



May - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has nominated Supreme Court judge Surya Kant as the executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- ❖ Indian AI startup Sarvam has unveiled its latest AI model called Bulbul-V2, a text-to-speech (TTS) model that supports 11 Indian languages.
- ❖ India's archer Deepika Kumari, won the bronze medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ The Department of Ophthalmology in Army Hospital-Research and Referral, in New Delhi, has introduced a 3D microscope for minimally invasive glaucoma surgery.
- ❖ Researchers have successfully sent quantum messages over 250 kilometres of regular telecommunications network between Kehl and Frankfurt, Germany.
- ❖ The Taliban government has suspended chess in Afghanistan until further notice, citing concerns that the game may be linked to gambling, which is illegal under Islamic law.
- ❖ India co-chaired the 4th Ministerial Conference of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 - It has unanimously adopted Declaration, reinforcing regional cooperation in disaster preparedness.

NATIONAL NEWS

Safe Harbor for Social Media Platforms

- ❖ The Centre govt is reconsidering the concept of safe harbour for the social media platforms, to combat the issue of “fake news” online.
- ❖ Safe harbour is a legal concept that protects individual websites that allow third party users to share content from legal liability for any unlawful posts.
- ❖ Safe harbour protects the sites, by default, from any criminal action for content hosted by them.
- ❖ Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, grants the intermediaries' similar protections.

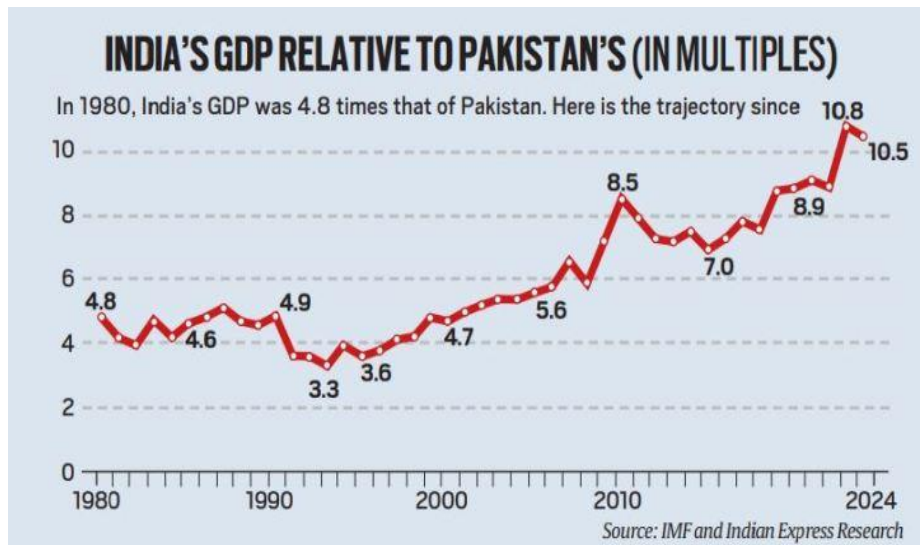
- ❖ In India, if an intermediary receives “actual knowledge” of illegal content on their website, they lose liability protections under Section 79 if they don’t work to take the content down within a certain time period.

SAFE HARBOUR

- Safe harbour is a legal principle that shields online platforms from liability for user-generated content.
- In India, this is governed by Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000.
- It ensures platforms aren’t penalised for content they didn’t create.
- However, protection is conditional—platforms must act on illegal content once notified.
- Notably, in 2004, eBay India’s head was arrested for failing to take down objectionable content.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to Pakistan



- ❖ The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decided to allow for “an immediate disbursement” of \$1 billion (around Rs 8,500 crore) to Pakistan.
- ❖ This disbursement was done as the part of IMF’s Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to Pakistan.

- ❖ IMF provides the assistance under the EFF to countries that do not have enough money to pay their bills to the rest of the world for the goods and services they import.
- ❖ Pakistan's total GDP has been stagnant over the past decade — in fact, the \$338 billion in 2023 was lower than what it was in 2017.
- ❖ India abstained from voting at the IMF Executive Board meeting, reflecting its opposition within the limitations of IMF protocol.
- ❖ Unlike the United Nations, IMF board members can only vote in favour or abstain — there is no mechanism for a formal rejection.

Balochistan Independence Declaration

- ❖ The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has announced that it has taken control of Mangochar city in the Kalat district of Balochistan.
- ❖ Balochistan has also claimed the independence and asked the United Nations to recognise the Democratic Republic of Balochistan.
- ❖ They have demanded the release of funds from the UN for currency and passport printing.
- ❖ Balochistan is the Southwestern province of Pakistan, which holds largest by area (~44% of Pakistan's territory).
- ❖ It is bordering Iran and Afghanistan, and facing the Arabian Sea.

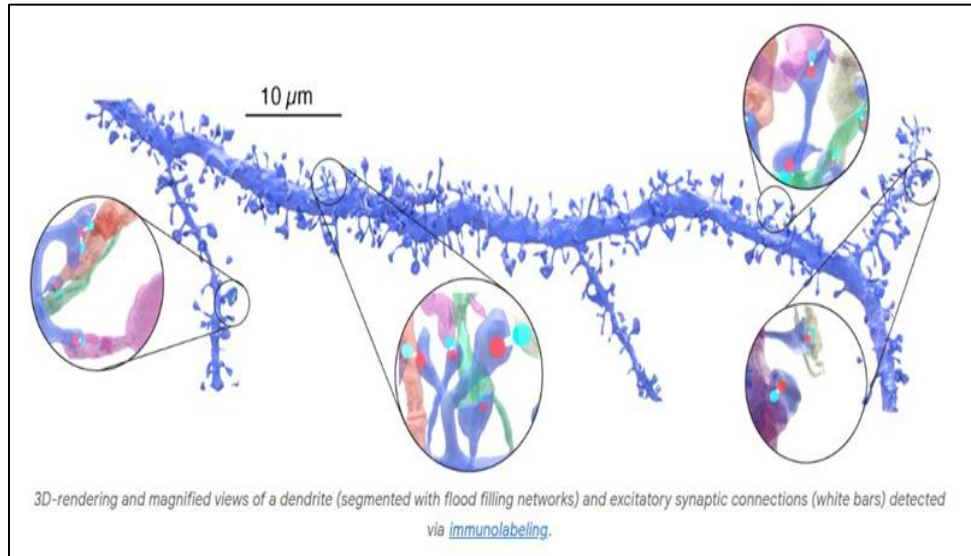


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

LICONN Technology

- ❖ A new microscopy method named as the light-microscopy-based connectomics (LICONN), has been developed by the Austrian scientists.

- ❖ It is capable of reconstructing the brain tissue with all the synaptic connections between neurons.
- ❖ It allows the researchers to see structures in the brain that are smaller than what normal light microscopes can detect.



Chandrayaan-3 Lunar Mantle Samples

Chandrayaan-3 APXS finds Primitive Mantle Material

Volatile elements on the Moon
Sodium (Na), Potassium (K), and Sulfur (S) provide insight into the chemistry and volatile budget of its interior.

Data prior to Chandrayaan-3

Apollo Luna Chang'e

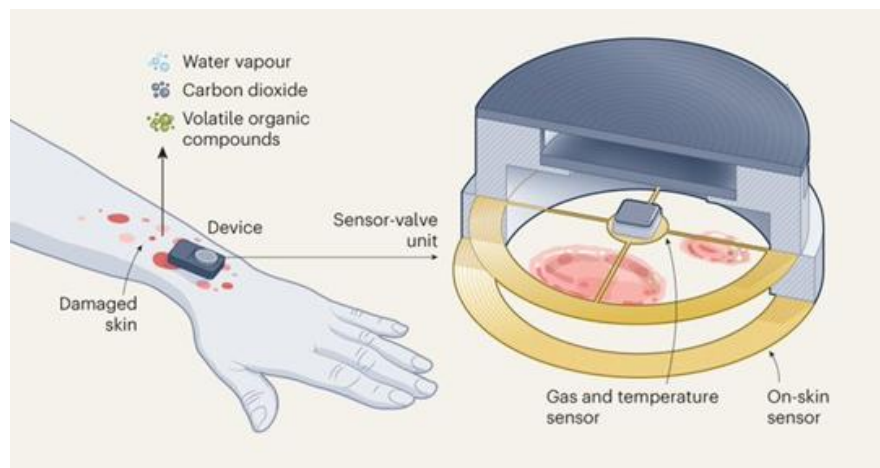
Procellarum KREEP Terrane (PKT)

- ❖ The New findings have revealed that the landing site (Shiv Shakti point) of the Chandrayaan-3 mission is a promising site to access primitive mantle samples.
- ❖ The Shiv Shakti point is situated in the southern high-latitude highlands of the Moon's nearside.

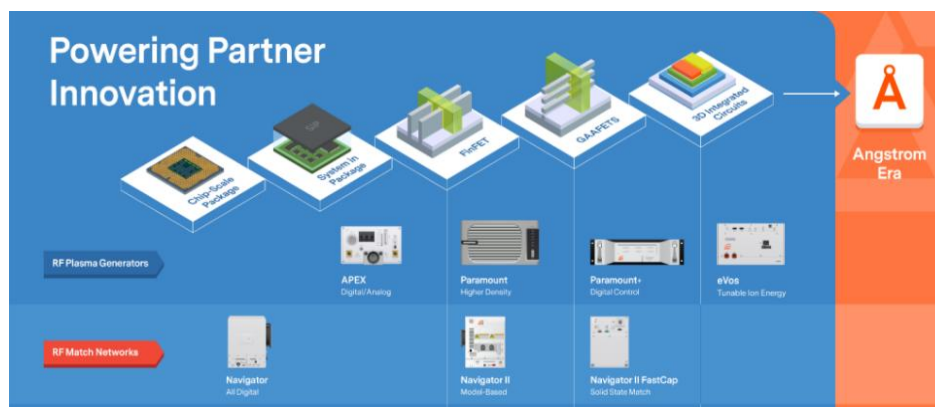
- ❖ The low levels of sodium and potassium at the landing site suggests that the KREEP (potassium, rare earth elements, and phosphorus) might not have existed at the place and time of South Pole–Aitken basin formation.

Non-Contact Wearable Device

- ❖ A new non-contact wearable developed by researchers from the U.S. and South Korea can monitor health by measuring skin flux without direct contact.
- ❖ The device can be mounted anywhere on body and track outward flux and also inward flux at the same time.
- ❖ They are actually separated from the skin, and instead of directly measuring the underlying physiological processes - cardiac cycles, lung function.
- ❖ It can also monitor hazardous chemicals that enter the human body via the skin.



Angstrom-Scale Semiconductor

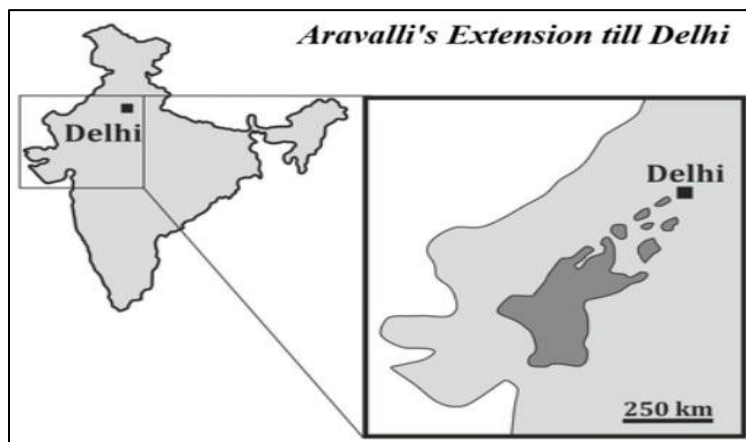


- ❖ The scientists from IISc of Bengaluru has submitted a proposal to the government to develop 'angstrom-scale' chips.

- ❖ It is far smaller than the smallest chips currently in production.
- ❖ The gave a proposal to the government for developing technologies using a new class of semiconductor materials, called 2D Materials.
- ❖ Currently, the semiconductor manufacturing is dominated by the silicon-based technologies, led by advanced nations such as the US, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.
- ❖ The very smallest chip currently in production is the 3-nanometer node, which is manufactured by companies like Samsung and MediaTek.

STATES' NEWS

Morphological Ridge



- ❖ The Supreme Court issued show cause notices regarding the violations of its 1996 directive under the M C Mehta vs Union of India.
- ❖ The 1996's directive held that the ridge land must be safeguarded against the encroachment and non-forest use without prior court approval.
- ❖ The Delhi Ridge is the tail-end of the city's ancient Aravalli hill range, and an ecologically critical zone.
- ❖ It works as a green lung for the capital and a natural barrier against hazards such as desertification and pollution.
- ❖ This Ridge stretches for around 35 km from the south of Mahipalpur to southeast of Tughlakabad, petering out in Wazirabad on the western bank of Yamuna.

Vruthi campaign – Kerala

- ❖ A five-day conclave, titled 'Vruthi 2025: The Clean Kerala Conclave' held at Thiruvananthapuram recently.

- ❖ The Stat's waste collection coverage increased from 40% to 75% of households in one year.
- ❖ Kerala launched the 'Vruthi' campaign in October 2024.
- ❖ It aims to combat the rising waste crisis through mass public participation and decentralized solutions.



Tapti Basin Project



- ❖ The governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra signed a MoU to jointly implement the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project.
- ❖ The agreement aimed at addressing the water needs of the select regions in both States.

- ❖ The project is the third such initiative undertaken by the Madhya Pradesh state government in the past year.
- ❖ Already there are 2 projects viz, Ken–Betwa link with Uttar Pradesh and the Parvati–Kalisindh–Chambal project with Rajasthan.

PMFME scheme 2024-25

- ❖ The Centrally sponsored PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme is implemented across the country from 2020-21.
- ❖ Bihar has emerged as a leader in the successful implementation of the scheme for the financial year 2024-25.
- ❖ The PMFME scheme offers credit-linked subsidies to individual and group units.
- ❖ The Individual micro food processing units can receive a 35% subsidy on project costs, capped at Rs 10 lakh.
- ❖ Out of 10,296 applications, 6,589 were approved and got disbursed the loans, representing 63% of total distributions.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Plant Health 2025 - May 12

- ❖ It aims to raise the global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost the economic development.
- ❖ 40% of global food crops are lost annually due to plant pests and diseases.

- ❖ Over \$220 billion from plant diseases and \$70 billion from invasive insects each year.
- ❖ The Day is a key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health 2020.



8th UN Global Road Safety Week 2025 – May 12/18

- ❖ It aims to encourage safer urban infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists and calls to implement proven measures to reduce road traffic injuries and fatalities.
- ❖ Globally, more than 1 of every 4 deaths occur among pedestrians and cyclists.
- ❖ Nearly 1.2 million people killed and as many as 50 million people injured in each year.



International Day of Families 2025 - May 15

- ❖ This day aims to highlight the importance of the families and their role in social development worldwide.



- ❖ The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development recognized the family as the basic unit of society.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development”.

