

DAILY PT POINTERS

28th February, 2024



The Hindu: Space (GSIII)-Page 1

Four IAF pilots named as possible Gaganyaan crew

Announcement was made in the presence of PM Modi at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre; they have been undergoing training in Russia and at ISRO Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru

Tiki Rajwi THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

ndia on Tuesday announced the names of the four astronaut-designates for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, planned for launch in 2025.

The names of the Indian
Air Force (IAF) pilots –
Group Captain Prasanth
Balakrishnan Nair, Group
Captain Ajit Krishnan,
Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander
Shubhanshu Shukla – were
revealed for the first time
in the presence of Prime
Minister Narendra Modi
during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
(VSSC) here.

The final crew for the mission will be picked from among the four.



The flagbearers: Prime Minister Narendra Modi bestows 'astronaut wings' to the astronaut-designates for the mission, at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. ANI

Shortlisted through a rigorous selection process, they have been undergoing training in various aspects of space flight, initially in Russia, and later at the Astronaut Training Facility established by ISRO in Bengaluru. The Prime Minister presented the four with 'astronaut wings' on the occasion.

According to ISRO, the Gaganyaan programme is designed to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space

India will have its own space station by 2035, says PM

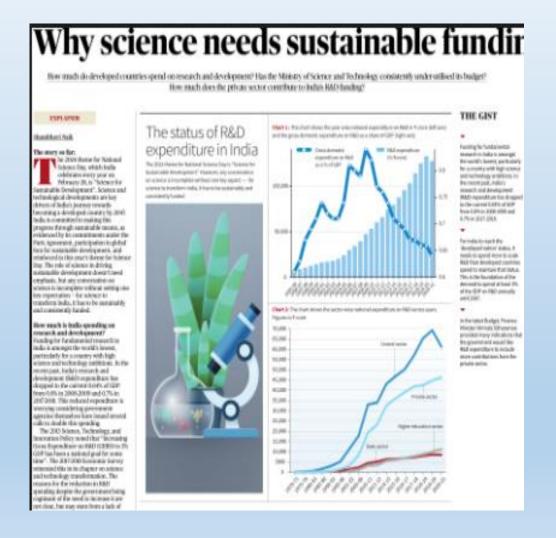
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Addressing ISRO scientists at
the Vikram Sarabhai Space
Centre, Prime Minister
Narendra Modi said India will
have its own space station by
2035. He said the nation would
once again go to the moon and
bring back samples from the
lunar surface. » PAGE 10

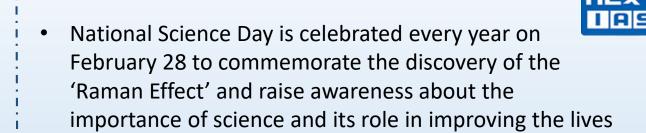
flight mission to Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The mission is expected to pave way for a "sustained Indian human space exploration programme" in the long run.

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- Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters.
- The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) is the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.

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- The National Science Day also acknowledges the efforts
 of the <u>scientific community</u> who work in exploring more
 and more ways by which science can be implemented to
 make our lives simpler and easier.
- The 2024 theme for National Science Day, which India celebrates every year on February 28, is "Science for Sustainable Development".
- Science and technological developments are key drivers of India's journey towards becoming a developed country by 2047

Do you know?

of people.

Funding for fundamental research in India is amongst the world's lowest, particularly for a country with high science and technology ambitions. In the recent past, India's research and development (R&D) expenditure has dropped to the current 0.64% of GDP from 0.8% in 2008-2009 and 0.7% in 2017-2018.

The Hindu: GS2-Governance

Former SC judge A.M. Khanwilkar is Lokpal Chairperson

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court judge A.M. Khanwilkar was appointed as the Chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on Tuesday, nearly two years after the post fell vacant.

The Lokpal has been working without its regular chief after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term on May 27, 2022.

Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, a judicial member of the Lokpal, is currently the Acting Chairperson.

Justice Khanwilkar retired from the Supreme Court in July 2022.

A communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said that retired Justices Lingappa Narayana Swamy, Sanjay Yadav and Ritu Raj Awasthi have been ap-



Justice A.M. Khanwilkar

pointed as judicial members of the anti-corruption ombudsman.

Sushil Chandra, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey will be non-judicial members, the communique said. These appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices, it added.

Apart from a Chairperson, the Lokpal can have eight members, four judicial and four non-judicial. • The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act came into force on 16th January, 2014 and has been amended once in 2016 since its notification.

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- The Lokpal is the first institution of its kind in independent India, established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 to inquire and investigate into allegations of corruption against public functionaries who fall within the scope and ambit of the above Act.
- The Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone who is or has been Prime Minister, or a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union Government under Groups A, B, C and D. Also covered are chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust or autonomous body either established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly funded by the Union or State government. It also covers any society or trust or body that receives foreign contribution above ₹10 lakh .Lokpal will have power of superintendence and direction over any central investigation agency including CBI for cases referred to them by the Lokpal.

Indian Express: S&T (GSIII)

Explained: Google DeepMind's Genie, an AI model that creates virtual worlds from image prompts

This AI model could soon enable users to create their own video games. Here's why this experimental model is revolutionary.

- Google DeepMind has just introduced Genie, a new model that can generate interactive video games from just a text or image prompt. That too without any prior training on game mechanics (which are essentially rules, elements, and processes that make up a game).
- Genie is a foundation world model that is trained on videos sourced from the Internet.
- The model can "generate an endless variety of playable (action-controllable) worlds from synthetic images, photographs, and even sketches."

PIB: Places in news (GSI)

Prime Minister's Office





PM Narendra Modi and PM Pravind Jugnauth of Mauritius to jointly inaugurate new Airstrip and a Jetty at the Agalega Island in Mauritius on 29th February

Six community development projects at Agalega Island to also get inaugurated

Projects will strengthen connectivity of Agalega with mainland Mauritius and strengthen maritime security

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, will jointly inaugurate the new Airstrip and St. James Jetty along with six community development projects at the Agalega Island in Mauritius on 29 February 2024 at 1 PM via video conferencing.
- Agalega Islands, two-island dependency of <u>Mauritius</u>, in the western <u>Indian Ocean</u>. It consists of <u>North</u> <u>Island</u> and <u>South Island</u>.
 - Mauritius, island country in the Indian Ocean,
- Copra and coconut oil are produced and exported



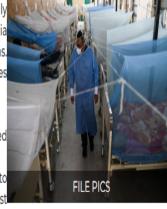
Air: Places in news (GSI)

Peru Declares Health Emergency Amidst Dengue Surge; Over 31,000 Cases Reported

In Peru, the government has declared a health emergency due to the rapidly rising cases of dengue fever across the South American country. Local media reported that the health emergency was declared in 20 of Peru's 25 regions. Peru's Health Minister Cesar Vasquez said yesterday that more than 31,000 cases of dengue have been recorded till date, including 32 deaths.

The move will enable the government to transfer funds more quickly to affected regions and more easily deploy doctors and nurses.

Peru has been experiencing high temperatures and heavy rains since 2023 due to the El Nino weather pattern, which has warmed the seas off the country's coast and helped mosquito populations grow.





Peru

Lima – the capital.

It is located on the western side of South America
It shares borders with five countries: Ecuador and Colombia
to the north, Brazil to the east, Bolivia to the southeast, and
Chile to the south. Its western border lies along the Pacific
Ocean.

This region includes the towering peaks of the Andes Mountains, among them Huascarán, the highest peak in Peru.

This region is also home to Lake Titicaca, which Peru shares with Bolivia.

