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Vishnu Deo Sai:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a strategic move ahead of the 2024 general elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has selected Vishnu Deo Sai, a tribal leader and former Union Minister, as its candidate for the Chief Minister's position in Chhattisgarh.**
- ➔ This decision was formalized during a meeting of the 54 newly-elected MLAs, where Vishnu Deo Sai was elected as the leader of the BJP's legislature party.
- ➔ Vishnu Deo Sai enjoys the favor of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mentor of the BJP. His proximity to former Chief Minister Raman Singh, a prominent figure in Chhattisgarh politics, further strengthens his position within the party.

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“Chillai-Kalaan”:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ A 40-day period of “Chillai-Kalaan” in Kashmir is beginning on 21st of this month. This is the harshest period in the entire Kashmir Valley.
- ➔ The period begins on 21st December and ends on 31st January of the next year. In the Kashmir Valley, the minimum temperature continued to settle below freezing point in the region while Pahalgam, a famous tourist attraction in south Kashmir’s Anantnag district was recorded coldest at minus 5.5 degree Celsius.

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Federal Bank:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **In a momentous achievement, Federal Bank, a prominent financial institution, has been awarded the prestigious title of “Bank of the Year (India)” by The Banker, a renowned publication under the Financial Times umbrella.**
- ➔ This accolade, one of the few global awards recognizing banks on a worldwide scale, reflects Federal Bank’s exceptional commitment to innovation, customer-centric services, and its outstanding contributions to the banking industry in the past year. Recognizing the challenges faced by customers in rural areas, Federal Bank launched the ‘Bank on the Go’ initiative.

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COP28:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Sixty-three countries, including the US, Canada, and Kenya, joined forces at COP28 to make history by signing the Global Cooling Pledge.**
- ➔ This landmark commitment aims to slash cooling emissions by at least 68% by 2050.

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China:

(Importance level-4/5)

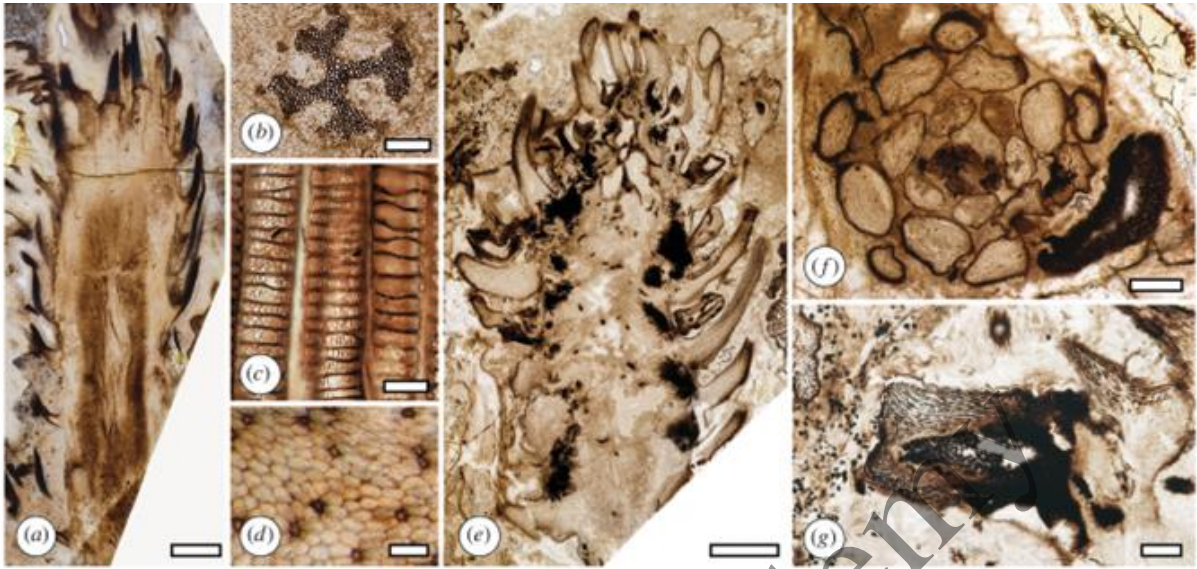
- **China has launched operations at the world's deepest and largest underground laboratory in an attempt to solve one of the biggest scientific mysteries: the existence of dark matter.**
- The research facility is located beneath Jinping Mountain in Sichuan Province at a depth of almost two and a half kilometres.



407-million-year-old:

(Importance level-4/5)

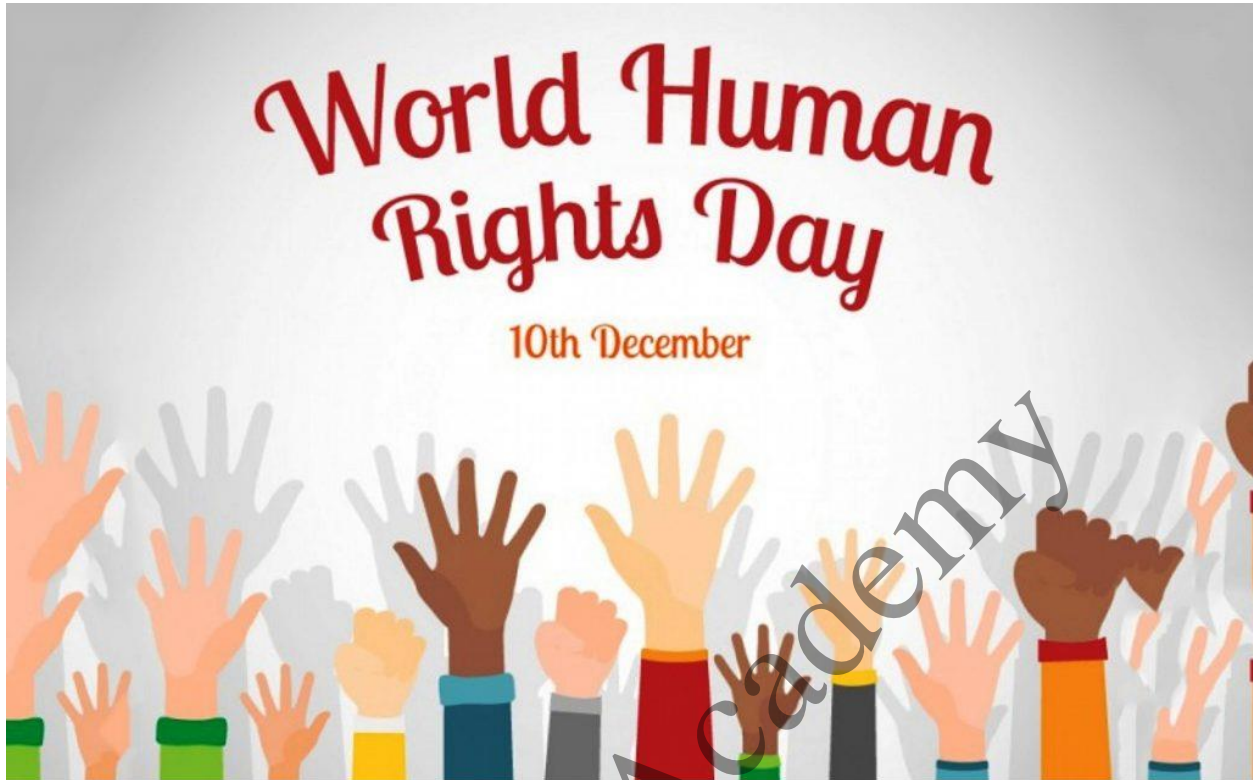
- ➔ **Researchers at the Natural History Museum in London have made a groundbreaking discovery, unearthing a fossilized specimen from their extensive collection that reveals a 407-million-year-old fungus fossil.**
- ➔ This finding not only captures the fascination of scientists but also provides the oldest known evidence of fungi causing diseases.
- ➔ Nicknamed *Potteromyces asteroxylicola*, this ancient microbe has been named in honor of the renowned children's author and mycologist, Beatrix Potter.



Human Rights Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Every year on December 10th, the world observes Human Rights Day, commemorating the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.
- ➔ This landmark document outlines the fundamental rights and freedoms that all human beings are entitled to, regardless of their race, religion, gender, nationality, or any other status.
- ➔ This year marks the 75th anniversary of the UDHR, making Human Rights Day 2023 a particularly significant milestone. The theme for Human Rights Day 2023 is "Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All".



First-ever Khelo India Para Games:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The first-ever Khelo India Para Games kicked off in New Delhi. More than 1,400 participants from across 32 states and Union Territories including Services Sports Control Board are participating in the 8-day event.**
- ➔ The Para athletes will compete for honours in 7 disciplines including para-athletics, para shooting, para archery, para football, para-badminton, para table tennis and para weight lifting.

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