

NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (MoH&FW) MODIFIED NATIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION GUIDELINES

- MoH&FW is working on 'One Nation, One Organ Allocation' policy in **consultation with states** to come up with operational guidelines and other changes in organ donation.

- Key changes in guidelines**

- **Upper limit changed:** Removed age cap of 65 years for receiving an organ from a dead donor.
 - However, preference will still be given to younger recipients.
- **Removed domicile requirement:** Now, needy patient can **register to receive an organ in any state** and will be able to **get the surgery done there**.
 - Earlier, some states either registered only recipients from their state or accorded priority to them while allocating organs.

- **No Registration fee:** States have been asked **not to charge recipients for registration on waiting lists** for organs.

- Benefits of changes**

- **Ease process of organ transplantation** and donation across country.
- Several end-stage patients suffering from organ-related diseases can make it to waitlist.

- Transplantation is **act of surgical removal of an organ** from one person and placing it into another person.

- India conducts **third highest number of transplants in world**.
- **Number of organ transplants** (with organs from both deceased and living donors) increased in 2022.

ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION FRAMEWORK IN INDIA

Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 provides a system to regulate removal, storage and transplantation of human organs

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules 2014

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under MoH&FW functions as apex centre that maintains registry of organs and tissues donation and transplantation

ISRO ANNOUNCES NEW DISCOVERY ABOUT ORIGIN OF VOLCANIC ROCKS ON MOON

- Scientists from **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad (India), US and Japan** have found a unique group of **ancient lunar basaltic meteorites with very low abundance of KREEP**.

- This suggests that meteorites studied have come from a **region different from PKT (Procellarum KREEP Terrane)**.
- **KREEP** is acronym for a place that has **deposits of potassium (K), rare earth elements (REE) and phosphorus (P)**.
- Samples studied for discovery are **Asuka-881757 found at Antarctica, and Kalahari 009 found at Kalahari Desert, and samples collected by Russian Luna-24 mission**.

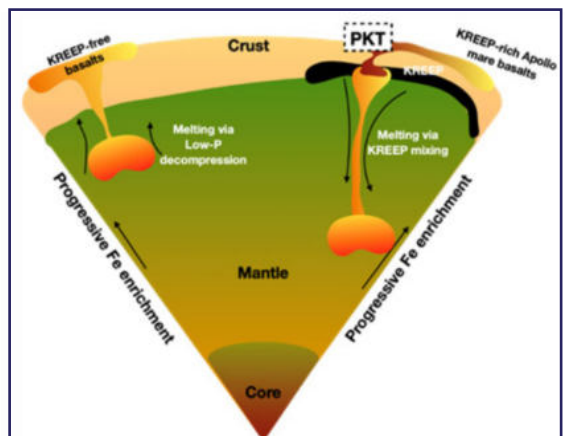
- Study shows that these basalts are **result of low-pressure melting** in the Moon whereas **basalts in PKT regions** are a result of **localized radioactive melting**.

- Further, it shows that these basalts **originated from a cool, shallow, and compositionally distinct part** of lunar interior.

- PKT regions are **rich in radioactive elements** that provided heat to melt rocks resulting in KREEP rich basalts.

- Mare regions of Moon** which is **on near side of Moon** consists mainly of **basalt rocks**.

- Near side of moon (always visible from Earth) is divided into **light areas called Lunar Highlands** and **darker areas called Mare**.



Moon is the only natural satellite of Earth.

- It is rotating at **same rate that it revolves around Earth** (called synchronous rotation), so the same hemisphere (Near Side) faces Earth all time.

- Major Moon Missions:** Apollo (US), Luna (Russia), Chang'e (China), Chandrayaan 1 and 2 (India), etc.

WORLD'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MILITARY (REAIM) 2023 HELD IN HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

- It's the **first global attempt to prevent proliferation of Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS)** and insert ethics, moral factor into rapidly developing weaponisation technology that has potential for cataclysmic damage.
- **Purpose of REAIM 2023**
 - Put the topic of **responsible AI in military domain higher on political agenda.**
 - **Mobilise and activate wide group of stakeholders** to contribute to concrete next steps.
 - **Foster and increase knowledge by sharing experiences,** best practices and solutions.
- **Role of AI in military domain**
 - **Training and simulation** to provide battlefield experience to soldiers.
 - **Surveillance,** specifically in difficult to reach border regions, to provide situational awareness.
 - **Offensive capabilities,** such as autonomous armed drones, which can execute targets.
 - **Reconnaissance and tactical support** in combat situations such as targeted strikes.
- **Concerns associated with use AI in military**
 - **Ethical risks:** Principle of **distinction between civil and military assets and populations,** and principle of **proportionality of force deployment are compromised.**
 - **Data biases:** AI is characterised by a predisposition to certain kinds of data such as racial or gender bias which impacts rational decision making.

STEPS TAKEN BY INDIA TO INCREASE USAGE OF AI IN MILITARY

- **Dedicated labs in DRDO** for application orientated research in AI in different domains.
- **Defence AI Project Agency (DAIPA)** enables AI based processes in defence Organisations.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MoRD) WORKING TO ACHIEVE 10 CRORE SELF HELP GROUP (SHG) MEMBERS BY 2024

- MoRD signed an agreement with Meesho (an e-commerce platform) for **marketing of products made by SHGs under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY- NRLM).**
 - From 2.35 crore SHG members in 2014, number has increased to more than 9 Crore currently.
- SHGs are **small informal groups of 10 to 20 people** who come together to **address their common problems.**
 - SHGs **promote small savings and provide small loans to its members** from its common fund.
 - SHGs act as an influential **instrument for poverty reduction, women empowerment, and socio-economic development etc.**
- **Problems faced by SHGs:** Inadequate training facilities, lack of market linkage, non-co-operative attitude of financial institutions, lack of technical knowledge and qualified resource personnel etc.
- **Government initiatives to strengthen SHGs**
 - **Promoting SHG federations such as Village Organisations (VOs)** and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) which provides handholding support.
 - **DAY-NRLM has provision for providing Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Support Fund (CISF)** to support SHGs.
- DAY-NRLM, launched by MoRD, aims to **improve the living conditions of rural Indians by enhancing livelihoods through SHG ecosystem** and providing SHG members better income.
 - It **adopts a demand driven approach,** enabling States to formulate their own action plans.



EXPERTS RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT LEAD POISONING IN INDIA

- As per study conducted by NITI Aayog and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2022, **23 states exceed the permissible blood lead level of 5 µg/dL margin.**
 - Levels in remaining states and Union Territories cannot be determined due to **lack of research and screening mechanisms to collect data.**
 - Also, 2020 report by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Pure Earth stated that **275 million children in India record blood lead levels beyond tolerable limit of 5 µg/dL.**
- Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal found in **Earth's crust.**
- **Source of lead poisoning**
 - **Occupational sources:** Mining, painting, glass manufacturing, pottery, smelting etc.
 - **Non occupational sources:** Traditional medicine, vehicular exhaust, food, painted toys, contaminated soil, dust and water etc.
- **Impact of Lead poisoning:** Damage to brain and nervous system, **slowed growth and development,** learning problems, **Hearing/speech problems** leads to **reduced intelligence, lower educational attainment etc.**
- **Steps taken to phase out Lead**
 - **Occupational Safety and Health Administration Regulations** protect workers from toxic metal exposure.
 - **Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.**
 - **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.**

MINISTRY OF TOURISM (MOT) LAUNCHES BEST TOURISM VILLAGE COMPETITION PORTAL

- Best tourism village competition was formulated to develop and promote rural tourism. MoT will select the best villages through **three-level competitions—district, state and national**.

➤ Nationally awarded village will be **featured on different portals** including government websites.

➤ Nine-point evaluation criteria of best villages have been **aligned with Sustainable Development Goals**.

- MoT also launched **Rural Tourism Portal, Visit India Year 2023 initiative and Global Tourism Investors' Summit (GTIS) 2023 portal**.

➤ First GTIS in May 2023 will showcase investible projects and opportunities in tourism and hospitality sector in India.

➤ India vision to **make one trillion USD tourism economy by 2047** with 100 million international visitors.

- Rural tourism has been identified as **one of niche tourism areas** for development by MoT.

- Significance of Rural tourism:** Promoting agri-, eco-tourism; creating employment opportunities and boost rural income; **addressing rural-urban migration challenge; preserving indigenous arts, crafts and culture**.

- Challenges in promoting to rural tourism:** Poor rural infrastructure; Lack of skill development in rural areas; Lack of community involvement and inclusive planning; Environmental degradation etc.

- Initiatives for rural tourism**

➤ **Rural Circuit** has been identified as **one of 15 thematic circuits under Swadesh Darshan Scheme**.





➤ **National Strategy & Roadmap for Development of Rural Tourism (NSRDRT) in India**.



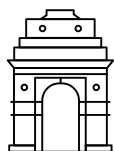
- Recently, Parliamentary replies stated that **revenues specifically at UNESCO-recognized World Heritage Sites (WHS) are gradually rising**.

➤ India has **24 cultural heritage sites across 12 states** on UNESCO WHS list. Among these, **Maharashtra's Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta caves received most funding** from government.

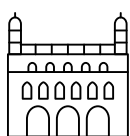
ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>World Government Summit 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Government Summit 2023 under theme of "Shaping Future Governments" was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It is a global forum held annually in Dubai. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It brings together leaders in government, business, technology, and civil society to discuss pressing issues facing humanity and to shape future of governments worldwide.
 <p>International Grain Council (IGC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGC cut its forecast for 2022-23 global corn production by 8 MMT to 1.153 billion MT. IGC is an intergovernmental organisation which came into existence in 1995 as a result of International Grains Agreement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a successor of International Wheat Council (IWC), 1949. ➤ Objectives: Promote expansion, openness and fairness in grains sector, contribute to grain market stability and enhance world food security. Members: Countries who are party to Grains Trade Convention (GTC), 1995 are members of IGC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At present there are 30 members including India. ➤ GTC is the only international treaty covering trade in grains.
 <p>Aadhaar Mitra</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched its chatbot 'Aadhaar Mitra'. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chatbot is software that simulates human-like conversations with users via chat. Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-based chatbot can answer queries related to Aadhaar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It can provide information about most Aadhaar services such as Aadhaar Centers, Aadhaar Enrolment/Update status, PVC i.e., plastic card order status, Complaint status etc.
 <p>Jal Jan Abhiyan (JJA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister virtually inaugurated Jal Jan Abhiyan in Rajasthan. JJA is jointly run by Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Brahma Kumaris organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a positive initiative towards water conservation to save humans and humanity. ➤ Campaign is based on idea that goal of water conservation can be achieved only by creating collective consciousness among people towards water conservation.

 <p>eSanjeevani</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-Sanjeevani provides tele consultation services to 10 crore beneficiaries. eSanjeevani- National Telemedicine Service of India- is world's largest telemedicine implementation in primary healthcare. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an e-health initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is a part of Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission. It is an alternative to conventional physical consultations via digital platform. It comprises two Verticals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eSanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers' (HWCs): Bridge rural-urban digital health divide by providing assisted teleconsultations to beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Scheme. eSanjeevaniOPD: Caters to citizens in both rural and urban alike.
 <p>DHARMA GUARDIAN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a joint military exercise between India and Japan.
 <p>Snow leopard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow leopard sighted in Darma valley in Uttarakhand. Snow Leopard (Panthera uncial) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often termed as Ghost of Mountain, is closely related to largest cat species Tiger (Panthera Tigris). Feature: Smoky-coloured coats tinted with cream and yellow shades and patterned with black spots. Spots are called rosettes which is unique to every snow leopard. Habitat: 12 snow leopard range countries (Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan). Conservation Status: Vulnerable (IUCN) and Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 <p>Omorgus Khandesh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omorgus Khandesh is a new beetle species, belonging to Trogidae family, discovered from Western Ghats in India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beetles of this group are sometimes called hide beetles as they tend to cover their body under soil and hide. Beetle is important for forensic science as it helps detect the time of death of an animal or human. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is necrophagous (feeds on dead animal flesh) and is, therefore, also called a keratin beetle.
 <p>KAVACH-2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) jointly launched KAVACH- 2023. KAVACH- 2023 is a national level hackathon to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing cyber security and cybercrime challenges of 21st century. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It'll be conducted in two phases. Youth from educational institutions and registered start-ups participated in it. Prize money worth Rs. 20 Lakh will be awarded to winning teams.
 <p>Saman Bird sanctuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a decline in the number of migratory bird species at Saman Bird sanctuary. It is a Ramsar site, located in Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh. It is a seasonal oxbow lake on the Ganges floodplain and is heavily reliant on south-westerly monsoon. Sanctuary regularly provides refuge to over 50,000 waterbirds and is particularly important as a wintering site for many migrants. Vulnerable species including sarus crane (Grus antigone) and greater spotted eagle (Aquila clanga) are also found.



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



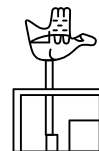
HYDERABAD



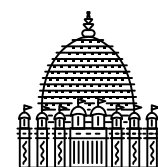
PUNE



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