

National

### 1. KABIL sign MoU with CSIR in the field of Critical and Strategic Minerals

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) signed an MoU to collaborate on geophysical investigations. The agreement aims to enhance KABIL's projects in critical minerals through surveys, data analysis, and technical support, fostering innovation and actionable insights.

### 2. Climate Strategy 2030 for Green Financing

National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 on Earth Day, addressing India's need for green financing. The aim is to bridge the gap by accelerating green loans, fostering a greener market, and securing more resources. Established in 1982, NABARD provides financial aid for rural projects and initiatives, aiming to empower rural communities and drive environmentally friendly practices.

### 3. Growth of 8-10% annually to reap Demographic Dividend

India's central bank, RBI, says the country needs economic growth of 8-10% annually for the next decade to benefit from its young population. This high growth will help India overcome its 'low middle income' status and achieve its development goals. The World Bank categorizes economies by income levels. Lower middle-income economies are characterized by a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita ranging from \$1,136 to \$4,465.

### 4. First 3D Dummy Ballot of India

The Indian Institute of Guwahati has developed India's first 3D Dummy Ballot that resembles the actual ballot used by the Election Commission in voting. The Ballot is made up of recyclable material that can be used post elections for making something else in 3D Printing. The Dummy Ballot contains candidates names and symbols and is developed from a material named PLA (polylactic acid), a biodegradable material derived from Corn Starch.



### 5. Allocation of NOTTO- ID

The Health Ministry has recently issued a directive to eliminate commercial dealing in organs by allocation of a unique National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)-ID to all cases of Organ transplants. The NOTTO-ID would be issued for both donor and the recipient. NOTTO is set up under the Directorate General of Health Services as a national level organisation for procurement and distribution of organs, registry and Tissue donations and transplantation in the country.

### 6. India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System

A conference titled "India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System" was organised by the Ministry of Law and Justice at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The Chief Guest of the conference was CJI DY Chandrachud. The conference was organised on the backdrop of enactment of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

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2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023.

7. **2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav** The 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam. The Mahotsav was inaugurated on the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti. A dance drama performance on Bhagwan Mahaveer Swami titled "Vartaman Mein Vardhaman" was showcased by school children. A Commemorative stamp and coin was also released on the auspicious occasion.



### 8. Longevity India Initiative

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru launched the "Longevity India Initiative" with the major aim to pioneer ageing research in India. The project focuses to extend human healthspan and tackle ageing related challenges to improve the quality of life. The project has received initial funding from Pradhanth Prakash, Founding partner, Accelerating India.

### 9. Srinagar vies for Global Craft city tag

Srinagar, known for its traditional crafts like Pashmina shawls and carpets, is being considered for the World Craft City (WCC) designation. This prestigious title by the World Crafts Council recognizes cities with a rich craft heritage and significant economic contributions from handicrafts. Presently, India has only 3

cities designated as World Craft City - Jaipur, Mysuru, and Mamallapuram.

### 10. India's first high cervical spinal cord stimulation received by patient from France

A 65-year-old French woman with Parkinson's Plus syndrome was successfully treated in Bengaluru using high cervical spinal cord stimulation. Parkinson's Plus Syndrome is a brain disorder similar to Parkinson's disease but with additional symptoms like early dementia and balance problems. It has limited treatment options compared to regular Parkinson's.

### 11. Aadharshila- National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024

The Union government has introduced 'Aadharshila,' a curriculum guidance for children aged three to six in 14 lakh anganwadis nationwide. This initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework and aims to improve early childhood education and equip children with basic literacy skills before entering primary school.

## International

### 1. 6th edition of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI), stressing the importance of investing in resilient infrastructure for a better future. He highlighted the human cost of disasters beyond economic losses and called for building resilience into new infrastructure projects. Launched in 2019 at the [United Nations Climate Action Summit](#) in New York, it is a global



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partnership to improve infrastructure's ability to withstand climate disasters and support sustainable development. India is a founding member and the host country of CDRI.

## 2. Global Report on Food Prices 2024

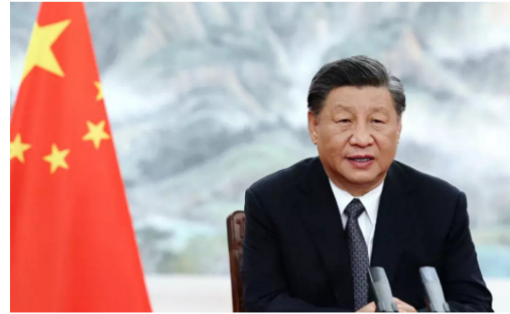
The 2024 Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC) reveals alarming statistics: Over 72 million people face acute food insecurity due to extreme weather events, with conflict and insecurity affecting 135 million. Sudan faces one of the worst crises, with a third of its population needing emergency aid. GRFC is the premier publication of the Global Network Against Food Crises, facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN).

## 3. Rwanda Bill of UK

The UK Parliament passed the Rwanda Bill initiated under the Prime Minister Boris Johnson's administration. The scheme would allow some asylum seekers who illegally entered the UK through the English Channel being sent back to Rwanda. Individuals who arrived after 1 January 2022 are eligible to be deported. The major objective of the scheme is to undermine the business model of human traffickers facilitating illegal crossings through the English Channel.

## 4. Xi Jinping takes direct control over Military

The Chinese President Xi Jinping recently dissolved the Strategic Support Force (SSF) thereby taking direct control over the Military of China. A new branch called Information Support Force was created which will have Aerospace and cyber units previously held under SSF. Bi Yi has been named as the new Commander of the Information Support Force.



## 5. 5 year Multientry visa in Schengen Area for Indians

The European Union recently adopted favourable Schengen Visa rules granting entry to Indians to any European country within the Schengen area, multiple times for two years which is extendable by 5 years. Schengen Visa allows Non Europeans to travel to all 27 countries part of Schengen Areas. The Schengen area includes non EU countries like Switzerland, Iceland and Norway.

## 6. WTO members criticised EU, UK on Steel safeguard measures

The European Union along with the UK decided against terminating its safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products. Countries including India, Switzerland, Brazil, China, Japan, Korea and Russia have criticised the move. Safeguards measures are introduced by a country for emergency actions under WTO Agreement on Safeguards. The Largest producer of Steel globally is China followed by India.

## 7. Google fires 20 protesters protesting against Project Nimbus

The US tech giant Google recently fired 20 protesters protesting against Project Nimbus. Project Nimbus is a lucrative cloud computing contract with the Israeli government signed in 2021 that involves a USD 1.2 billion agreement. The contract was signed by Google alongside

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Amazon to provide advanced cloud services and AI capabilities to Israel.

#### 8. Sweden signs NASAs Artemis Accord

The Nordic nation Sweden becomes the 38th country to sign NASAs Artemis Accord for Moon exploration. India is also a signatory to the Accord that includes seven Founding members namely Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, UAE and UK. Artemis Accord is a set of non-binding principles to guide civil space exploration and peaceful and responsible moon exploration.

#### 9. Sweden signs NASAs Artemis Accord

The Israeli defence forces in response to Iranian attacks used the “Rampage Missiles” to destroy Iranian Military bases. It is a long range Supersonic Missile developed by Israel Aerospace Industries. The Missile can carry a payload of 150 kg and can operate in any weather conditions, day or night. The Missile uses GPS/INS guidance navigation and can also adjust its path mid flight to precisely hit the target.



#### 10. US to withdraw troops from Niger

The United States agreed to withdraw 1000 troops from the West African nation Niger tilts towards Russia. The US built a base in the desert city of Agadez at the cost of USD 100 Million. The country falls within the SAHEL region in Africa which is a Hotspot of extremist activities and geopolitical competitions.

#### 11. First Rainbow Tourism Conference led by Nepal

The Inaugural Rainbow Tourism Conference was led by Nepal in Kathmandu. The major objective of the conference is to promote the country as a safe and inclusive destination for LGBT tourists. The conference was organised by Nepal Tourism Board in collaboration with NGO Maya Ko Pehchan Nepal. Nepal Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in 2007 asking the government to formulate laws recognizing the identity of the third gender.

#### 12. Global Financial Stability Report 2024

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the Global Financial Stability Report 2024 under the Central theme “The Last Mile: Financial Vulnerabilities and Risks”. It is a semi-annual Report that assesses the Stability of global financial markets and it is released twice per year in April and October. The report talks about the persistent high inflation and increasing cyber attacks in Financial institutions.

#### 13. Presence of Pesticide in Everest Curry Masala

Singapore recalled Everest Fish Curry Masala due to high levels of ethylene oxide, a pesticide. Hong Kong's food safety agency first flagged the issue. Ethylene oxide is generally not allowed in food and can be harmful if consumed. Singapore's food agency advised people who bought the product to consult a doctor if concerned and to return it to the store.

#### 14. Russia exits Nagorno-Karabakh region

The Kremlin has quietly confirmed the withdrawal of its peacekeepers from Nagorno-Karabakh, ending a four-year mission after Azerbaijani forces seized the region from Armenian separatists last September. Nagorno-Karabakh is an ethnic Armenian region within



Azerbaijan's borders. It has been a point of contention between Armenia and Azerbaijan since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

### 15. US vetoes UN resolution for full membership of Palestine

The United States blocked a UN resolution for Palestinian Statehood through full UN membership, asserting it should result from direct negotiations. Palestinians currently hold non-member observer status since 2012. This occurred amidst the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Israel's expansion of settlements in the West Bank, deemed illegal by the UN. The UN has long supported a two-state solution, but achieving it remains a challenge.



## Sports

### 1. Highest successful run-chases in IPL T20 matches

Punjab Kings made history at the Eden Gardens, breaking the record for the highest successful T20 chase with an astounding 262-run target against Kolkata Knight Riders. Jonny Bairstow's blistering century in just 18.4 overs spearheaded the chase, with Shashank Singh's quickfire half-century adding impetus. This surpasses Rajasthan Royals' 2020 and 2024 feats, setting a new milestone in T20 cricket.

### 2. Deepanshu bags Gold in Javelin at Asian U20

### Athletics Championship

Indian athletes showcased their prowess on the opening day of the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Dubai. Deepanshu Sharma and Rohan Yadav secured gold and silver, respectively, in the men's javelin throw, while Priyanshu clinched silver in the men's 1500m. Ritik earned another silver in the men's discus throw.

### 3. Laureus Awards 2024

Novak Djokovic was handed over with his fifth Laureus Award in the category of Top Men's honour. Spain's world cup winning midfielder Aitana Bonmati was named as the Sportswoman of the Year. The Nominees to the awards are selected by Global media while winners are determined by 69 members of Laureus World Sports Academy.

### 4. Inter Milan won 20th Serie A title

The football club Inter Milan secured 20th Serie Title beating AC Milan with the scoreline of 2-1. Francesco Acerbi and Marcus Thuram scored goals in each half for Inter Milan. Fikayo Tomori from AC Milan scored a late goal to reduce the deficit.

### 5. Gukesh becomes youngest candidate champion to challenge Ding Liren for World title

The 109 move draw between World Number 2 Fabiano Caruana and World Number 4 Ian Nepomniachtchi confirmed D Gukes as the champion at FIDE Candidates 2024 champion. 17 year old D Gukesh becomes the youngest Candidate to challenge World Number 1 Ding Liren for the World Title. D Gukesh became career best World Number 6 with a revised rating of 2763.

### 6. Rizwan becomes the fastest batter to

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**complete 3000 T20I runs**

Pakistan’s Mohammad Rizwan became the fastest player to reach 3,000 runs in Twenty20 Internationals, achieving it in just 79 innings. He beat the previous record of 81 innings held jointly by Babar Azam and Virat Kohli.



**7. Esha Singh tops women's 25m sports pistol qualification for Paris Olympics 2024**

Esha Singh, a 19-year-old Indian shooter, topped the qualification round in the women’s 25m sports pistol event at the first Paris 2024 Olympic selection trials. Known for her Asian Games success, Esha shot 291 in precision and 294 in rapid-fire.



Days

**1. World Earth Day observed on April 22**

The International Mother Earth day also known

as World Earth day was observed globally on April 22 under the theme “Planet Vs Plastics”. It was first observed on April 22, 1970 in the US. The major objective is to raise awareness and promote sustainability of our planet.



**2. World Heritage Day observed on April 18**

World Heritage Day was observed on April 18, 2024 by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The theme of 2024 is “Discover and Experience Diversity”. The major aim of the day is to raise awareness about monuments and their protection as they form a part of our History and culture. The first World Heritage Day was celebrated in 1982.

**Person In News**

**1. Naima khatoon becomes First Women VC of AMU**

The Central Government recently appointed Dr Naima Khatoon as the new Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. She became the first Women VC of the AMU in over 100 years history. Due to the Model Code of Conduct in place, the appointment was approved by President of India Shri Droupadi Murmu and Election Commission of India.



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## 2. Nalin Prabhat appointed as Chief of NSG

Nalin Prabhat, an IPS officer from Andhra Pradesh, was appointed the new Director General of India's elite counter-terrorism force, the National Security Guard (NSG). Formed in 1986 by the National Security Guard Act, NSG was a response to events like Operation Blue Star and terrorism. They are trained for swift actions, hostage rescue, bomb disposal, and VIP security. The motto of NSG is 'Sarvatra, Sarvottam, Suraksha'.

Science and tech/space/Defence

### 1. Crystal Maze 2 Missile

In a significant boost to its airpower, India successfully test-fired a new Israeli-origin air-launched missile named ROCKS (Crystal Maze 2). Launched from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet, this missile can hit targets over 250 km away, potentially taking out enemy radar and air defences. Planned for mass production, this missile offers long-range strike capability in situations with limited GPS access.

### 2. Historic Transoceanic Expedition By Indian Navy Women Officers

The Indian Navy Women officers namely LC Dilna K and LC Roopa A created history by completing a two month long Transoceanic Expedition. The

Expedition was carried out aboard Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) TARINI for nearly two months. INSV interacted and conducted training sorties with the Mauritian Coast Guard.

### 3. Screening of Biomarkers can detect Cancer at Early stage

Scientists have developed a new AI powered test that can detect Cancer within minutes using Biological markers. The test that uses machine learning technology detects three major types of cancers using a single drop of dried blood. Biomarkers are physical, Chemical or biological characteristics present in the human body in the form of Carbohydrates, Proteins, Lipids, Genes, DNA, RNA, platelets etc.

### 4. C-CAMP joins BFI Biome Virtual Network

India's leading bioscience research and innovation ecosystem, Centre for Cellular and Molecular platforms (C-CAMP) signs MoU with Blockchain for Impact (BFI) Biome Virtual Program to accelerate transformative Healthcare solutions. Blockchain for Impact (BFI) Biome Virtual Program is a catalyst that will nurture biomedical science and Innovation. Under the MoU BFI will allocate USD 200,000 over the course of three years.



### 5. Zero Shadow Day observed

The unique Astronomical event Zero Shadow Day was observed in Bengaluru between 12:17 pm

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and 12:23 pm on April 24. The day takes place when the sun is directly overhead at Solar noon, resulting from Earth's axial Tilt of about 23.5 degrees. The Phenomena generally occurs in locations near the Equator and occurs twice a year in areas situated between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.

#### 6. Exercise Poorvi Lehar

The exercise Poorvi Lehar (XPOL) was conducted by the Indian Navy on the eastern coast that was aimed at assessing Indian Navy's Preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region. The exercise was conducted under the direction of Flag Commanding-in-Chief, eastern Naval Command. Assets from Coast Guard, IAF and Andaman and Nicobar command also participated in the exercise.

#### 7. Successfully flight test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ICTM)

DRDO successfully flight-tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) off Odisha's coast. The missile followed a planned path at a low altitude and performed as expected. This test validated the Indian-made propulsion system and other technologies within the missile. BrahMos, BrahMos II and Nirbhay are the cruise missiles currently in India's arsenal.

#### 8. DRDO testing DURGA 2

DRDO is developing a high-powered laser weapon named DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array), that could revolutionize warfare. This laser weapon could destroy missiles, drones, and aircraft at the speed of light, potentially replacing expensive traditional defense systems. With a potential range of over 100 km, DURGA-2 is planned for land, sea, and air use. Laser weapons' low cost

and high accuracy make them the future of warfare.

Health/Agriculture/Environment

**1. Bhutan and Tiger Conservation Coalition catalyze USD 1 billion for Tiger Conservation** The Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference concluded with a historic commitment under the Paro Statement from Bhutan and the Tiger Conservation Coalition to mobilize US\$1 billion for tiger conservation over the next decade. The goal is to increase tiger populations, expand their range, and improve overall biodiversity in these areas. The two-day conference was being held at Dungkar Dzong in Pangbisa, Paro, Bhutan.



#### 2. Ban of construction of dams in Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

The Supreme Court halted the construction of four dams planned inside Haryana's Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary. The court expressed concerns that the dams would harm wildlife and the ecosystem, and may not even achieve their intended purpose. Contiguous to Rajaji National Park (Uttarakhand) and Simbalbara National Park (Himachal Pradesh), the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1996. It sits in the Siwalik foothills and is known for its dense Sal forests and diverse wildlife including tigers, elephants, leopards and cobras.

#### 3. Microbes found beneath Atacama Desert



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Scientists have uncovered a thriving microbial 'biosphere' buried 13 feet beneath Chile's Atacama Desert, the deepest such discovery ever made there. Dominated by Actinobacteria, this 'biosphere' is completely isolated from the scorched surface and suggests similar life could exist deep beneath other extremely dry places like Mars.



#### 4. Ross Ice Shelf moving forward by centimetres

Recently, researchers discovered that Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf, akin to France in size, moves daily due to the stop-and-go motion of the Whillans Ice Stream. These movements, similar to earthquake tremors, raise concerns about the shelf's stability amidst climate change.

#### 5. 4th session of INC on Global plastics

The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) commenced in Ottawa with a focus on addressing the escalating global issue of plastic pollution and curbing its detrimental effects on the environment, society, economy, and health. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was established in 2022 by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) to develop a binding international agreement on plastic pollution by 2024.

#### 6. Mystery of extremely low Sea ice cover in Antarctica

A recent study by the National Centre for Polar

and Ocean Research (NCPOR), in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey, investigated the reasons behind the extremely low Antarctic sea ice cover in recent years. The study highlights excessive upper-ocean heat and atmospheric circulation changes as key contributors to the observed changes. NCPOR, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, was founded in 1998. It is responsible for India's Antarctic research stations and studies Earth's polar regions and oceans. NCPOR is headquartered in Vasco Da Gama, Goa.

#### 7. Successful captive breeding of Golden Trevally fish

In a remarkable breakthrough, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has achieved captive breeding of golden trevally (*Gnathanodon speciosus*), also known as golden kingfish. With high market demand for consumption and ornamental purposes, this reef-associated species shows potential for mariculture. CMFRI, established in 1947, plays a vital role in monitoring marine resources and developing mariculture technologies.

#### 8. State of the Climate in Asia report 2023

The State of the Global Climate Report for 2023 was recently released by the World Meteorological Organisation. The latest report illustrates Asia's climate crisis - the region is warming faster than the global average, leading to more extreme weather events like floods, storms, and heatwaves. The report also highlights significant glacier mass loss in High Mountain Asia, shifting rainfall patterns, and record-high sea surface temperatures in the Northwest Pacific Ocean, intensifying regional climate concerns.

#### 9. World's deadliest cave Kitum home to next

**Pandemic, the Marburg virus**

Kitum Caves in Mount Elgon National Park, Kenya, harbours deadly viruses like Ebola and Marburg, sparking concerns of a potential pandemic. Wildlife attracted to the cave's salty mineral deposits, contribute to its status as a breeding ground for zoonotic infections. Marburg RNA was discovered in fruit bats, suggesting a mode of transmission through body fluids and personal belongings, with a mortality rate of up to 88%.

**10. Global Warming may convert Tundra System from Carbon sinks to Sources**

As per the study titled "Environmental Drivers of Increased Ecosystem respiration in a warming Tundra", Global Warming may assist Ecosystem respiration thereby leading to turning Tundra system from carbon Sinks to carbon Sources. Warming temperatures increase metabolic activity among plants and microbial soil. Alpine Tundra ecosystems are treeless regions found in the Arctic and on top of mountains with average temperature of -34 to -6 degree centigrade.

**11. Mount Erebus spewing Gold Dust**

An Active Volcano in Antarctica namely Mount Erebus has been recently in News for spewing gold worth USD 6000 everyday. The Volcano emits 80 grams of gold dust each day. Mount Erebus is the only Volcano in the world which is presently an erupting Phonolite Volcano. The gold is being ejected in pockets of gas in the form of crystallised gold. Mount Erebus is the southernmost active Volcano of the World.



**12. Fourth Global Mass Coral bleaching event triggered**

The Fourth Global Mass Coral bleaching event has been triggered by extraordinary ocean temperatures as per the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The event could lead to serious consequences for Ocean life and people who rely on reefs. As per the EU Copernicus Climate Change service (C3S) the ocean temperature recorded a monthly high of 21.07 degree Celsius which is abnormally high.

**13. Over 30% of Cultivable Land carry acidic soil in India**

As per the study published in the Journal Science, over 30% of cultivated land in India is said to carry acidic soil that is impacting plant growth in the region. About 3.3 billion tonnes of essential carbon is being stripped off Indian soil due to acidification thereby affecting crop growth and sequestration. Carbon in the soil is stored in the form of SIC or Soil Organic Carbon (SOC).

**14. 160 marine species discovered in Salas y Gomez region**

Scientists recently discovered 160 marine species during an exploration of the Salas y Gómez underwater mountain chain in the Southeastern Pacific Ocean. At least 50 of these species are likely entirely new to science. Salas y Gómez is a submarine ridge located in the South Pacific Ocean.

**15. Gigantic Ocean discovered 700 km below Earth's surface**

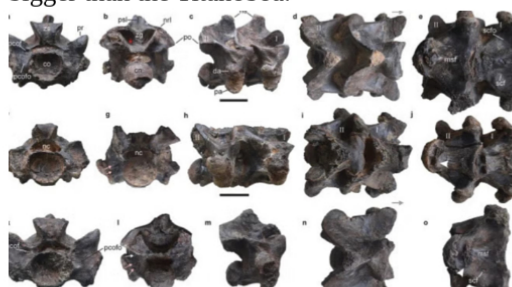
Researchers at Northwestern University have found a colossal ocean buried 700 km beneath the Earth's surface, holding three times more water than all surface oceans combined. The subterranean ocean, trapped in a mineral called



ringwoodite, was detected by seismic waves. This discovery challenges existing theories on Earth's water origins, suggesting it may have originated from within the planet.

### 16. Fossil of Largest snake Vasuki Indicus discovered

Paleontologists in India unearthed a massive snake fossil estimated to be 36-49 feet long in Gujarat's Kutch region. Named 'Vasuki Indicus' after the mythical king of serpents, it might be the world's largest snake ever discovered, even bigger than the Titanoboa.



### 17. New Oral Cholera Vaccine Euvichol-S

A new, more affordable Cholera vaccine, Euvichol-S, has been approved by the WHO, allowing for faster production and wider distribution. This is crucial as Cholera is easily preventable and treatable, yet children are still suffering. Cholera is a bacterial infection causing severe diarrhoea and dehydration. It's easily treatable but spreads quickly in areas with poor sanitation. Cholera outbreaks have been on the rise since 2021.

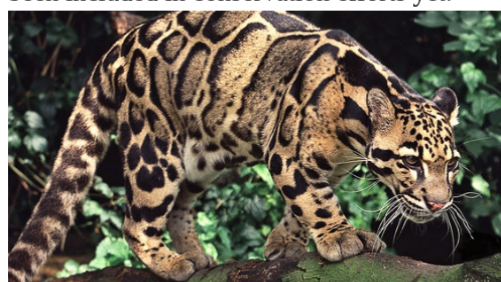
### 18. Indonesia's Mount Ruang erupts

Recently, Mount Ruang in Indonesia erupted, sending fiery lava thousands of feet into the night sky and propelling an ash cloud a mile high. Authorities raised the alert to the highest level, fearing the potential for a tsunami triggered by falling debris. The volcano's location

along the 'Ring of Fire' makes it prone to eruptions.

### 19. Clouded Tiger Cat faces threat due to deforestation

Scientists discovered a new wildcat species in Brazil called the clouded tiger cat. It is about the size of a domestic cat with a distinct spotted coat for camouflage. Its habitat spans from Central America to the Andean mountains. This small, spotted feline faces threats from deforestation, habitat loss, and illegal hunting. Its future is uncertain because it hasn't been included in conservation efforts yet.



### 20. GAIA calls upon ASEAN to fight plastic pollution

Civil society groups, including the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific, urged ASEAN nations to champion a global treaty against plastic pollution. Over 100 organisations signed a letter highlighting the environmental crisis in Southeast Asia, overflowing with landfills and polluted waterways due to plastic waste. ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is an intergovernmental organization of ten Southeast Asian countries. Founded in 1967, its headquarters is in Jakarta, Indonesia. India is not a member of ASEAN.

### 21. Lakshmana Teertha river dries up

Kodagu district in India faces a water crisis due to drought and heat. The Lakshmana Tirtha river,

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usually flowing year-round, has dried up completely. Last year's deficient rainfall and declining groundwater levels are causing smaller streams to dry up as well. This lack of water is impacting farmers and causing drinking water shortages. The Lakshmana Tirtha River is a tributary of the Kaveri River in Karnataka. It originates in the Brahmagiri hills and flows east to join the Kaveri at Krishna Raja Sagara Lake.

