

SINDHUDURG FORT

News: The Indian Navy is set to celebrate **Navy Day** at the Sindhudurg Fort in Maharashtra.

About

- **Location:** The fort lies on the shore of Malvan town of Sindhudurg District in the Konkan region of Maharashtra.
- **History:** Sindhudurg island-fort was built **in the 1660s** by **Shivaji I**, the ruler of **Maratha Empire**. The Construction was supervised by **Hiroji Indulkar**.
- **Its main objective** was to counter the rising influence of foreign (English, Dutch, French and Portuguese) merchants and to curb the rise of Siddhis of Janjira.

Source: [DC](#)

EXIT POLLS

Context: Recently, Exit polls predictions were released for the General election to the Legislative Assemblies.

About

- The Election Commission of India defines exit polls as polls, surveys, or other activities that are aimed at ascertaining the voting preferences of electors.
- It is carried out with voters right after they have left the polling stations on the day of the election.

Regulations for Exit Polls

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has established **certain rules and guidelines** regarding the release and conduct of exit polls to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.
- The publication or dissemination of exit polls is prohibited starting from the beginning of the hours fixed for the poll and continues until half an hour after the closing of the polls in all phases of the election.
- Media outlets, agencies, and individuals are not allowed to publish or air the results of any exit polls during the specified prohibition period.
- In the case of multi-phase elections, where polling takes place in different regions on different dates, the prohibition on exit polls extends until the completion of all phases of the election.
- **Violation Penalties:** Section 126A and 126B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 prescribe penalties. These may include imprisonment for a term that may extend to two years or with a fine or both.

Opinion Polls vs. Exit Polls:

- While exit polls are conducted immediately after voters have cast their votes, opinion polls are surveys conducted before the election to gauge public opinion.

Source: [TOI](#)

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

In News: The **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)**, has praised [India's Standards on Millets](#) and accepted its proposal for the development of global standards for millets during its **46th session held in Rome, Italy**.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- It is an **intergovernmental food standards body**, set up in **1963**. The term "Codex Alimentarius" is Latin for "**Food Code**."

- It was established jointly by the **UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)**, within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Programme.
- **Objective:** To protect consumer's health and ensure fair practices in the food trade.
- **Members:** Currently, 189 members (188 UN member countries and the European Union).
- The Commission meets in regular session once a year alternating between Geneva and Rome.
- India became a member in **1964**.

Source: [PIB](#)

PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI)

Context: India's manufacturing sector has performed better with **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** rising to 56 in November against 55.5 in October.

About

- PMI is an economic indicator derived from monthly surveys of private sector companies.
- It provides insight into the health of a country's manufacturing sector. It is widely used by businesses, analysts, and policymakers to gauge the economic activity and overall business conditions.
- **Released by:** For India, PMI is released by S&P Global. (Earlier released by IHS Markit before it was merged with S&P Global)
- **Scale:** The PMI is presented as an index number on a scale of 0 to 100. A PMI reading above 50 generally indicates expansion in the manufacturing sector, while a reading below 50 suggests contraction.
- **Types:** Two types of PMI are there: Services PMI and Manufacturing PMI.
- **Survey Methodology:**
 - It is based on surveys conducted among purchasing managers in a representative sample of companies (For India approx 500 companies are surveyed).
 - Managers are asked about changes in production, employment, inventories, and new orders, among other factors.
- **Timelines:** Released on a monthly basis, making it a timely indicator of economic conditions.

Source: [TH](#)

METHOTREXATE

Context: A new **highly fluorescent material** (Ph-Cys-Au) using phosphorene, cystine, and gold has been developed for detection of anticancer **drug Methotrexate**.

About

- Methotrexate(MTX) is commonly used in chemotherapy to treat certain types of cancers including leukemia, lymphoma, and breast cancer.
- **Mechanism of Action:** It works by inhibiting the activity of an enzyme called dihydrofolate reductase, which is essential for the synthesis of DNA, RNA, and proteins. This interference hampers the growth of cancer cells and suppresses the immune system in autoimmune conditions.
- **Administration:** It can be administered orally or through injections, depending on the medical condition being treated.

Source: [PIB](#)