

DAILY PT POINTERS

17th November, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-Health (Page 12)

U.S. approves first vaccine against chikungunya virus

Ixchiq's green-light by the U.S. drug regulator is expected to speed the vaccine's rollout.

November 11, 2023 04:14 am | Updated 04:14 am IST - Washington

AFP

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- the world's first vaccine for chikungunya was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the U.S. The vaccine has been developed by European vaccine manufacturer Valneva and will be available under the brand Ixchiq,
- Chikungunya, which causes fever and severe joint pain, is generally seen in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, southeast Asia and parts of the Americas.
- However, chikungunya virus has spread to new geographical areas causing a rise in global prevalence of the disease
 - Chikungunya is prevalent in Africa, Asia, and the Americas; but sporadic outbreaks have been reported in other regions
- Chikungunya, is characterised by severe joint pain and impaired mobility, and comes with fever.
- It is a viral infection (CHIKV) transmitted primarily by the Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes and has been described as “an emerging global health threat.”

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-IR (Page 16)

Unimpeded freedom of navigation vital: Rajnath

At ASEAN meeting, Minister calls for collaboration on peace and security; New Delhi's proposal to chair expert working group on counter-terrorism endorsed by participating Defence Ministers



- The ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) is a platform to strengthen security and defence cooperation for the 10 ASEAN member States and their eight dialogue partners — India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States — which are collectively known as the Plus countries.
 - India became an ASEAN dialogue partner in 1992, and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in 2010.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GSIII – Economy (Page 18)

India cuts windfall tax on diesel, crude oil



- ‘Windfall profits’ refer to an unanticipated spike in earnings of an entity resulting from an exogenous event (which could be one-off and/or prolonged) and not resulting from a business decision.
- The B.K. Chaturvedi committee’s report on the Financial Position of Oil Companies (2008) had stated that taxing of these windfall gains has been seen as a prerogative of governments, in part to meet fiscal needs and in part to pursue redistributive justice.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: IR-GSII (Page 8)

India to host 2nd Voice of Global South Summit today

The Ministry of External Affairs said that India had hosted the inaugural Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) on 12-13 January 2023 virtually. This unique initiative brought together 125 countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.



- India will host the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit Friday in a virtual format, in what will be the second time since January this year
 - India had **hosted the inaugural Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS)** on 12-13 January 2023 virtually. This unique initiative brought together 125 countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.
 - “The 2nd summit would focus on sharing with countries of the Global South the key outcomes achieved in various G20 meetings over the course of India’s Presidency.

Do you know ?

'Global North' refers loosely to countries like the US, Canada, Russia, and Australia, while 'Global South' includes countries in Asia, Africa and South America

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Economy - GSIII (Page 15)

As unsecured credit rises sharply, RBI tightens norms on personal loans, credit cards

Indian banks have seen a sharp rise in unsecured loans — mostly personal loans and credit cards — that has outpaced the overall bank credit growth of about 15 per cent over the past year, catching the Reserve Bank of India's attention.



- the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the risk weights on the exposure of banks to consumer credit, credit card receivables and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) by 25 percentage points.
 - Risk weight refers to the capital banks keep aside as provisioning to cover any loan defaults. The latest RBI move is expected to dissuade banks from targeting high growth in these sectors as it will become costlier for banks to maintain high credit growth.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Polity and Governance–GSII (Page 16)

Why adultery was struck off IPC, and why a House panel wants to make it a crime again

In 2018, the SC declared IPC Section 497, which punished men, but not women, for adultery, as arbitrary and unconstitutional. Why is this archaic provision being discussed again?



The Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs has suggested that adultery should be re-instituted as a crime in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, the proposed law to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.

Do you know ?

Until 2018, the IPC contained Section 497, which defined adultery as a criminal offence that attracted up to five years in prison, or a fine, or both. However, only men could be punished under Section 497, not women.

In *Joseph Shine vs Union Of India* (September 27, 2018), a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra, and comprising current CJI D Y Chandrachud, and Justices A M Khanwilkar, R F Nariman, and Indu Malhotra, unanimously struck down Section 497 of the IPC on grounds that included discrimination.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Miscellaneous (Page 16)

'Hallucinate', Cambridge Dictionary's word of the year and the perils of AI

Express View: Cambridge's word of the year foregrounds the complications of AI, from the realm of the imaginary to one of possibility



Cambridge Dictionary names 'Hallucinate' Word of the Year 2023

The traditional definition of hallucinate is 'to seem to see, hear, feel, or smell something that does not exist, usually because of a health condition or because you have taken a drug'. The new, additional definition is:

- *'When an artificial intelligence (= a computer system that has some of the qualities that the human brain has, such as the ability to produce language in a way that seems human) hallucinates, it produces false information.'*

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Defence -GSIII

LAUNCH OF 'AMINI', FOURTH SHIP OF ASW SWC (GRSE) PROJECT ON 16 NOV 23 AT M/s L&T, KATTUPALLI

Despatch On: 16 NOV 2023 6:21PM hr: PIB Delhi



- Amini, an Arnala class of ship for Indian Navy, was launched on Thursday at L&T Shipbuilding's facility in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.
- The 4th of 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC) project being built by the state-owned Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Amini is designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and also low intensity maritime operations (LIMO) and mine laying operations
- The ship has been named Amini to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Amini at Lakshadweep, located about 400 km west of Kochi,

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Defence -GSIII

INDIA - SRI LANKA JOINT EXERCISE MITRA SHAKTI – 2023 COMMENCED TODAY

Posted On: 16 NOV 2023 2:43PM by PIB Delhi



The ninth edition of Joint Military exercise “Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023” commenced today in Aundh (Pune). The exercise is being conducted from 16th to 29th November 2023.

- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.
- The aim of the exercise is to jointly rehearse conduct of Sub Conventional operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. The Scope of the exercise includes synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Economy-GSIII

On occasion of World Fisheries Day, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying to organize Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 on 21 and 22 November, 2023 at Ahmedabad



- Fisheries sector is considered as a sunrise sector and has immense potential for bringing equitable and inclusive growth by economic empowerment of the weaker section of the society.
- With 8% share in global fish production, India is the 3rd largest fish producer, 2nd largest aquaculture producer, largest shrimp producer and 4th largest seafood exporter in the world.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Economy -GSIII

Expenditure on Urban Schemes has increased significantly since 2014: Housing Minister Hardeep S Puri

Hardeep S Puri highlights focus of government towards achieving circular economy in country's urban areas

CITIIS 2.0 to enable innovation throughout the value chain of waste management in our cities: Hardeep S Puri

CITIIS 2.0 Challenge launched by Hardeep S Puri today

Smart City SPVs to submit their applications through CITIIS Management Platform (CMP) by 28 February 2024



- CITIIS 2.0 was approved by the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 31 May 2023. The CITIIS 2.0 Challenge was launched by Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri i.e. on 16 November 2023. CITIIS 2.0 is the second phase of the City Investments To Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) program. It has been conceived by MoHUA in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD), KfW Development Bank, the European Union and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) with the aim to:
- Drive investments into urban climate action through competitively selected projects promoting a circular economy with focus on integrated waste management.
- Foster climate-sensitive planning and action in states and cities through evidence-driven approaches.
- Build institutional mechanisms, leverage partnerships and anchor capacity building for all urban local bodies in India.
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