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Current Affairs - 02 November 2025

KERALA BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST STATE TO ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY

- On Kerala Piravi Day or Kerala Day (November 1, 2025), Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared that Kerala has **eradicated extreme poverty**, making it the **first Indian state** to achieve this milestone.
- The achievement **follows a targeted four-year effort** under the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP) led by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.
- This marks a significant development in India's poverty alleviation journey, offering insights into localized, data-driven, participatory governance models, and **aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty)**.

Measuring Poverty in India - The Multidimensional Approach:

- **NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):**
 - It is based on Alkire-Foster methodology (Global MPI), and uses 12 indicators across three dimensions -
 - **Health:** nutrition, child mortality, maternal health.
 - **Education:** years of schooling, school attendance.
 - **Standard of living:** housing, sanitation, assets, and cooking fuel.
- **Kerala's broader poverty reduction journey:**
 - NITI Aayog's 2021 MPI: **Kerala's poverty rate was 0.7%** — lowest in India.
 - Poverty declined from **59.8% in the 1970s to near zero** due to successive governments' welfare policies in education, health, and social security.
 - However, **Kerala's extreme poverty identification method differed** from the NITI Aayog's MPI framework.

Kerala's Model - Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP):

- **Launch and implementation:**
 - Announced in **2021**, soon after the LDF government began its second term.
 - The **Local Self-Government Department** was the nodal agency.



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- Around 4 lakh personnel—officials, elected representatives, and volunteers—were trained.
- **Identification process:**
 - **Initial identification:** 1.18 lakh families.
 - **After verification and migration checks:** 59,000 families confirmed.
 - **Criteria:** Income, health, housing, and food insecurity.
- **Key interventions:**
 - **Housing:** 4,677 homeless families identified; 4,005 provided homes under **Life Mission Scheme**.
 - **Food security:** 20,648 families lacking stable food access were given meals by local bodies.
 - **Essential documents and services:** Under Avakasam Athivegam (Rights Fast) campaign, families were ensured access to - Aadhaar, voter ID, bank accounts, MGNREGS job cards, social pensions, electricity, and LPG connections.
- **Institutional collaboration:**
 - **Local governance**, community participation, and data verification ensured inclusivity.
 - **Opposition** parties also extended bipartisan support for implementation.

Significance of Kerala's Achievement:

- Kerala becomes the **first Indian state** to claim zero extreme poverty.
- **Reflects success of localized planning**, micro-level targeting, and welfare convergence.
- **Reinforces Kerala's legacy in human development**, education, and social justice.

Conclusion:

- Kerala's EPEP marks a **milestone in India's fight against extreme poverty**—showcasing how decentralised governance, human-centric micro-planning, and participatory implementation can transform lives.
- While **political criticism and inclusivity gaps persist**, the model provides a replicable framework for sustainable and equitable poverty eradication in India.



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ISRO TO LAUNCH INDIA'S HEAVIEST COMMUNICATION SATELLITE

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is preparing to launch **CMS-03**, its heaviest communication satellite ever to be launched from Indian soil, on **November 2, 2025**, aboard the **LVM3-M5 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3)**.

About the CMS-03 Satellite

- The **CMS-03** satellite, weighing **4,410 kg**, is designed as a **multiband communication satellite** that will provide secure and high-bandwidth communication coverage over a wide region, including the Indian subcontinent and surrounding oceanic areas.
- It will be placed in a **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)** of approximately **29,970 km x 170 km** from the Earth's surface.
- This mission marks the **first time ISRO will launch a satellite exceeding 4,000 kg** to a GTO from Indian soil.
- Previously, India's heavier communication satellites, such as **GSAT-11 (5,854 kg)** and **GSAT-20 (4,700 kg)** were launched by **Arianespace** or **SpaceX** due to payload limitations.
- With CMS-03, ISRO achieves a new benchmark in self-reliant satellite launches.
- The satellite will serve critical communication needs, particularly for **defence and strategic applications**, providing encrypted data relay for the Indian Armed Forces.

LVM3-M5: India's Most Powerful Rocket

- The **LVM3**, also known as **GSLV Mk-III**, is India's most powerful and reliable launch vehicle.
- The **43.5-meter-tall three-stage rocket** is designed to carry **up to 4,000 kg payloads to GTO** and **8,000 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- **Structure and Design**
 - **First Stage (S200)** - Two massive solid rocket boosters provide the initial thrust for lift-off.
 - **Second Stage (L110)** - A liquid-propellant stage powered by twin **Vikas engines**.



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- **Third Stage (C25 Cryogenic Engine)** - The most advanced component, using **liquid hydrogen (LH2)** and **liquid oxygen (LOX)** to provide the high thrust needed for orbit insertion.
- This launch vehicle has been developed using entirely **indigenous technologies**, including the **C25 cryogenic stage**, giving India full autonomy in launching heavy satellites.
- The LVM3 has had a 100% success rate so far, including the landmark **Chandrayaan-3 mission**, which made India the first country to land near the lunar south pole in 2023.

Advancements and Future Upgrades

- ISRO is continuously enhancing the performance of the LVM3. With the **C25 cryogenic stage** currently providing 20 tonnes of thrust using 28,000 kg of propellant, ISRO plans to replace it with a more powerful **C32 cryogenic stage**, capable of carrying 32,000 kg of fuel and producing **22 tonnes of thrust**.
- Additionally, ISRO is developing a **semi-cryogenic engine**, which will replace the L110 liquid stage with a kerosene and liquid oxygen-based engine.
- This will **increase payload capacity to 10,000 kg in LEO**, a crucial requirement for India's upcoming **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme** and the proposed **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** (India's space station).

Track Record of LVM3

- The LVM3 rocket has completed **seven successful missions** to date, including the launches of **Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3**, and several GSAT satellites.
 - Compared to its predecessor, **GSLV Mk-II**, which had multiple failures, LVM3 stands out as ISRO's most reliable heavy-lift vehicle.
 - This success rate makes it the **preferred launch vehicle** for both national and international missions, cementing India's reputation as a **global space technology leader**.
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UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK



- It was **created in 2004** to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for **sustainable urban development**.
- It was launched to **promote UNESCO's goals of cultural diversity** and strengthen resilience to threats such as climate change, rising inequality, and rapid urbanization.
- The network **covers seven creative fields**: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.

Aim of UCCN: The network is aimed at leveraging the creative, social, and economic potential of cultural industries.

Objectives of the UCCN

- It allows **member cities to recognise creativity** as an essential component of urban development, notably through partnerships involving the public and private sectors and civil society.
- It **envisages developing hubs of creativity**, innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector.
- These cities have to achieve the UN agenda of sustainable development.

Indian Cities in the UCCN: Kozhikode (Literature) and Gwalior (Music) Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts), Varanasi (Music), Chennai (Music), Mumbai (Film), Hyderabad (Gastronomy), Lucknow (Gastronomy), and Srinagar (Crafts and Folk Arts).



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ALFVÉN WAVES



- Alfvén waves are **low-frequency**, transverse electromagnetic waves that propagate along the **Sun's magnetic field lines**.
- It **occurs in a plasma**(or conducting fluid), resulting from the interaction of the magnetic fields and electric currents within it.
- These waves **were first proposed** in 1942 by Nobel Prize-winning **physicist Hannes Alfvén**, are magnetic fluctuations that transfer energy through plasma.
- Larger and **more sporadic Alfvén waves** linked to solar flares have been detected before.

What Researchers have found?

- The breakthrough was made possible by the unique capabilities of the **Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope's** Cryogenic Near Infrared Spectropolarimeter (Cryo-NIRSP).
 - This is the first time **the subtle, ever-present twisting waves**, thought to be powerful enough to heat the corona, have been directly confirmed.
 - The study suggests that Alfvén waves may account for at least half of the energy needed to heat the corona.
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SAMBHAR LAKE



Sambhar Lake is witnessing an extraordinary influx of migratory birds this winter — a rise of nearly 40% compared to last year.

- **Location:** It is the largest saltwater **lake located** in the districts of Nagaur and Jaipur in
 - This saline wetland is elliptical in shape, with a length of 35.5 km and a breadth varying between 3 km and 11 km.
 - It covers an area in excess of 200 sq.km., **surrounded on all sides by the Aravalli hills**.
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- The water from two major **ephemeral streams**, namely **Mendha and Runpangarh**, along with numerous rivulets and surface runoff feed the lake.
- It was designated as a **Ramsar site** in the year 1990.

Salt Production: It is known for the **production of brine/salt** and also houses one of the largest salt manufacturing units in the country.

- Several migrating birds visit the waterbody during the winter.

Fauna: It is the most important **wintering area for flamingoes** (both *Phoniconaias minor* and *Phoenicopterus roseus*) in India outside the Rann of Kachchh.

- Other migratory species like **pelicans**, common shelduck, redshank, and common sandpiper, black-winged stilt, Kentish plover, and Ringed plover, Ruff, and Sociable lapwing are also found here.

WHAT IS STABILIMENTA?



A new study has revealed that the mysterious silk decorations in some spider webs known as stabilimenta may be sophisticated tuning devices that enhance the spider's ability to locate its next meal by controlling how vibrations travel through the web.

- Stabilimenta are highly **UV-reflective distinctive silk structures** found in multiple spider species' webs.
- These “decorations” may look like **zig-zagging threads** spanning the gap between two adjacent “spokes,” or threads arranged in a circular “platform” around the web center.
- The **purpose** of stabilimenta within the web is **unclear**.
 - They could **help collect water**, regulate a spider's body temperature, or even **deter predatory wasps** or birds to help the arachnids collect more insects.



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- They also may help the spiders pinpoint where their prey is located by helping vibrations move throughout the web.

Not all spiders use stabilimenta, and members of the same species may decorate their webs in different ways.

WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF SEVERABILITY?



The Supreme Court clarified that the Doctrine of Severability is applicable in Suits for Specific Performance, but only in exceptional cases.

- It is a fundamental legal principle that plays a crucial role in **addressing the constitutionality of laws when some provisions are inconsistent with the Fundamental Rights** guaranteed by the Constitution.
- **In such cases, only the conflicting or repugnant part of the law will be considered void by the courts, not the entire statute.**
- In simpler terms, if a specific part of a law violates the Constitution but can be separated from the rest of the law without affecting its functionality, only that problematic part will be removed, not the entire law.
- Another aspect of the doctrine of severability is that **if a law combines good and bad provisions using words like ‘and’ or ‘or,’ and the enforcement of the good provision does not depend on the bad one, they are considered severable.**
- **The good provision will be upheld and enforced** even if the bad one cannot or does not exist.
- On the other hand, **if there’s a provision that can be used for both legal and illegal purposes, it is invalid** and cannot be allowed even for legal purposes.
- **The court will declare the entire Act as void if the valid and invalid portions are so intertwined that they cannot be separated.**



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- It is also called the **doctrine of separability**.

Landmark Cases on Doctrine of Severability:

- **K Gopalan vs State of Madras:** The court held that if the preventive detention provision (section 14) was removed, the rest of the Act would remain valid and effective. The violative part was separable from the valid part.
 - **Minerva Mills vs Union of India:** The court struck down section 4 of 55 of the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, as it exceeded the amending power of Parliament. However, the remaining provisions of the Act were upheld and considered valid.
 - **Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu:** The court declared paragraph 7 of the Tenth Schedule (inserted by the 52nd Amendment Act of 1985) unconstitutional. However, the rest of the Tenth Schedule, excluding paragraph 7, was upheld and considered constitutional.
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