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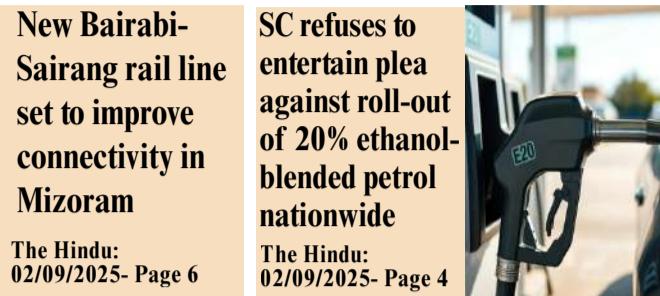
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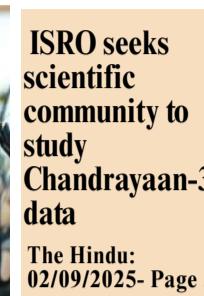
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Tianjin Troika, Hello Trump

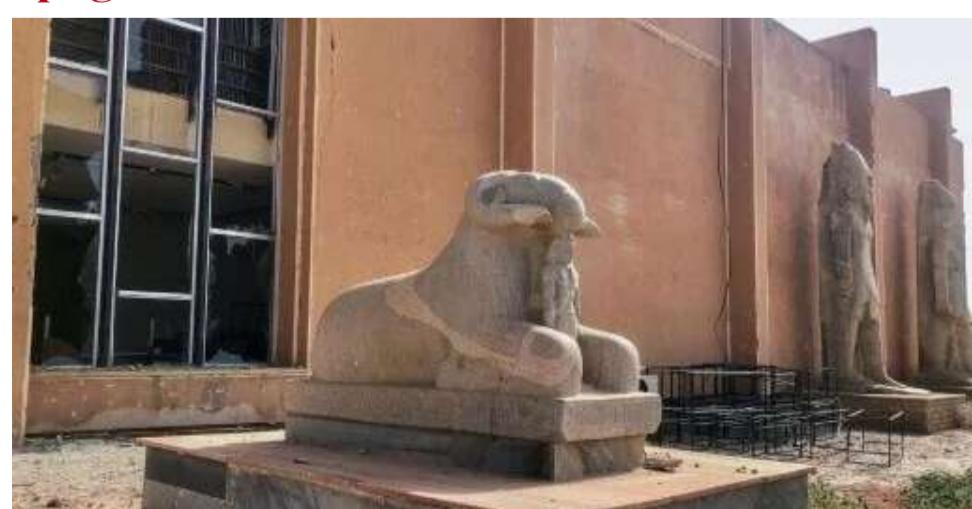


Chinese President Xi Jinping, who chaired the meeting of the SCO heads of the member states, in his opening remarks, criticised the "bullying behaviour" in the world order and called upon leaders to "adhere to fairness and justice" while opposing "cold war mentality". The Tianjin Declaration, signed and adopted by all members, including India, Pakistan, and Russia, called for an end to "cross border movement" of terrorists.

The declaration reaffirmed the bloc's "firm commitment to fight against terrorism, separatism, and extremism", and stressed the inadmissibility of attempts to use terrorist, separatist, and extremist groups for "mercenary purposes". The declaration at the summit, which focused on strengthening the Global South amid global uncertainties in trade and a "fluid and chaotic global situation", opened by stating that the world was undergoing "profound historical changes that affect all spheres of political, socio economic, and social relations". Mr. Xi, who chaired the 'SCO plus' meeting on Monday afternoon, proposed a Global Governance Initiative (GGI), calling on countries to work in concert for a more just and equitable global governance system adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by international rule of law, practicing multilateralism, advocating the people-centered approach and focusing on taking real actions.



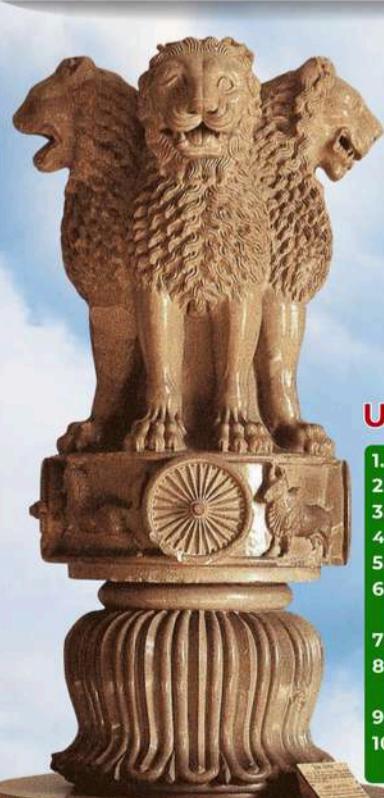
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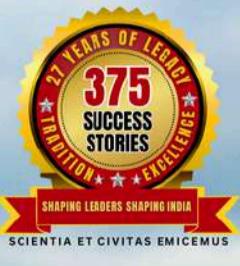
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'Millennium City' ramps up response after outcry over crumbling infra

- Gurugram, known as 'Millennium City', faces severe civic issues, especially during the monsoon, leading to flooded streets and viral images/videos of waterlogged roads and stranded vehicles.
- Heavy rains caused a sudden deluge, exposing poor infrastructure and prompting widespread criticism on social media.

Administration's Response

- Following public outrage, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) began an intensive cleanliness drive in August, forming a high-level meeting to discuss measures.
- MCG identified 40 critical waterlogging areas and started targeted cleanup and anti-encroachment drives, removed unauthorized hoardings, increased debris (C&D waste) collection, and stepped up door-to-door waste collection.

Civic Action and Cleanup Drives

- Over 22,000 tonnes of illegally dumped rubble were removed from Sector 29, and over 5,000 tonnes from the Gurugram-Faridabad Road.
- Plans are in motion to quadruple the processing of construction waste and to establish a waste-to-energy plant as a long-term solution.

Other Measures and Enforcement

- The number of vehicles for solid municipal waste collection was increased from 200 to 311 as a temporary solution.
- The MCG has cracked down on stray cattle, impounded 457 bovines, and penalized owners letting cattle roam on roads with heavy fines (₹25,000 for the first offence, ₹50,000 for repeat offenses).

Long-Term Plans

- Efforts are underway to make environmental clearance for the waste-to-energy plant a priority.
- The administration aims to have fixes in place for waterlogging-prone spots by April next year.

SC issues notice over 'denial' of Samagra Shiksha funds to T.N.

- The Supreme Court issued a notice after Tamil Nadu complained about bearing over ₹3,000 crore in reimbursements for private schools admitting economically disadvantaged students under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, without adequate funds from the Centre under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

Background and Legal Arguments

- Tamil Nadu appealed a Madras High Court decision, which held the state solely responsible for reimbursements and not the Centre.
- The RTE Act of 2009 mandates both Centre and State contribute to funding admissions of disadvantaged children in private schools, up to 25% of strength at entry level.

Centre's Position and Issues Raised

- The Centre argued the disbursal of Samagra Shiksha funds is conditioned on states implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, particularly the three-language policy involving Hindi, which Tamil Nadu opposes.
- The state claims that linking fund disbursement to NEP compliance is arbitrary and politically motivated.

Supreme Court's Direction and Next Steps

- The Supreme Court bench has asked the Centre to respond within four weeks and recognized that political disagreements should not obstruct statutory schemes for education funding

About Samagra Shiksha

- Launched in 2018, it merged three earlier schemes:
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) – elementary education.
- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) – secondary education.
- Teacher Education (TE) – strengthening teacher training.
- The scheme aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-primary to Class XII in line with the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.





SC seeks response to transgender-inclusive sex education plea

Supreme Court action:

- SC sought responses from the Union government, NCERT, and several States on a petition seeking integration of transgender-inclusive comprehensive sexuality education in schools across India.
- Respondents directed to file replies within six weeks.

Petitioner:

- Filed by Kaavya Mukherjee Saha, a 16-year-old student from Delhi.
- Represented by advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

Petitioner's arguments:

- Despite the SC's 2014 NALSA judgment, which mandated integrating comprehensive sexuality education in schools, directives remain largely unimplemented.
- A recent RTI reply showed NCERT admitted no information on introduction of such curriculum.
- Most State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and NCERT failed to include modules on gender identity, gender diversity, and distinction between sex and gender in textbooks.
- Reviews from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka revealed systemic omissions, with Kerala being an exception.
- These omissions violate the right to equality and dignity under the Constitution and the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Advocate's submission:

- Sexuality education must include gender sensitisation and transgender-inclusive perspectives.

SC refuses to entertain plea against roll-out of 20% ethanol-blended petrol nationwide

Supreme Court decision:

- SC dismissed a petition challenging the nationwide roll-out of 20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20).
- The petition claimed that motorists were being compelled to use fuel unsuited to their vehicles, with no option for ethanol-free petrol.

Petitioner's argument:

- Many vehicles (especially manufactured before April 2023) are not compatible with E20.
- Ethanol up to 20% could cut fuel efficiency by 6-7% in four-wheelers and 3-4% in two-wheelers.
- The policy violated fundamental rights of vehicle owners and consumer choice under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- Also alleged lack of public awareness and poor labelling of pumps.

Government's stance:

- Defended ethanol blending as a step to:
- Boost income of sugarcane farmers.
- Conserve foreign exchange.
- Lower carbon emissions.
- Reduce dependence on crude oil imports.
- Old blends like E5 and E10 have been phased out across ~90,000 fuel stations.

Court's view:

- The petition was seen as a "mere ploy" to protect the interests of a lobby.
- Claim of damage to vehicles due to E20 will not be entertained, since manufacturers and insurers won't cover non-compliant use.
- Directed authorities to ensure proper labelling at pumps and conduct a nationwide study on mechanical degradation and efficiency loss in vehicles using E20.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas:

- Endorsed E20, saying it offers better acceleration, improved ride quality, and supports farmers' livelihoods.



ISRO seeks proposals from scientific community to study Chandrayaan-3 data



Announcement:

- ISRO has issued an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for the scientific community to analyse and utilise data from all Chandrayaan-3 lander and rover experiments.

Mission Background:

- Chandrayaan-3 achieved a historic soft-landing on the moon's southern high latitudes on August 23, 2023, making India the first nation to do so.

Who Can Apply:

- Open to faculty and researchers from recognised academia, R&D labs, universities, colleges, and government organisations in India (outside ISRO/Department of Space).
- Applicants must have at least four years of service left before retirement to be eligible as Principal Investigator (PI).
- Multiple Co-PIs allowed, but PI will be the main communication point.

Submission Details:

- Proposals must be forwarded through the head of the applicant's institution with assurances of support.
- Deadline: October 21, 2025.
- ISRO expects projects to be completed within three years.

Objective:

- Enhance the scientific outcomes of Chandrayaan-3 by enabling external experts to conduct scientific analysis and studies based on mission data.

Immigration bureau set to check fraud, deport foreigners

• New Rules:

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 Rules.
- The Bureau of Immigration (BOI) is now formally designated to examine immigration fraud, identify, deport or restrict foreigners, and maintain an immigration database.

• Earlier Role:

- BOI earlier performed similar functions but only in a regulatory capacity; now its role is legally codified.

• Key Provisions:

- Recording of biometric information of all foreigners.
- Stricter categories of restrictions, enforceable through MHA orders.
- Educational institutions must inform FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Office) about foreign students' performance, attendance, and conduct.

• Civil Authority Powers:

- Can shut down premises (resorts, clubs, entertainment places) if frequented by "undesirable" foreigners (criminals, unlawful association members, or illegal migrants).
- Premises can also be closed if run in a disorderly or prejudicial manner.
- New premises cannot be opened without prior approval of civil authority.

• Airlines & Sea-carriers:

- Must submit passenger details to BOI within 15 minutes of departure.

• Immigration Officer Role:

- New designation of "immigration officer", with officers drawn from the Intelligence Bureau.

Overall, the move strengthens India's ability to track, regulate, and deport foreigners, prevent misuse of visas, and curb immigration-related frauds.

PRELIMS CORNER :

1. Tropic of Cancer lies closest to the Capital of which of these South Asian countries?

- a. Bangladesh
- b. Pakistan
- c. India
- d. Bhutan

2. During the Chola period, Vetti and Kadamai were

- a. Temple guards
- b. River embankments
- c. Port services
- d. Taxes imposed by the state

3. That certain minority forest tribes have a right to preserve their unique culture and language is primarily a

- a. Statutory right
- b. Fundamental right
- c. Judicial proclamation
- d. Executive fiat

4. Tidal energy is harnessed from the Ocean using

- a. Salinity difference between different tidal layers
- b. Oceanic waves blowing over the tides
- c. Potential energy of the high tides
- d. Temperature difference between tides

New Bairabi-Sairang rail line set to improve connectivity in Mizoram

Project Overview:

- The 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang broad-gauge railway line in Mizoram is set to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in the second week of September.
- Estimated project cost: ₹5,021 crore.

Connectivity:

- The line will connect Aizawl, Mizoram's capital (20 km from Sairang), to the rest of India's railway network.
- Links with Silchar in Assam via Bhodahpur Junction, further connecting Mizoram with Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh.

- Part of Indian Railways' larger plan to connect other NE states: Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Sikkim by 2030.

Infrastructure Features:

- 48 tunnels with a total length of 12.85 km, longest being 1.37 km.
- 55 major bridges, including:
 - Longest: ~1.3 km.
 - Tallest: Krung Bridge at 114 m high.
- 87 minor bridges, five road overbridges, and six road underbridges.

Timeline:

- Foundation stone laid virtually by PM Modi on Nov 29, 2014.
- First passenger train between Bairabi and Silchar flagged off on May 27, 2016.

Benefits:

- Fulfills a long-standing demand of Mizoram residents for rail connectivity.
- Cuts travel time significantly — replacing the 10-hour road journey from Silchar to Aizawl with much faster train connectivity.
- Provides a cheaper alternative to air travel, improving accessibility.
- Expected to boost tourism and economic activities in the region.
- Easier transport of essential goods into Mizoram.



What is CEREBO, the brain tool developed indigenously?



CEREBO:

- A novel hand-held, portable, non-invasive brain injury diagnostic tool.
- Developed indigenously through collaboration between ICMR, MDMS, AIIMS Bhopal, NIMHANS Bengaluru, and Bioscan Research.
- Detects intracranial bleeding and edema within a minute.
- Safe for infants, pregnant women, paramedics, and even unskilled personnel.

Importance of the device:

- Useful where CT or MRI scans are unavailable or delayed.
- Provides colour-coded, radiation-free, and cost-effective results.
- Designed for use in ambulances, trauma centres, rural clinics, and disaster response units.
- Helps in early detection and patient triage.

Clinical validation:

- Undergoing trials, regulatory approvals, and feasibility studies.
- Multi-centre clinical and utility trials conducted at major trauma centres in India.
- Supported for integration into emergency systems.

What is TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)?

- Caused by sudden trauma/injury to the head.
- Can range from mild (concussion) to severe, leading to long-term physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioural impairments.
- Major causes: road traffic accidents (60%), falls (20–25%), and violence (10%).
- About 1.5–2 million people injured annually in India, with nearly 1 million deaths.
- Traditional methods (like Glasgow Coma Scale) are error-prone, while CT/MRI scans require infrastructure and expertise.

Advantages of CEREBO:

- Rapid detection, even in resource-limited and rural settings.
- Can reduce delays, optimise triage, and improve patient outcomes.
- Uses advanced near-infrared spectroscopy plus machine learning.

Overall impact:

- Could help India tackle high morbidity and mortality due to TBIs.
- Useful in emergencies and underserved populations.
- Recommended for further integration into health systems.
- Lower costs: Cuts reliance on expensive CT/MRI scans, especially where unnecessary.
- On-the-spot triage: Crucial in road accidents, sports injuries, and natural disasters where imaging is not available.
- Military use: Supports soldiers and field medics in conflict zones where hospitals are far away.
- Global innovation: Positions India as a leader in affordable medical technology for low- and middle-income countries.

CEREBO doesn't just save lives in emergencies — it has the potential to transform rural healthcare delivery, reduce inequalities, and strengthen India's global role in low-cost medical innovation.

Geographers uncover why some rivers stay single while others split



- **Research Focus:** Geographers from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) studied why some rivers remain single-threaded while others split into multi-threaded systems.

Methods:

- Analyzed 615 rivers over 36 years using satellite imagery and computer modeling.
- Used particle image velocimetry to track river channel changes and remote sensing to map water flow, sediment deposits, and vegetation.

Findings:

- **Single-thread rivers:** Characterized by bank erosion and sediment build-up, where one bank erodes and the opposite bank deposits, creating balance.
- **Multi-thread rivers:** Imbalance between erosion and deposition causes banks to collapse, leading to widening and splitting.
- Vegetation and topography strongly influence whether a river stays single or splits.
- **Historical Context:** Many rivers have shifted from single to multi-threaded due to human interference (e.g., land use, deforestation, agriculture).

Implications:

- Single-thread and multi-thread rivers provide different flood and erosion risks, as well as distinct ecosystem services.
- Findings are vital for understanding climate change impacts, especially with stronger floods and extreme weather.

Example from India:

- The Kosi River in Bihar frequently shifts course due to Himalayan sediment loads and flooding.
- It illustrates the risks of multi-threaded river systems for densely populated regions.

Broader Importance:

- The research highlights how river instability and transformations are central to flood risk management, ecosystem planning, and sustainable land use.
- **Biodiversity:** Multi-threaded rivers (braided systems) often create wetlands, islands, and side channels that support rich ecosystems, while single-thread rivers provide more stable habitats.
- **Water Quality:** Shifting channels can change nutrient flow, pollution dispersion, and oxygen levels in aquatic systems.
- **Hydropower & Infrastructure:** Dams, bridges, and irrigation networks are harder to build and maintain on rivers that frequently shift course.
- **Flood Frequency & Severity:** With stronger monsoons and melting glaciers, braided rivers may become more common, increasing risks for millions in floodplains.
- **Water Sharing Conflicts:** Transboundary rivers (e.g., Ganga, Brahmaputra, Mekong) become harder to manage when channels split or migrate.



Earthquake kills over 800 and injures at least 2,800 in Afghanistan; rescue efforts under way

- A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan late Sunday night, killing over 800 people and injuring at least 2,800.
- The epicentre was about 27 km off Jalalabad, as per the U.S. Geological Survey.
- The quake caused widespread destruction in at least five provinces, collapsing homes and trapping families under rubble.
- Rescue operations are underway with authorities pulling people from destroyed homes and transporting the injured to hospitals.
- Kunar province was worst hit with about 800 dead and 2,500 injured. Nearby Nangarhar reported 12 deaths and 258 injuries; Laghman reported 58 injuries.
- Survivors described scenes of fear and panic, with many still trapped under debris.
- Roads remain blocked 20 hours after the quake, hampering rescue operations.
- The UN warned that heavily impacted areas in Kunar may remain inaccessible due to rough terrain.
- Many victims were Afghan returnees forced to settle in vulnerable mountainous areas.
- UN chief Antonio Guterres and Pope Francis expressed condolences, calling for solidarity with Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan is highly earthquake-prone, lying near the Hindu Kush mountain range and tectonic plate junctions.
- Since 1900, 12 earthquakes of magnitude 7 or higher have hit northeast Afghanistan.

Dissanayake makes surprise Katchatheevu visit, vows to protect Sri Lankan territory

- Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake made an unannounced visit to Katchatheevu, located near Jaffna, after launching development projects in the region.
- He vowed to safeguard Sri Lanka's seas, islands, and land from external pressure.
- Katchatheevu is an uninhabited islet, 14.5 km south of Delft Island (Sri Lanka) and 16 km northwest of Rameswaram (India).
- The island was ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976 agreements between India and Sri Lanka under Indira Gandhi and Sirimavo Bandaranaike.
- Tamil Nadu fishermen often cross into Sri Lankan waters near Katchatheevu, leading to frequent arrests.
- The fishing dispute remains unresolved, with Tamil Nadu fishermen reluctant to adopt sustainable practices like bottom trawling bans.
- The issue is politically sensitive in Tamil Nadu, where leaders often raise it during elections, calling for the retrieval of Katchatheevu.
- In April 2024, PM Narendra Modi accused the Congress of "giving away" the island, sparking fresh controversy.
- Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar clarified that the agreements were signed by previous governments.
- Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin has demanded a "permanent solution" to the fishermen's livelihood crisis caused by restrictions near Katchatheevu.



Prelims Corner: Explanations

Q1. Ans **a**

Refer to the map below:



Q2. Ans **d**

The inscriptions of the Cholas who ruled in Tamil Nadu refer to many different kinds of taxes. There were more than 400 taxes imposed by the Cholas. The most frequently mentioned tax is vetti, taken not in cash but in the form of forced labour, and kadamai, or land revenue. There were also taxes on thatching the house, the use of a ladder to climb palm trees, a cess on succession to family property, etc.



Q3. Ans **b**

Article 29(1): This provides all citizen groups that reside in India having a distinct culture, language and script, the right to conserve their culture and language. This right is an absolute right and there are no 'qualification' or 'reasonable restrictions' in the interest of the general public that apply. Article 29(2): The State shall not deny admission into educational institutes maintained by it or those that receive aids from it, to any person on the basis of race, religion, caste, language, etc. This right is given to individuals and not any community.

Q4. Ans **c**

Tidal energy can be harnessed by building dams at narrow openings of the sea. During high tide the energy of the tides is used to turn the turbine installed in the dam to produce electricity. Russia, France and the Gulf of Kachchh in India have huge tidal mill farms.

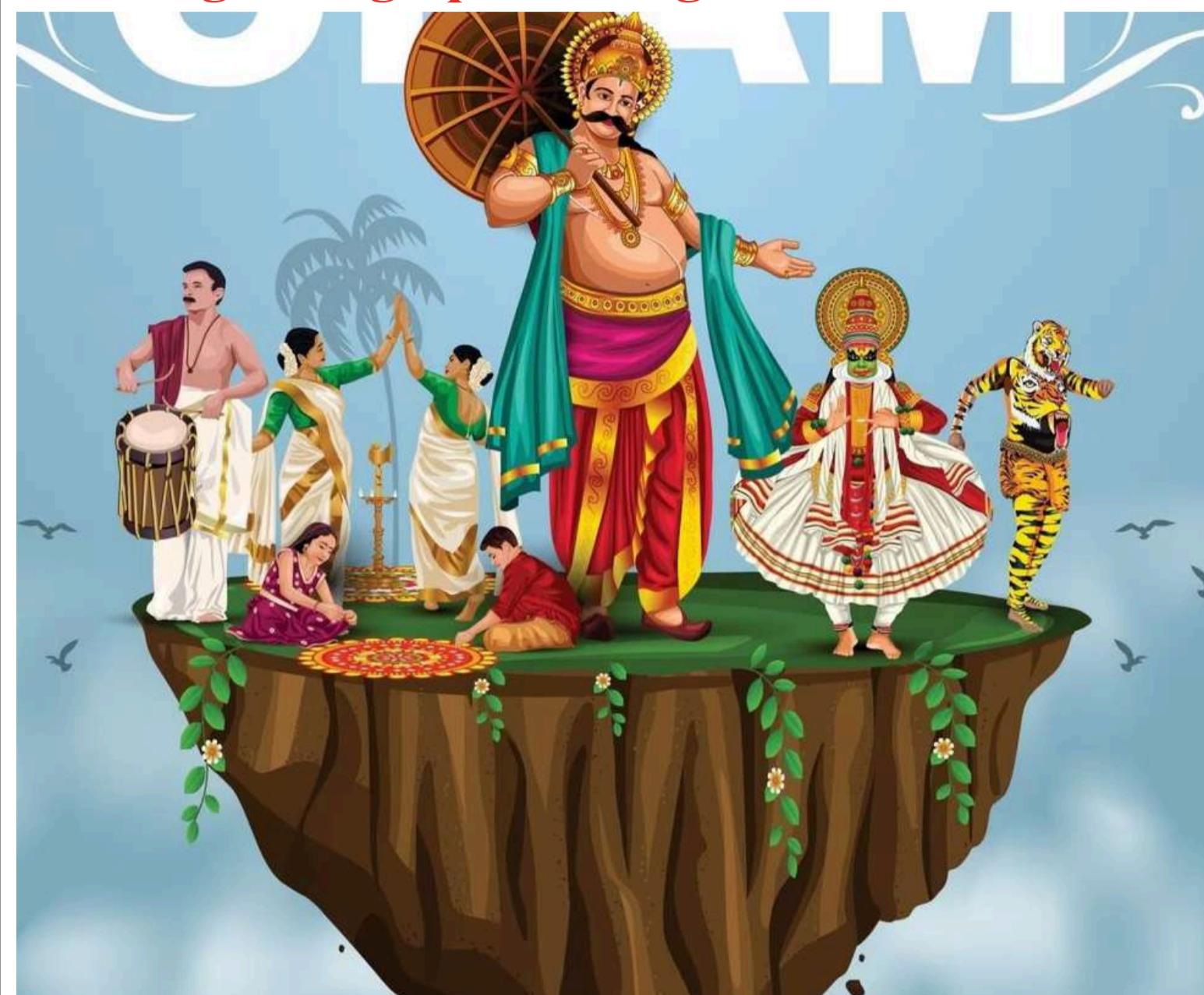


Case Study:



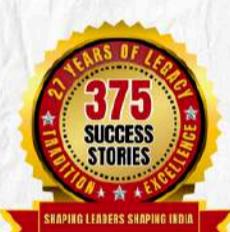
In the scorched courtyard of Sudan's National Museum in Khartoum, a towering black granite statue of Kush Pharaoh Taharqa now stands alone, surrounded by shards of broken glass and shattered stone. Since the museum was looted in the early days of Sudan's war between the Army and paramilitaries in April 2023, thousands of antiquities, many dating back to the 3,000-year-old Kingdom of Kush, have vanished. Officials believe that some have been smuggled across borders into Egypt, Chad and South Sudan. It was only after the Army recaptured the capital in March that Sudan's antiquities officials returned for the first time to find their precious museum in ruins. The worst blow, they say, was the loss of its famed "Gold Room", which had housed solid-gold royal jewellery, figurines and ceremonial objects. Army-aligned government officials accuse Rapid Support Forces fighters of looting the museum and other heritage sites, calling their destruction of artefacts a "war crime" — an accusation the paramilitary group denies.

Kerala gearing up for King Mahabali's visit



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