

Date : 2024-02-12

Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. PACS allowed to operate Jan Aushadhi Kendras

The Union Government of India allowed the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to operate PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras(PMBJK) under the PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The objective of the Jan Aushadhi Kendras is to provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all. The first Primary Agricultural Society was established in 1904.

2. EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme

The Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan recently launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Program in New Delhi. The aim of the initiative is to provide high quality learning systems by facilitating seamless transition from secondary to higher education. The Scholarship will provide financial support to Navodaya Vidyalaya Students who are Economically weak. Educational Consultants India Limited(EdCIL) established in 1981 is the only PSU under the Ministry of Education.

3. India Energy Week 2024

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India's largest and only all encompassing Energy exhibition and conference "India Energy Week 2024" in Goa. The major aim of the initiative is to bring together the entire energy value chain to catalyse India's Energy transition goals. It will witness participation from 17 energy ministers from different countries.

4. ONGC Sea Survival Training Centre

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the ONGC Sea Survival Training Centre in Goa. It is an integrated Sea Survival Training Centre to advance the Indian Sea Survival training Ecosystem to Global standards. The Training Centre will train 10,000 to 15,000 personnel annually.

5. Uniform Civil Code(UCC) Bill of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Government introduced the Uniform Civil Code Legislation in the State Legislative Assembly. The main objective of the bill is to regulate and govern laws related to marriage, divorce, succession and live in relationships. If the Bill is passed in the State Legislative Assembly then Uttarakhand will become the second Indian state after Goa to enact UCC.

6. 18 million farmers across 1361 Mandis on e-NAM portal

More than 18 million farmers across 1361 Mandis have registered on the National Agriculture Market(e-NAM) leading to rise in inter state and Intra state trade of Agriculture commodities. eNAM is an online trading platform for Agriculture commodities in India launched on April 14, 2016. The implementation of eNAM is being done by the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium(SFAC).



NATIONAL AGRICULTURE MARKET

7. DGGI investigating Mahadev Online Book

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), an apex intelligence organisation under CBIC is investigating Mahadev Online Book for suspected violation of GST rules and non-payment of taxes. Mahadev Online Book is allegedly an illegal betting application. The application is banned in India over allegations of Money Laundering, illegal betting and Match fixing.

8. Centre of Excellence(CoE) on E-waste Management

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The Centre of Excellence (CoE) on E-waste management facility was inaugurated by Secretary MeitY Shri S Krishnan at Centre for Materials for Electronic Technology (C-MET), Hyderabad. The C-MET, Hyderabad is an autonomous organisation under MeitY established to promote resource efficiency and Circular Economy in the country.

9. CLEA- Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitor General Conference 2024

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)- Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024. The Conference was inaugurated at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The conference was organised under the theme “Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery”.

10. India Energy Week 2024

The 2024 edition of India Energy Week 2024 will be held at Goa from February 6th to 9th, 2024. Indian Energy Week is India's largest and only all-encompassing Energy exhibition and Conference. The major objective of the event is to bring together the entire value chain and serve as a catalyst for India's Energy transition goals. The event will be organised by Federation of Indian Petroleum, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

11. Foundation Stone laid down for Kamakhya Corridor

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi recently laid down the foundation stone for Kamakhya Divyalok Pariyojana with a budget outlay of 498 crore. The project is inspired by Kashi-Vishwanath Corridor in Banaras. The Kamakhya Devi temple is a Shakti Peeth in Guwahati.

12. Bharat Ratna to LK Advani

The stalwart BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna award. The announcement was made by the Prime Minister of

India Shri Narendra Modi. Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Nation. LK Advani born on November 8, 1927 in Karachi, Pakistan was infamous for the organisation of Rath Yatra to demolish Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.



13. PETA challenged Buffalo and Bulbul Fights in Assam

The People for Ethical Treatment of Animals(PETA) challenged Assam Governments attempt to revive traditional practices of Buffalo and Bulbul fighting during Magh Bihu in Guwahati High Court. The tradition is claimed to have origins dating back to the rule of Ahom Kings in Assam. The AWBI directed the ban of Animal fights during Bihu after the Supreme court ruling in 2014.

14. Indian Economy- A review report released

Due to the general elections scheduled in 2024, the government of India will not release the Economic Survey Report 2024. In place of the Economic Survey, the Central Government released “Indian Economy- A review” report that provides a journey of the Indian economy in the past 10 years. The report is prepared by the office of Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran.

15. NCPCR launched GHAR portal

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched a portal named “GHAR- Go Home and Reunite Portal” aimed to digitally monitor and track the restoration of children as per protocols

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under Juvenile Justice Act 2015. NCPCR announced that 5175 Children have been registered on GHAR portal for repatriation.

16. 7th session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs

The first physical session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs was held from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024 at Kochi. It was the 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs which was attended by 109 delegates from 31 countries. The CCSCCH was established as one of the Commodity Committees under the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in 2013.

17. Indian UPI launched Globally at Eiffel Tower

India's Revolutionary initiative Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was launched globally at Eiffel Tower in France. The Move allows Indian tourists to purchase tickets for the iconic Eiffel Tower and pay via UPI. The NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with Lyra Network to launch UPI payment mechanism in France.

18. New Guidelines for Utilising Green Hydrogen in Steel sector

New Guidelines for Implementation of Pilot Projects for use of Green Hydrogen in the Steel Sector under the National Green Hydrogen Mission have been released by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for utilisation of Green Hydrogen in Steel Sector. The total budget allocated for the scheme is Rs 455 crore till Financial Year 2029-30. The Scheme will develop the Green Hydrogen Ecosystem in the Steel Sector.

19. Operation Smile X of Telangana Police

A total of 3478 children including 405 girls have even reported to be rescued by the Telangana Police under the Operation Smile X. The Operation was conducted between January 1 to 31, 2024. The Telangana State Police carries out this Operation annually in January

to trace and rescue missing and trafficked children.



20. Continuation of Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies Scheme

The Union Cabinet under the chairpersonship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) upto 31st March 2026 for Exports of Apparel/Garments. The Scheme aims to reimburse all embedded State and Central Taxes for Exports of manufactured goods and garments.

International

1. World Sustainable Development Summit(WSDS) 2024

The Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankar inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit(WSDS) in New Delhi. WSDS is an annual Flagship event of Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) which was instituted in 2001. The World Sustainable Development Summit(WSDS) is the only independently convened International on Sustainable Development and Environment conducted in the Global South.



2. THIP included in WHO's Vaccine Safety Net

The World Health Organisation has included The Health Indian Project (THIP) in its global network of Vaccine Safety Net (VSN). The VSN is a global network of Websites that provides verified information on vaccine safety. One of the key players in the project is Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) that responds efficiently to Vaccine safety issues.

3. Underwater Canyon discovered near Cyprus

Scientists from the Geological Institute of Israel have discovered a never known before Underwater Canyon near Cyprus. The Canyon, according to Scientists, dates back to the Messinian Event that took place 5.5 million years ago. The Depth and width of the Canyon is 500m and 10 km respectively.

4. Dam Project could lead Luang Prabang City loose UNESCO WHS status

Luang Prabang Dam, a multibillion dollar dam once completed could lead Luang Prabang City in Laos losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site Status. The dam once completed will displace more than 500 families thereby impacting 20 villages. The dam is being built across the Mekong River, the longest River in Southeast Asia.

5. Candida Auris spreading in US

The Doctors in the United States of America caution about the spread of Deadly Fungal Infection "Candida Auris" in the US. The Infection is hazardous due to its high fatality rate and drug resistance. Candida Auris is

an emerging multi drug resistant yeast (Fungus) which is capable of causing invasive infections in the human body. It was first discovered in 2009 in Japan.

6. 3 Indian Scientists receive Blavatnik Awards

The Three Indian Origin researchers namely Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik and Tanmay Bharat have received the prestigious Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in the UK. The award recognizes research work of scientists across three categories i.e. Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering and Life Sciences. A total of 9 Scientists were recognized for their exceptional work in these categories.

7. Traffic Index Ranking 2023

The Amsterdam based location Technology specialist TOMTOM recently released a report titled Traffic Index Ranking 2023. The Index reported London as the most congested city with Average travel time per 10 km being 37 minutes and 20 seconds. The report Highlighted that People in the UK lost 148 hours yearly due to traffic.

8. Indian Joins 36 membered "Honour Roll" of United Nations

India joins the list of 36 member states of United Nations "Honour Roll" after paying their dues to United Nations Regular Budget 2024 on time. The amount paid by India to the United Nations Regular Budget 2024 is USD 32.89 million. India has been consistently paying its contributions to the UN Budget on time and in full capacity.

Sports

1. Neeraj Chopra won Sportstar of the Year (Male) award at Sportstar Aces Awards 2024

Indian Ace Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra won Sportstar of the Year (Male) award at Sportstar Aces Awards 2024 for consecutive second year. Neeraj

Chopra is ranked World Number 1 in Men's Javelin Throw and won gold in 2023 World Athletics Championships.



2. India loses 0-3 to Australia at FIH pro league match

The Indian Women's Hockey Team lost their third consecutive match in the FIH pro league against Australia. The scoreline of the match was 3-0 and the match took place at Kalinga Stadium, Odisha. India made an aggressive start to the match with an early penalty corner, which was wasted by the Indian team.

3. National Wrestling Championships 2024 being held at Jaipur

Commonwealth Games Champion Naveen Malik won the Men's 74 kg Freestyle title at National Wrestling Championships 2024 at Railway Stadium, Jaipur. He defeated Yash Tushir with a scoreline of 5-4 and positioned himself in a strong position for an Olympic qualifying spot.

4. MCC organised Get Together on 50th anniversary of India's first Davis cup final Appearance

The Madras Cricket Club organises a get together to commemorate the 50th anniversary of India's first Davis Cup final Appearance in the Open Era. The Indian Tennis Squad had beaten some big teams to reach the final of the Davis Cup in 1974. Although the final was abandoned against South Africa due to the latter's apartheid policy.

5. Diana Shnaider won WTA Thailand Open

The Russian Tennis star Diana Shnaider won her maiden title at WTA Thailand Open after beating defending champion Zhu Lin of China. The scoreline of the final match was 6-3, 2-6, 6-1. Diana Shnaider is ranked 108 at ITF rankings.



6. India defeats Pakistan 4-0 at Davis Cup

The Indian Team defeated Pakistan 4-0 at the Davis Cup 2024. The Indian Team made a historic visit to Pakistan after 60 years to play against Pakistan. The Indian Team was led by experienced Yuki Bhambhri and Saketg Myneni along with Niki Poonacha making the winning debut.

7. Jasprit Bumrah becomes Fastest Indian Pacer to take 150 test wickets

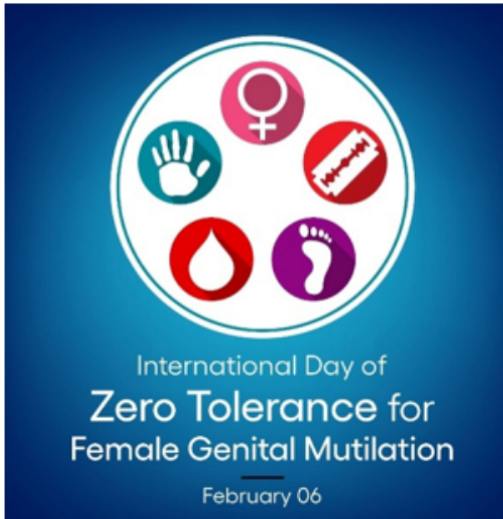
Indian ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah became the fastest Indian pacer to take 150 test wickets in just 34 test matches. Bumrah achieved this milestone during the second test against England in Visakhapatnam where he took 6 wickets in the first innings. He became the third fastest Indian Bowler to achieve the milestone.

Days

1. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was observed globally on February 6th, 2024. The objective of the day is to raise awareness on ending the practice of female genital

mutilation. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) set a target in 2012 to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation globally by 2030.



2. 76th Independence Day observed by Sri Lanka

The 76th Independence Day of Sri Lanka was observed on February 4th, 2024 at Galle Face in Colombo. The theme of the event was "Let's Build a New Country". The event was presided over by President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe along with the chief guest, Prime Minister of Thailand Srettha Thavisin. Sri Lanka became a British colony in 1796.

Person In News

1. New Space Duration record set by Russian Cosmonaut

Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko sets the record for staying most time in space Orbit. Kononenko was onboard the International Space Station (ISS) when he completed this milestone. Kononenko took the top spot from Gennady Padalka who held the record for staying 878 days, 11 hours and 29 minutes in space.



2. First Female Chief Justice of Uttarakhand Ritu Bahri

Justice Ritu Bahri sworn in as First Woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand. The oath was administered by Governor of Uttarakhand Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh at the Raj Bhavan. The post of Chief Justice of Uttarakhand has been vacant since the retirement of Justice Vipin Sanghvi in October 2023.

Science and tech/space/Defence

1. Flight trials of Aerial target ABHYAS

Four flight trials of the high speed expendable Aerial target "ABHYAS" was successfully conducted by the DRDO from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. The trials were conducted with four different mission objectives using a single booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad. ABHYAS is a high speed expendable Aerial target (HEAT).

2. INS Sandhayak commissioned into Indian Navy

The First Survey Vessel Large (SVL), INS Sandhayak was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Major objective of the ship is to carry out Hydrographic surveys of Harbours, Navigational Channel Routes, Deep Seas, thereby enabling safe marine navigation. INS Sandhayak was constructed at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

3. Exercise VAYU SHAKTI 24 to be conducted in Rajasthan

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The Indian Air Force announced a major Exercise named “Vayu Shakti-24” at Pokhran air-to-ground range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The Exercise will involve 120 aircrafts along with 77 fighter jets. The Air Force assets involved during the exercise will be Tejas, Jaguar, Chinook Heavy lift helicopters, Apache Attack helicopters, UAVs and Surface to Air missiles.

Health/Agriculture/Environment

1. Mobile Health initiative KILKARI

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prof. SP Singh Baghel virtually launched the Mobile Health(m-health) service called KILKARI programme. Kilkari is a centralised interactive voice response(IVR) based mobile Health service that delivers 72 audio based messages about pregnancy, childbirth and childcare to families Mobile phones. The Programme is under implementation in 18 states/UTs of India.

2. Natural gas Flare Samples collected by Aircraft in US

High variation in Nitrogen Oxide emissions estimates was recorded in the recently collected natural gas flare Samples by aircraft in the USA. Gas Flaring is the burning of the natural gas associated with Oil extraction. The combustion due to flare converts hydrocarbons to carbon dioxide and water, therefore reducing climate impact.

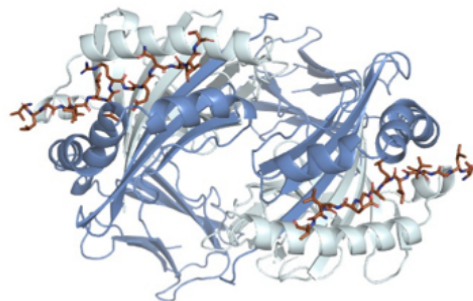
3. First ever Tri state Synchronised Vulture Survey

The Data for the first ever Tri state synchronised survey conducted by Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department was released recently, recording a total of 320 individual vultures in seven protected areas. The seven protected areas where the survey was conducted are Wayanad WS, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Tiger

Reserve, Nellai Forest Division and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. The survey reported Himalayan Griffon only from Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

4. World-First discovery for effective Lupus Treatment

The Australian Researchers from Monash University have led to the world's first discovery for effective long-term treatment of Lupus. The study found a way to reprogram the defective cells of Lupus patients with protective molecules from healthy people. Lupus is an autoimmune disease that causes an individual's immune system to damage its own organs and tissues.



5. Sepahijala WS gets Tigers, Leopards after 5 years

The Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary gets 2 Royal Bengal Tigers, 2 Leopards, 4 golden Pigeons etc through animal exchange program from Bengal Safari in North Bengal's Siliguri. The animal exchange program took place under the guidance of Central Zoo Authority. The Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Tripura and came into existence in 1972.

6. Hindu Kush Himalayan Region on brink of collapse

A team of researchers from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have declared the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region on the brink of collapse. Hindu Kush Himalayan Region is a Biosphere extending over 8 countries from Afghanistan to Myanmar. ICIMOD was established on December 5, 1983.

7. Reintroduction of Aldabra Giant Tortoise to the wild

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Reintroduction of Megaherbivores Aldabra Giant Tortoise to the wild in Madagascar under a six year old project could result in repopulation of the island for the first time in 600 years. The scientific name of Aldabra Giant Tortoise is *Aldabrachelys Gigantea* and its IUCN status is Vulnerable. The first group of the megaherbivore was brought from Seychelles in 2018.



8. Cameroon adopts Nagoya Protocol

The Central African Nation Cameroon adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. Cameroon is a biodiversity Hotspot with an estimated Flora and fauna of 11000 species. The Nagoya Protocol is an International agreement aimed at ensuring benefits of using genetic resources and traditional knowledge are shared in a fair and equitable way. The Nagoya Protocol was adopted by Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD) in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

9. Dusted Apollo sighted for the first time in Himachal Pradesh

A rare high altitude butterfly named Dusted Apollo has been sighted for the first time in Himachal Pradesh. It is an extremely rare butterfly and its scientific name is *Parnassius Stenosemus*. The species was first discovered in the year 1890 and its distribution spreads from Ladakh to West Nepal.

10. New species of Fungi discovered in Kerala

Researchers from Palapilli Field Research Centre have discovered a new species of Fungi named "Trichoglossum Shyam Viswanathi" in Kerala. The

species is commonly known as "Hairy Earthtongues" fungus. The fungus is named after former Director of Kerala Forest Research Centre Dr Shyam Viswanath.

11. **New Species of Frog discovered in Bengaluru** Researchers from various National and International Institutions have discovered a new species of Burrowing Frog named "Sphaerotheca Varshaabhu" in Bengaluru. The meaning of the name is a "Genus of Frog that welcomes rain". The species thrives amidst the urban landscape of Bengaluru.

12. 80000 ha of Reserve Forest declared as Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

The Tamil Nadu Government sets up 18th Wildlife Sanctuary named the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Erode district. The Wildlife Sanctuary consists of 81,114 Hectares of Reserve Forests in Bargur Hills and will be the last protected link between Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and the South Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. The Wildlife sanctuary will be home to 21 species of mammals.