

Netflix Global CEO Ted Sarandos met Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur. According to a government statement, during the meeting, Mr. Thakur highlighted the expanding creative economy and how India, backed by domestic talents, had emerged as a content and post production hub. They also discussed “how India’s regional content was a global favourite today and among the most viewed content globally apart from being dubbed in dozens of languages”. Through an initiative called “Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniyan”, Netflix has committed to produce 25 short and inspirational videos for the I&B Ministry.

The fourth edition of India-Japan bilateral Army exercise ‘Dharma Guardian’ began at Camp Imazu in Shiga province, Japan on Friday and will go on till March 2. Separately, two Japanese Navy ships Uruga and Awaji made port call in Kochi from February 14 to 16. Last month, the two Air Forces had held the maiden air exercise ‘Veer Guardian.’

On the eve of World Pangolin Day observed on February 18, a not-for-profit organisation working on the international trade of animals and plants, has brought out a fact sheet reporting that 1,203 pangolins have been found in illegal wildlife trade in India from 2018 to 2022. Up to 24 States and one Union Territory saw seizures of pangolins and their derivatives. Odisha reported the maximum number of incidents, with 154 pangolins in 74 seizures. It was followed by Maharashtra with 135 pangolins in 47 seizure incidents. The publication, titled ‘India’s Pangolins Buried in Illegal Wildlife Trade’, has tracked 342 total incidents during this time period.

The United Arab Emirates has opened a centre housing a mosque, church and the country’s first official synagogue, the Abrahamic Family House, with the aim of promoting interfaith coexistence in the Muslim nation. The oil rich Gulf federation, which normalised relations with Israel, is home to a small Jewish community.

Claiming that the Assam government’s fortnight long crackdown on child marriage had a “positive” impact in the State, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said several families had cancelled scheduled weddings of underage people as a fall out of the ongoing drive. The operation started on February 3, and 3,031 people have been apprehended against registration of 4,225 cases till Tuesday. Opposition parties have criticised the manner in which the drive is being carried out, terming the arrests as an “abuse of law” for political gain, and equating the police action with “terrorising people”.

The Supreme Court on Friday chose transparency over the government’s sealed cover containing “suggestions” for a committee proposed to examine Hindenburg Research’s damning report on the Adani Group, saying that public confidence would take a hit if an impression was created that the Centre

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (MoH&FW) MODIFIED NATIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION GUIDELINES

1. MoH&FW is working on 'One Nation, One Organ Allocation' policy in consultation with states to come up with operational guidelines and other changes in organ donation.
2. **Key changes in guidelines**-Upper limit changed: Removed age cap of 65 years for receiving an organ from a dead donor. However, preference will still be given to younger recipients. Removed domicile requirement: Now, needy patient can register to receive an organ in any state and will be able to get the surgery done there. Earlier, some states either registered only recipients from their state or accorded priority to them while allocating organs. No Registration fee: States have been asked not to charge recipients for registration on waiting lists for organs.
3. **Benefits of changes**- Ease process of organ transplantation and donation across country. Several end-stage patients suffering from organ-related diseases can make it to waitlist. Transplantation is act of surgical removal of an organ from one person and placing it into another person. India conducts third highest number of transplants in world. Number of organ transplants (with organs from both deceased and living donors) increased in 2022.

ISRO ANNOUNCES NEW DISCOVERY ABOUT ORIGIN OF VOLCANIC ROCKS ON MOON

1. Scientists from Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad (India), US and Japan have found a unique group of ancient lunar basaltic meteorites with very low abundance of KREEP. This suggests that meteorites studied have come from a region different from PKT (Procellarum KREEP Terrane). KREEP is acronym for a place that has deposits of potassium (K), rare earth elements (REE) and phosphorus (P).
2. Samples studied for discovery are Asuka-881757 found at Antarctica, and Kalahari 009 found at Kalahari Desert, and samples collected by Russian Luna-24 mission. Study shows that these basalts are result of low-pressure melting in the Moon whereas basalts in PKT regions are a result of localized radioactive melting.
3. Further, it shows that these basalts originated from a cool, shallow, and compositionally distinct part of lunar interior. PKT regions are rich in radioactive elements that provided heat to melt rocks resulting in KREEP rich basalts.
4. Mare regions of Moon which is on near side of Moon consists mainly of basalt rocks. Near side of moon (always visible from Earth) is divided into light areas called Lunar Highlands and darker areas called Mare.
5. Moon is the only natural satellite of Earth. It is rotating at same rate that it revolves around Earth (called synchronous rotation), so the same hemisphere (Near Side) faces Earth all time. Major Moon Missions: Apollo (US), Luna (Russia), Chang’e (China), Chandrayaan 1 and 2 (India), etc.

WORLD’S FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MILITARY (REAIM) 2023 HELD IN HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

1. It is the first global attempt to prevent proliferation of Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS) and insert ethics, moral factor into rapidly developing weaponization technology that has potential for cataclysmic damage.
2. **Purpose of REAIM 2023**-Put the topic of responsible AI in military domain higher on political agenda. Mobilise and activate wide group of stakeholders to contribute to concrete next steps. Foster and increase knowledge by sharing experiences, best practices, and solutions.
3. **Role of AI in military domain**-Training and simulation to provide battlefield experience to soldiers. Surveillance, specifically in difficult to reach border regions, to provide situational awareness. Offensive capabilities, such as autonomous armed drones, which can execute targets. Reconnaissance and tactical support in combat situations such as targeted strikes.
4. **Concerns associated with use AI in military**-Ethical risks: Principle of distinction between civil and military assets and populations, and principle of proportionality of force deployment are compromised. Data biases: AI is characterised by a predisposition to certain kinds of data such as racial or gender bias which impacts rational decision making.

EXPERTS RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT LEAD POISONING IN INDIA

1. As per study conducted by NITI Aayog and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2022, 23 states exceed the permissible blood lead level of 5 µg/dL margin. Levels in remaining states and

was steering the process with the court's nod.

The Election Commission of India on Friday allotted the name 'Shiv Sena' and the party's bow and arrow symbol to the Eknath Shinde faction, in effect recognising it as the original party founded by Balasaheb Thackeray. The commission said that it had based its decision on a "test on majority" as the group of MLAs supporting the Shinde faction had got nearly 76% of the total votes polled by the 55 winning Shiv Sena candidates in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly election, while the Uddhav Thackeray faction secured only 23.5% votes.

The Income Tax Department said on Friday that its survey over three days at the Delhi and Mumbai offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) revealed multiple irregularities, including non-payment of tax on certain remittances that were not disclosed as income in India. The survey had concluded on Thursday. Stating that the survey was carried out under Section 133A of the Income Tax Act, the agency said it revealed that despite substantial consumption of content in various Indian languages (apart from English), the income/profits shown by various group entities was not commensurate with the scale of operations in India.

With the one-year anniversary of Ukraine war next week, India's top diplomatic machinery has been working the phones and racking up airmiles to ensure a smooth G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) on March 1, an event which will see the participation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday designated the Khalistan Tiger Force and the Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force as terrorist organisations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. A Punjab resident, Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda, who is presently based in Pakistan's Lahore, was also designated as an "individual terrorist" under the anti-terror law. The Ministry's notification said that the Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) surfaced in the year 2020 as a terrorist outfit.

Union Territories cannot be determined due to lack of research and screening mechanisms to collect data.

- Also, 2020 report by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Pure Earth stated that 275 million children in India record blood lead levels beyond tolerable limit of 5 µg/dL. Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal found in Earth's crust.
- Source of lead poisoning**-Occupational sources: Mining, painting, glass manufacturing, pottery, smelting etc. Non occupational sources: Traditional medicine, vehicular exhaust, food, painted toys, contaminated soil, dust and water etc.
- Impact of Lead Poisoning**-Damage to brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning problems, Hearing/speech problems leads to reduced intelligence, lower educational attainment etc.
- Steps taken to phase out Lead**-Occupational Safety and Health Administration Regulations protect workers from toxic metal exposure. Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MoRD) WORKING TO ACHIEVE 10 CRORE SELF HELP GROUP (SHG) MEMBERS BY 2024

- MoRD signed an agreement with Meesho (an e-commerce platform) for marketing of products made by SHGs under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY- NRLM). From 2.35 crore SHG members in 2014, number has increased to more than 9 Crore currently.
- SHGs are small informal groups of 10 to 20 people who come together to address their common problems. SHGs promote small savings and provide small loans to its members from its common fund. SHGs act as an influential instrument for poverty reduction, women empowerment, and socio-economic development etc.
- Problems faced by SHGs:** Inadequate training facilities, lack of market linkage, non-co-operative attitude of financial institutions, lack of technical knowledge and qualified resource personnel etc.
- Government initiatives to strengthen SHGs-Promoting SHG federations such as Village Organisations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) which provides handholding support. DAY-NRLM has provision for providing Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Support Fund (CISF) to support SHGs.
- DAY-NRLM, launched by MoRD, aims to improve the living conditions of rural Indians by enhancing livelihoods through SHG ecosystem and providing SHG members better income. It adopts a demand driven approach, enabling States to formulate their own action plans.

E-SANJEEVANI

- e-Sanjeevani provides tele consultation services to 10 crore beneficiaries. eSanjeevani- National Telemedicine Service of India- is world's largest telemedicine implementation in primary healthcare. It is an e-health initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is a part of Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission.
- It is an alternative to conventional physical consultations via digital platform. It comprises two Verticals e-Sanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers' (HWCs): Bridge rural-urban digital health divide by providing assisted teleconsultations to beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Scheme. E-Sanjeevani OPD: Caters to citizens in both rural and urban alike.



"The chaos of competition ends when you start competing with yourself."

DR. KHAN
(KSG)