly around Kupyansk and Borova. • NATO and Russia: NATO has expanded its presence along its eastern flank, establishing new battlegroups in countries like Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. • Despite this, Russia's concerns about NATO are not consistently reflected in its military actions, as it has shown indifference to NATO's presence in some areas. <p>About:</p>



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	<p>NATO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance founded in 1949 to ensure collective defense among member countries. • It consists of 32 nations, primarily in North America and Europe. NATO promotes security, political stability, and military cooperation, responding to global threats and maintaining peace through strategic defense initiatives. <p>Dnipro River:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dnipro River is the fourth-longest river in Europe, flowing through Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine before emptying into the Black Sea. Spanning about 2,200 km, it is vital for hydroelectric power, irrigation, and transportation.
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