



03 November 2023

National and International News

Researchers identify a new mushroom species from the Western Ghats



Context

A tiny, fragile-looking mushroom sporting a honey-yellow 'cap' found on the campus of the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) at Palode in Thiruvananthapuram has been identified as a new species.

Key points

- The new species belongs to the genus **Candolleomyces**.
- The new species has been named **Candolleomyces albosquamosus** - 'albosquamosus' for the white woolly scale-like structures on its pileus or cap.
- Delicate in build, the mushroom grows to a height of just about **58 mm**.

Did you know?

The discovery of a new species of the genus Candolleomyces in India is special given that there are only **35 species** in this genus worldwide

Akhaura-Agartala rail link to be inaugurated



Context

The much-awaited **Akhaura-Agartala rail link** will be inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Bangladesh counterpart **Sheikh Hasina**

Key points

- The rail link is **12.24 km**, with a **6.78-km dual gauge line** in Bangladesh and **5.46 km** in Tripura.
- This rail link is being seen as a first step to connect **Tripura to Kolkata** through **Bangladesh**.
- The link will significantly reduce the time and distance needed to reach **Tripura, southern Assam, and Mizoram from Kolkata**.
- It will also help **boost India-Bangladesh trade** in agriculture products, tea, sugar, construction items, iron and steel, and consumer items, besides people-to-people ties.

Modi pays tribute to Patel, launches development projects at Statue of Unity

Context

Prime Minister paid floral tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity in Narmada, Gujarat, on the birth anniversary of India's first Home Minister, which is celebrated as **National Unity Day.(31st October)**



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Key points

- He launched several development projects at the Statue of Unity, which has emerged as a **major tourism hub**.
- Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue with a height of **182 metres**. Over three million visitors visit the site annually.
- Mr. Modi witnessed the **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) parade**.

About Aarambh

- PM addressed the officer trainees of the **98th Common Foundation Course** at the culmination of the fifth edition of "Aarambh" in which 560 trainees from Indian civil services and three from Bhutan civil services participated.
- The **5th edition of the "Aarambh"** programme was held on the theme of **'Harnessing the Power of Disruption'**.
- The course provides a first-hand introduction to the ideas, challenges, and responsibilities of governance in a large and diverse country.

Fiscal deficit touches 39.3% of full-year target in first half

Context

- The central government's fiscal deficit touched 39.3% of the full-year target in the first half of the current financial year, **slightly higher than 37.3%** recorded in the year-earlier period.
- In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to **5.9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** in the 2023-24 financial year.
- Tax revenue was at **₹11.60 lakh crore or 49.8% of the annual target**. During April-September 2022, net tax collection was 52.3% of the Budget Estimate.

Keraleeyam Festival

Context


- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the first-ever **"Keraleeyam" festival on Kerala's foundation day**.
- It is a **week-long event** showcasing the richness of the region's ethnic traditions and the complexity of its evolution as a modern State.

Key points

- Keraleeyam is the **"mahotsavam"** (great festival) that celebrates the spirit of the southern State.
- The event would be held every year from **November 1** as part of the State Formation Day celebrations.
- The event would be held annually for all the people



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	<p>who are proud of themselves as Keralites, to share their happiness in it with others, and to announce this to the world.</p>
<p>PM launches new projects in Gujarat</p> 	<p>Context The Prime Minister dedicated a slew of infrastructure projects worth ₹5,950 crore in Gujarat during his two-day visit to his home State.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He inaugurated railway projects, such as new sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and the doubling of the Viramgam-Samakhiali rail line, • He also inaugurated initiatives to recharge lakes, construct a barrage on the Sabarmati river, and set up drinking water and sewage treatment facilities. • The projects will come up in the districts of Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mahisagar, Gandhinagar, and Patan.

Kerala Regional News

<p>Dr Puthur Rahman bags Khasi Foundation Award</p> 	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malappuram native and KMCC UAE National Committee President Dr Puthur Rahman has bagged the Khasi Mohamed Koya Foundation Award <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was bestowed with this award in honour of his philanthropic activities. • The award comprises a purse of Rs 10,000, a citation and a sculpture. • It will be presented at the foundation's 15th anniversary celebrations scheduled to be held in December in Kozhikode. <p>About Khasi Foundation Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Khasi Foundation Award is an annual award given to individuals or institutions who have made significant contributions to the Khasi community in Kerala, India. • The award was instituted in 2008 by the Khasi Mohamed Koya Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to the welfare of the Khasi community.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The award is named after Khasi Mohamed Koya, a prominent Khasi leader and social worker. The Khasi Foundation Award is presented in a variety of categories, including education, social service, culture, and business
<p>Kerala Puraskaram 2023 announced; T Padmanabhan bags highest state honour</p>	<p>In News: Kerala Puraskaram 2023 announced; T Padmanabhan bags highest state honour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala Awards (Kerala Puraskaram) 2023 have been announced and this year's Kerala Jyothi award for contributions to the field of literature has been offered to T. Padmanabhan. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala Prabha awards were given to Retd. Justice M. Fathima Beevi and Nataraja Krishnamurthy (Soorya Krishnamurthy) The Kerala Sree awards were awarded to Punalur Somarajan (social services), Dr. V.P Gangadharan (health), Ravi D.C (industry and commerce), K.M Chandrasekhar (civil service) and Ramesh Narayan (arts-music).
<p>About Kerala Puraskaram</p> 	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kerala Puraskaram is the highest civilian award bestowed by the Government of Kerala. It is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the state in various fields, including literature, art, culture, science, technology, and public service. <p>The Kerala Puraskaram is awarded in three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala Jyothi: This is the highest award and is given to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the state. Kerala Prabha: This award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the state. Kerala Shri: This award is given to individuals who have made notable contributions to the state.
<p>Person in News: Dr. Leela Omchery</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musician, art researcher, writer and former professor at Delhi University, Dr. Leela Omchery (94) passed away. Leela has authored several books on classical art forms. Renowned playwright Omchery N.N Pillai is her husband.



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- Born on May 31, 1929, in Kanyakumari district, Leela holds a **PhD in Music**.
- Her efforts helped etch a place for Kerala's traditional musical forms on the world stage.
- Her **works include 'Abinava Sangeet', 'Keralathile Laasya Rachanakal', 'Gleanings in Indian Music', etc.**

Kerala's Kozhikode included in UNESCO Creative Cities Network

In News: Kerala's Kozhikode included in UNESCO Creative Cities Network



- Kerala's **Kozhikode has found a place in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).**

Key Points:

- The historic city in North Kerala is **among 55 from across the world** to be included in the list.
- Kozhikode has been recognized in the **creative field of literature**.
- The UCCN list has increased to 350 cities from more than 100 countries

About UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Key Points:



- The **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is a project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that was launched in 2004**
- Aim is to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

The Network covers seven creative fields:

- Crafts and Folk Art
- Design
- Film
- Gastronomy
- Literature
- Media Arts
- Music

Kozhikode named India's first 'City of Literature'

In News: Kozhikode named India's first 'City of Literature'

- Kozhikode, the **venue of choice for the Kerala Literature Festival and several book fests, was named the 'City of Literature' by the Unesco Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**



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Key Points:

- Kozhikode is the **first city in India** to have been given that tag
- The announcement, which coincided with World Cities Day, named 54 other cities besides Kozhikode as 'Creative Cities'. **Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh has been named the 'City of Music.'**

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