

Date : 2024-03-11

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## National

### 1. Majuli Masks and manuscript Paintings get GI Tag

The Majuli Masks and Majuli Manuscript paintings of Assam were recently given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Union Government. The handmade Majuli masks are traditionally used to depict characters in Bhaonas or theatrical performances with devotional messages under neo-Vaishnavite tradition. The materials used for making up masks are Bamboo, Clay, dung, Cotton, wood etc.

### 2. NITI for states platform and Viksit Bharat Strategy Room launched

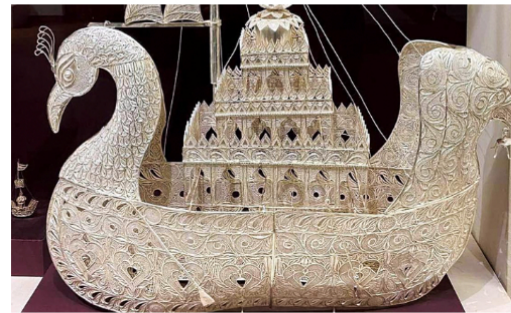
NITI Aayog's "NITI For States" platform and Viksit Bharat Strategy Room was launched by Minister of Communications, Railways and Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw. "NITI for States" is a cross sectoral knowledge platform which will act as a Digital Public Infrastructure for Policy and good Governance. The Viksit Bharat Strategy Room was inaugurated at NITI AAYOG.

### 3. Establishment of International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED)

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for the establishment of an International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED). The ICED will act as the technological arm of the Ministry. The ICED will carry out research in 2 areas namely Comprehensive risk assessment of dams and advanced construction and rehabilitation materials testing for dams.

### 4. Rupa Tarakasi received GI tag

One of the most exquisite silver crafts in India, the "Rupa Tarakasi" of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The famous silver filigree originated in the 12th century and the artform formed a patronage under the Mughals. Rupa Banias or Roupayakaras are the artists involved with this filigree.



### 5. India's first Under-River Metro Tunnel

First Indian Under-River Metro Tunnel which is a part of Kolkata Metro's East-West Corridor was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. The Tunnel passes under the Hooghly river and it also has the deepest Metro station in the country, the Howrah Maidan station. The stretch of 4.8 km Tunnel lies between Howrah Maidan and Esplanade in Kolkata.

### 6. 30 banks join RBI UDGAM portal

The RBI recently notified that 30 banks have joined the Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access Information (UDGAM) portal and are facilitating people to search their unclaimed deposits. The unclaimed deposits are part of the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) fund of RBI.

### 7. e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi platform launched

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Commerce and Industry and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal launched the "e-Kisan

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Upaj Nidhi” platform to ease farmers' warehousing logistics. The e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi platform is the digital gateway of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) which was established under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.



#### 8. LEAPS Valedictory Session

The LEAPS (Logistics Excellence, Advancement and Performance Shield) Valedictory session was organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in New Delhi. LEAPS initiative acknowledges and celebrates best practices and Innovations within the Logistics industry realising the combined vision of the National Logistics Policy 2022 and PM Gatishakti.

#### 9. NCERT introduces Holistic Progress Card (HPC)

The Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) under NCERT introduced the new “Holistic Progress Card” (HPC). The HPC will no longer depend on marks or grades but will rely on 360 degree evaluation including students and parents feedback. The HPC aligns with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE).

#### 10. Risa Textile gets GI tag

Tripura’s traditional Tribal attire “Risa” which is used as female upper garment and headgear recently received the Geographical Indication

(GI) tag. The tag was obtained by Killa Mahila Cluster of Gomati district. The cluster is promoted by Tripura Rural Livelihoods Mission (TRLM). The Risa is given to Tribal adolescent girls to wear at an event called Risa Sormani.



#### 11. Digital Intelligence Platform launched

The Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) was recently launched by Minister of Communication Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw. The platform curbs misuse of Telecom Resources in Cyber Crime and Financial fraud. “Chakshu” facility was also launched alongside the Sanchar Sarathi Portal to report suspected fraud Communication.

#### 12. Commencement of Core Loading

The Prime Minister of India recently witnessed the commencement of core loading of the Indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) designed and developed by BHAVINI along with the contribution of 200 Indian Industries. With this milestone achievement India has entered the second stage of its Nuclear program. The indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is located at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

#### 13. India Post promotes Rooftop Solar Scheme

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The Indian Post pitches in to promote Prime Minister's Rooftop Solar scheme for domestic consumers. The scheme provides subsidies to households for installing solar panels. The Rooftop Solar Scheme was highlighted in the Budget 2023-24 and the scheme is aimed at increasing India's Renewable energy capacity. The willing consumers can visit the nearby Post office to know how to register and get subsidy under the scheme.

#### 14. NCPCR seeks action against Ullu App

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) recommended the government to take action against Ullu App for disturbing "Obscene, Objectionable" material. The Ullu App violates section 11 of POCSO act and section 13 of CPCRA Act. The NCPCR was established in 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

#### 15. State Energy Efficiency Index 2023

The State Energy Efficiency Index 2023 was released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency on its 22nd Foundation day dated 1st March 2024. The theme of the 22nd foundation day was "Energy Transition through Electrification and Decarbonisation in India". It is the 5th edition of the State Energy Efficiency Index launched by BEE in association with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy to evaluate the annual progress of energy efficiency implementation in the states.



#### 16. Replacement of 2.5 Mt of Conventional Urea with Nano Urea in Financial Year 2024

In order to fulfil India's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in Urea Production by 2025, the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya announced replacement of 2.5 million tonnes of Conventional Urea with Nano Urea in Financial Year 2024. Around 3.3 million tonnes of Nano Urea was produced and sold by IFFCO between August 2021 to February 2024. The Nano Urea is developed and patented by IFFCO.

#### 17. NEFT records highest ever daily transaction

The Nation wide electronic centralised payment system owned and operated by RBI, NEFT reported highest ever daily transactions at 4.10 crore on February 29, 2024. NEFT and RTGS have recorded growth of 700% and 200% in terms of volume in the last decade. These payment systems are managed by the RBI to settle retail and wholesale payments.

#### 18. Foreign exchange up by USD 2.98 billion

As per the Weekly Statistical Supplement data released by Reserve Bank of India, India's Foreign reserves grew by USD 2.98 billion to USD 619.07 billion by February 23, 2024. The Foreign currency assets increased by USD 2.41 billion to USD 548.19 billion, Gold reserves by USD 472 million, Reserve Tranche by USD 9 million. The Forex Reserve consists of Foreign Currency Assets, Gold reserves, SDR and RTP.



### 19. New PRP act comes into effect

The new Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 and its rules came into effect from March 1. The registration of newspapers and other periodicals will now be governed under the PRP act, 2023. The Registrar of Newspapers has been renamed as Press Registrar General of India under the new act. The Act replaced the colonial era Press and Registrations of Books Act of 1867.

### 20. National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation

The Union Cooperation Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah launched National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in New Delhi. The NUCFDC will work as an Umbrella organisation for the Urban Cooperative Banks in New Delhi. The major aim behind formation of NUCFDC is to strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector.

### 21. NCB and Indian Navy seize 3300 kgs of contraband

In a successful Coordinated operation between Indian Navy and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), a vessel carrying 3300 kgs of contraband has been seized. The consignment included 3089 kgs of Charas, 158 kgs of Methamphetamine and 25kgs of Morphine. The NCB is an apex coordinating and enforcement agency established in 1986.

### 22. RBI warns of Juice Jacking

The Central Bank of India, RBI has warned against charging mobile phones using public ports due to the threat of Juice Jacking. The Juice Jacking is a form of cyberattack whereby hackers tamper with the public USB charging

ports posing security threats to the sensitive information of people. The term was coined in 2011 by Journalist Brian Krebs.

### 23. Successfully flight test of VSHORADS

The premier R&D organisation of India, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS). The flight tests were conducted at the Integrated Test Range off the Chandipur coast in Odisha. The defence system is a portable air defence system developed indigenously by DRDOs Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.

## International

### 1. 2023 deadliest year for Migrants

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) "Missing Migrants Project" has recorded the year 2023 as the "Deadliest Year for Migrants" with nearly 8,600 deaths. There is a 20% increase in deaths in 2023 as compared to 2022. The Mediterranean crossing records the maximum number of deaths 3129 and continues to be the deadliest route for Migrants on record.

### 2. Indian ranked 113 in Women Business and Law Index

The World Bank recently released the 10th edition of Women Business and Law Index that measures how laws and regulations affect Women's economic opportunity. The Index measures from the scale of 0 to 100 where 100 means equal legal rights for Men and women. India's rank improved to 113 out of a total 190 countries.

### 3. 5000 year old Cemetery discovered

Archeologists in Northern Italy led by Simone Sestito have discovered a 5000 year old cemetery during a garden construction project. The cemetery belongs to the Chalcolithic or Copper Age. The 22 tombs discovered consisted of flint weapons, Human remains and soapstone beads. The Copper Age is said to be a transitional Age between the Neolithic to Stone Age.

#### 4. Grey zone Warfare

India's Chief of Defence Staff Shri Anil Chaudhary recently coined the term "Grey Zone Warfare" at the last day of Raisina Dialogue. The term was cropped up in description of Chinese actions around Taiwan and other Island nations that it claims as its own. Grey Zone Warfare means an unclear Space that exists between direct conflict and peace in International relations.



#### 5. OPEC+ Nations extend oil cuts to boost prices

The Oil Alliance of 22 countries "OPEC+" has extended supply cuts since 2022 to boost prices of oil barrels following economic uncertainty. OPEC+ is a group of oil exporting countries that controls 40% of global oil supplies and more than 80% of proven oil reserves. The OPEC+ countries include OPEC members plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mexico, Malaysia, South Sudan, Sudan and Oman.

#### 6. Pakistan National Day to be observed in Delhi

The Pakistan Embassy to observe Pakistan National day on March 23, 2024 in the Pakistan Embassy complex in New Delhi after a gap of four years. It was on this day the Lahore Resolution was adopted in 1940 by Muslim League demanding for an independent state for Indian Muslims. The resolution does not include the word Pakistan anywhere.



#### 7. Global Resource Outlook released at UNEA-6

The Flagship report of the International Resource Panel of UNEP "Global Resource Outlook 2024" was launched on the final day of the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6). The assembly was held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The report states that how Resources are essential for effective implementation of Agenda 2030.

#### 8. Medical journal by Lancet reveals Global Rate of Obesity has quadrupled since 1990

The recently released medical journal by Lancet reveals an explosive growth of a type of malnourishment known as Obesity. The report revealed that the global rate of obesity has quadrupled in children and doubled in adults since 1990. Obesity is defined as excess body fat and it is a long term chronic health condition. The Body Mass index is used to define Obesity in General public.

#### 9. Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems

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A contract was signed between Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority and Indian Company U-Solar Clean Energy Solutions for building a project titled “Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems” in Delft, Neduntheevu, Nainativu and Analaitivu Islands. The project aims to harness multiple Energy sources like solar and wind power for optimising energy capacities. The initiative is backed by the Indian Government by a USD 11 million grant.

### 10. 55th Human Rights Council

The 55th Human Rights Council kicked off on 26th February where United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk released a new vision statement towards protecting human rights across the world. India exercised its “Right to Reply” against Turkey and Pakistan for mentioning the issue of Jammu And Kashmir on the platform.

### Sports

#### 1. Anderson becomes first pacer to take 700 Test Wickets

The medium pacer from England James Anderson becomes the first and only pacer in the world to take 700 test wickets. He achieved the feat during the 5th test against India at Dharamshala by dismissing Kuldeep Yadav. The pacer is behind Muttiah Muralidharan with 800 wickets and Shane Warne 708 wickets in the list of maximum number of Test wickets taken by a bowler.



#### 2. Khelo India Medal winners to be eligible for Government jobs

Union Sports Minister Shri Anurag Thakur recently made an announcement at National Youth Parliament Festival 2024 that all Khelo India Medal winners such as Khelo India Youth Games (Above 18), Khelo India Winter Games, Khelo India Para Games and Khelo India University Games will qualify for government employment opportunities. The Khelo India games were first started in 2018.

#### 3. Bairstow-Ashwin to become fourth duo to feature in 100th test together

The England batsmen Johnny Bairstrow and India's spin maestro Ravichandran Ashwin will become 4th duo to feature together in the 100th test. The event will also mark the second occasion in the history of cricket when two players from opposite teams will be playing their 100th test.

#### 4. Sunny Singh Gill becomes first Premier League Referee of Indian descent

The 39 year old Sunny Singh Gill becomes first Premier League Referee of Indian descent. He is following the lead set by his father Jarnail Singh

Gill who was the only English League Football referee to have won a turban. Gill would be debuting in the match between Crystal Palace and Luton Town at Selhurst Park in London.



**5. Justina wins ITF Women's tournament in Gurugram**

The 28 year old Justina Mikulskyte won her 5th singles title beating Yeonwoo Ku of Korea at the finals of the Federal Bank USD 25000 ITF Women's Tennis Tournament in Gurugram. The scoreline of the match was 6-0, 6-1. Justina is ranked 251 and has won 20 doubles titles.

**6. Pankaj Advani retains CCI Snooker Classic crown**

India's ace snooker player Pankaj advani beats Kamal Chawla to retain the CCI Snooker Classic Crown. The multiple time World champion Advani defeated Kamal 8-3 in the best of 15 frame final in Mumbai.



**7. Ireland registers first ever test win**

Ireland beat Afghanistan by Six wickets to

register its first ever Test win. The country ended a spell of 7 consecutive losses at the Tolerance Oval. Ireland was given Test Status in 2017 by ICC and it played its first test against Pakistan in 2018.

Days

**1. International HPV Awareness Day**

International HPV Awareness Day is observed annually on March 4 by International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS). The day is observed to inform people about Human Papillomavirus and its associated cancers. It was first observed in 2018. January 2024 was observed as Cervical Cancer Month. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of 200 viruses of which 40 are sexually transmitted.

**2. World Wildlife Day observed on March 3, 2024**

The World Wildlife Day was observed on March 3, 2023 under the theme "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital innovation in Wildlife Conservation". The day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of Wildlife conservation. The day was first proposed by Thailand in 2023 at the United Nations General Assembly.



Science and tech/Space/Defence

**1. Launch of Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs)**

In a bid to promote future technologies and empower youth to innovate the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Meta have

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launched the Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs). The FTLs are an advanced version of Atal Tinkering Labs that aims to advance the government's agenda of digital inclusion, skilling and growth. These labs would be funded by Meta and Atal Innovation Mission will be the knowledge partner.

## 2. First in-depth Study of Star Dune

Researchers of Aberystwyth University in Wales have conducted the first in-depth study of a star dune thereby revealing the internal structure of Star dunes and their formation. Star dunes are pyramidal dunes named after their distinctive shapes and are found in Africa, Asia and North America. These are formed in the areas with complex wind regimes and constitute only 10% of the dunes in Earth's deserts.

3. **Exception to 200 year old Fourier's law** Scientists at University of Massachusetts have discovered an exception to a 200 year old Fourier's law also known as Law of Heat Conduction. The Fourier's law explains how heat is transferred, conducted through solid materials. The scientists have found an exception to this theory which states that at Nanoscale, this model of diffusion does not take place.



## 4. Anthropic launched its most intelligent AI Model "Claude3"

The Artificial Intelligence startup Anthropic founded by the former members of OpenAI have developed the most intelligent AI model "Claude3". It is a group of large language

models capable of handling text, voice messages and documents. The AI model is capable of advanced performance beating the likes of GPT-4.

## 5. MethaneSAT satellite launched

The MethaneSAT satellite was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket which will Name and shame Methane emitters. The Satellite was developed by the Environmental Defence Fund of US in collaboration with Harvard University, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and New Zealand Space Agency. The satellite will gather a large amount of data on Methane emissions and will orbit the earth 15 times a day, monitoring the oil and gas sector.

## 6. Discovery of RAD51 protein

Researchers at the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO) have identified a new protein which will act as a key player in preventing DNA re-replication. It is a gene that encodes a protein that functions in a homologous recombination and binds to the DNA at the site of a break.

## 7. Project Seabird expansion at Naval Base Karwar

The Defence Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated key infrastructure projects at Naval Base Karwar, Karnataka for expansion of Project Seabird. Project Seabird was initially sanctioned in 1985 and it is the largest Naval Infrastructure project for India. 2 big piers and seven towers with 320 homes will be inaugurated for Navy officers and Defence Civilians as part of the project.

## 8. Successfully test fire of Yars Missile by Russia

Russia recently successfully test fired the Yars Intercontinental Ballistic Nuclear Missile (ICBM)



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just a day after Vladimir Putin's nuclear war warning. The Yars Missile also known as RS-24 or SS-29 is a three stage, solid propellant, Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV) capable ICBM. The Missile has a range of 10,500 km.

### 9. Protoplanetary Disk losing massive amounts of Hydrogen each year

Observations by the James Webb Telescope of the USA state that a massive amount of Hydrogen is being lost each year by the Protoplanetary disk around a young star in Orion Nebula. A protoplanetary disk is a disk of gas and dust orbiting around a newly formed star which will eventually lead to formation of a new planet.

### 10. DefConnect 2024

The Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation(iDEX-DIO) is organising DefConnect 2024 under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence. The DefConnect 2024 was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with the aim to encourage indigenous defence innovation. The iDEX was launched in 2018 and is funded and managed by Defence Innovation Organisation.

### 11. India's first Semiconductor Fab to be made by TATA JV

India's first Semiconductor Fabrication plant to be developed by the joint venture of TATA group and Taiwan's PSMC will be set up in Gujarat's Dholera. Three Semiconductor plants for an estimated cost of 1.26 lakh crore will be set up in Gujarat (2) and Assam (1). The Chip Fabrication scheme will employ 26000 people directly and 1 lakh indirectly.

### 12. EXERCISE SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA 2024

The 3rd edition of Joint Naval Exercise SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA 2024 took place between the Indian Navy and Royal Malaysian Navy from February 28th to March 2nd, 2024. The Exercise took place at the coast of Visakhapatnam. The INS Kiltan from India and Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir participated in the exercise. The major aim of the Exercise is to enhance interoperability and strengthen bonds between Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy.



### 13. Genome India project finished sequencing of 10,000 Indian Genomes

The Pan India Initiative "Genome India Project" funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) recently achieved a new milestone by finishing sequencing of 10,000 Indian Genomes. The major aim of the project is to create a catalogue of genetic variations in Indians, establish a biobank for DNA and Plasma etc. The Genome India Project was launched in 2020 by the Government of India.

### 14. Commissioning of INS JATAYU at Minicoy Island

The Indian Navy Commissioned INS JATAYU to enhance its operational capability, at Minicoy Island, Lakshadweep. The Commissioning ceremony was held in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar. INS JATAYU will be the second Naval Base in Lakshadweep, the first one being INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti.

Health/Agriculture/Environment

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### 1. New Begonia Specie “Begonia Narahari” discovered

Researchers from University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) and CSIR-NEIST have discovered a new Begonia Species named “Begonia Narahari” in Arunachal Pradesh. The species has been named after Professor Garikapati Narahari Sastry in recognition for his contributions in the field of botany. The species is classified as Data Deficient as per IUCN classification.

### 2. NASA shares pictures of Cavum clouds

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Terra satellite captured pictures of “hole punch clouds or fallstreak clouds” also known as Cavum clouds. The picture showed odd holes in the clouds above the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Florida. Cavum clouds are formed when aeroplanes pass through altocumulus clouds.

### 3. Germany allows Carbon capture and storage (CCS)

The biggest Carbon DiOxide emitter in Europe, Germany allows Carbon Capture and offshore storage for certain industrial sectors such as Cement Sector. The step is being taken by Germany to help meet its target of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2045. Carbon Capture and Storage refers to capturing of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from large point sources and trapping them beneath the Earth.

### 4. Status of Leopards in India Report

As per the recently released Status of Leopards in India Report 2022, the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana recorded an increase in leopard population. The Amrabad Tiger Reserve is the second largest Tiger Reserve in terms of core area and 6th largest in terms of total area

located in Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts in Telangana.



### 5. World's Tiniest frog Brazilian Flea Toad discovered in Brazil

Researchers have discovered World's Tiniest frog Brazilian Flea Toad scientifically called *Brachycephalus Pulex* in the state of Bahia, Brazil. The tiny frog is endemic to Brazil's Atlantic Coast and was first discovered in 2011. The average size of the male frog is measured 7.10 millimetres.

### 6. More funding required to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres appealed for greater support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to fight climate change. The SIDS are a group of 39 states and 18 Associate members of United Nations regional commissions and were recognised as a special case for environment and development at 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

### 7. India's energy related Carbon Emissions drove up in 2023

The International Energy Agency announced that Strong GDP growth along with weak monsoons drove up India's energy related Carbon Emissions in 2023. The Global Energy related emission grew by 1.1 percent in 2023 to reach a record high of 37.4 Gigatonnes. The largest increase in emissions was recorded in China.

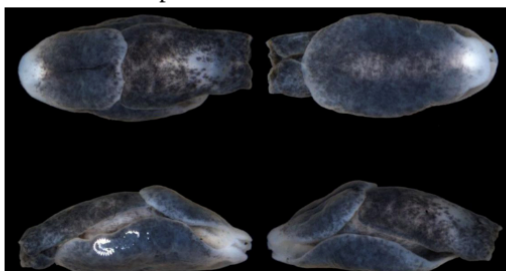
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## 8. New species of Head-shield Sea Slug discovered

The Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have recently discovered a new species of head-shield sea slug named “Melanochlamys Droupadi”. The species has been discovered from Odisha and West Bengal Coast. The new Species has been named after President of India Shrimati Droupadi Murmu.



## 9. Doomsday Glacier losing ice since 1940s

The Thwaites Glacier of Antarctica also known as “Doomsday Glacier ” has been losing ice since the 1940s due to El Nino and Other climate change phenomena. The Doomsday Glacier is located in Amundsen Sea in West Antarctica and acts as a buffer holding neighbouring glaciers that can raise sea level upto 3 metres.

## 10. Establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

The Establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was recently announced by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The one time budgetary support of 150 crore was approved by the Union Cabinet for a period of 5 years from 2023 to 2028. The IBCA initiative was launched by PM Modi in April 2023 in Mysore on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger and its headquarters will be located in India.

## 11. BioTRIG

Recent study by researchers claim that New Waste management technology namely “BioTRIG” could improve life in rural India. BioTRIG is a community level pyrolysis system to run on village waste. The technology can help in reduction of air pollution, improve soil health and generate clean power. The new system works using pyrolysis method, sealing the Waste inside an oxygen free chamber and heating above 400 degrees Celsius.

## 12. Early Jacaranda Bloom alarms scientists in Mexico

The early onset bloom of Jacaranda also known as Jacaranda Acutifolia alarms scientists in Mexico city. The early bloom is due to Climate Change taking place in Mexico city. The Blue Jacaranda is native to North West Argentina and Brazil and it is a deciduous tree from the Bignoniaceae family.

### Miscellaneous

#### 1. Total Solar Eclipse to occur on April 8, 2024

The World will witness a rare celestial event, a “Total Solar Eclipse” dated April 8th, 2024. The Total Solar Eclipse will make the sun disappear through the skies and it will be the last Solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044. The Eclipse will completely cover the sun creating a night like situation during the day.

#### 2. 66th meeting of NPG held under PM Gatishakti

The 66th meeting of Network Planning Group (NPG) under PM Gatishakti was held in New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary, DPIIT Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur. The meeting evaluated 5 infrastructure projects which included 3 projects from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and 2

projects from the Ministry of Railways (MoR).

