




01 March 2024

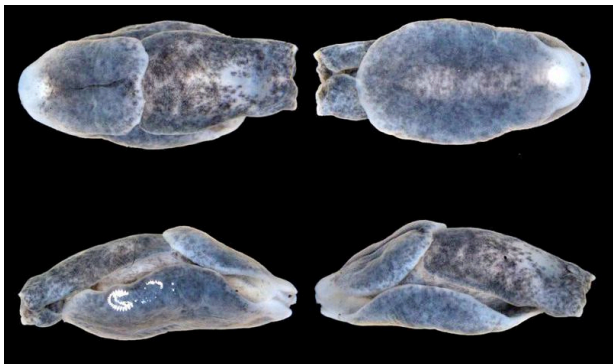
National and International News

<p>India's leopard population rises to 13,874</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's leopard population has increased to 13,874, with Madhya Pradesh leading the count at 3,907. Only three other States reported over 1,000 animals each — Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070) <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shivalik hills and the Gangetic plains recorded 3.4% yearly decline, while Central India and the Eastern Ghats, the Western Ghats and the hills of the northeast, and the Brahmaputra flood plains recorded growth of 1.5%, 1%, and 1.3% per annum respectively The decline in Uttarakhand's big cat population by 22% is likely due to poaching and man-animal conflicts. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and West Bengal collectively saw a 150% rise to 349 animals. The survey focused on about 70% of the animals' expected habitat, including tiger reserves and protected forest areas.
<p>PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Cabinet approved ₹75,021-crore package for the 'PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' (PM Free Electricity scheme) aimed at promoting rooftop solar (RTS) installations in India. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the scheme, households can receive a subsidy of up to Rs 78,000 per household, along with 300 units of free power. The scheme, known as PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, offers a central financial assistance (CFA) of 60% of the system cost for 2 kW systems and 40% of the additional system cost for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity, with the CFA capped at 3 kW. This initiative is expected to help households



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

ZSI names a newly discovered sea slug after President Murmu



- save on electricity bills and generate additional income by selling surplus power to DISCOMs.
- The scheme, running from **2023-24 to 2026-27**, aims to achieve a target of one crore households.
- Additionally, subsidies will be provided to resident welfare associations (RWAs) and group housing societies for solar-powered lighting.
- Out of the **targeted 45 GW solar capacity, 30 GW will be allocated for domestic housing requirements.**
- By 2025, rooftop solar panels will be installed in all government buildings.

Context:

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has named a newly discovered **sea slug, Melanochlamys droupadi, after President Droupadi Murmu.**

Key points:

- This head-shield sea slug, characterized by a ruby red spot, was identified by researchers.
- Melanochlamys droupadi, a species found exclusively along the **West Bengal and Odisha** coasts, features a **short, blunt, cylindrical body with a smooth dorsal surface, including two dorsal shields named the anterior cephalic and posterior shield.**
- Melanochlamys droupadi is a small **invertebrate**, reaching a **maximum length of 7 mm, with a brownish-black color and a ruby red spot at the hind end.**
- It is hermaphroditic and typically crawls in the intertidal zone, leaving crawl marks on sandy beaches.
- The species reproduces between **November and January.**
- Although species of the Melanochlamys genus are primarily found in temperate regions of the Indo-Pacific Oceanic realm, three species, including Melanochlamys droupadi, are distributed in tropical regions.
- According to the researchers, live Melanochlamys droupadi animals secrete



	<p>transparent mucus to form a sheath that prevents sand grains from entering the parapodial space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They crawl beneath smooth sand, creating a moving capsule where the body is rarely visible.
<p>37th African Union Summit</p>	<p>Context: During the 37th African Union Summit, African leaders underscored the imperative for overhauling the global financial framework to more effectively address the unique challenges faced by African nations, particularly in relation to climate change and advancement.</p> <p>Key points: Launch of 'Africa Club':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of the 'Africa Club', comprising African-owned and managed multilateral financial institutions, aimed at realigning financial operations with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 of the AU. • The objective includes introducing innovative financial tools and fostering collaboration to cater to the specific requirements of African countries. <p>Establishment of African Union Financial Institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders reiterated the necessity for creating an African Monetary Union by instituting three AU financial entities: the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund, and the African Investment Bank. • Despite historical challenges, there was a proposal to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Pan-African Stock Exchange. <p>African Leaders' Call for Financial System Reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders outlined key priorities for rectifying structural imbalances in the global financial setup, including resolving the debt crisis, augmenting grants and concessional funding to Africa, redirecting Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) from the IMF to African financial institutions, and enhancing African representation in global decision-making forums. • A commitment was made to pursue an



	<p>ambitious green growth agenda for Africa.</p> <p>Presidential Dialogue on Reforming Africa's Global Financial Architecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of state deliberated on strategies to meet Africa's financial requisites, stressing the need to triple concessional resources from the IMF and World Bank to African development banks. • They advocated for rerouting IMF SDRs to multilateral development banks for climate action financing and for including middle-income countries in the G20 Common Framework for debt restructuring. <p>Proposals by the President of Ghana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana's President suggested that 30% of all African reserves held in non-African banks be allocated to African multilateral financial institutions. • Additionally, he proposed designating these institutions as 'AU agencies' to signify unified endorsement from all AU member states.
<p>Auction of Critical Minerals</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has commenced the second phase of its auction for critical minerals valued at ₹30 trillion rupees (approximately \$362 billion), according to Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi. • This auction includes 18 blocks located in eight states and involves minerals such as cobalt, nickel, and graphite. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical minerals are minerals deemed vital for both economic growth and national security. • A mineral earns this label when the likelihood of a supply shortfall and its potential impact on the economy is comparatively greater than for other raw materials. • This risk assessment ideally considers factors such as import reliance, recyclability, and substitutability of the mineral in question.
<p>Roen olmi</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers in Goa have achieved a significant breakthrough by producing gold nanoparticles from a wild mushroom species known as Termitomyces, which is popularly consumed in the coastal state.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



- The mushrooms, locally called '**roen olmi**' and **growing on termite hills**, have been cultured in a pure three-dimensional pelletised form for this purpose.

About:

- Roen Olmi is a mushroom species that falls under the **Termitomyces genus**.
- In Goa, it's commonly referred to as 'roen olmi' and is a favored edible wild mushroom, particularly relished during the monsoon season.

Habitat and Proliferation

- Roen Olmi mushrooms thrive on termite mounds and are dependent on termites for their growth, lacking an independent existence.
- They are native to the **Western Ghats**, where the dense forest canopy and high humidity create a perfect environment for their proliferation.

Ecological Impact

- Roen Olmi contributes significantly to forest and grassland ecosystems by transforming half of the dead plant matter into **nutrient-dense soil**.
- It serves as a **potent bio degrading fungus**.

Nutritional and Health Benefits

- Termitomyces species, including Roen Olmi, are **edible and are valued for their unique texture, taste, nutritional composition, and medicinal benefits**.
- They exhibit **antioxidant and antimicrobial properties**.
- Their ethno-medicinal significance is acknowledged in various indigenous communities across Asia and Africa.

Kerala Regional News

World Civil Defence Day

Context:

- **World Civil Defence Day** is an annual event observed on **March 1st** to **raise awareness about**



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



the importance of civil defence and emergency preparedness.

- This day highlights the crucial role of civil defence organizations in protecting communities from natural disasters, conflicts, and other emergencies.
- It also encourages individuals to be prepared for various crises.
- It was established by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) in December 6, 1990

Theme:

- The theme of World Civil Defense Day 2024 is "Honor Heroes and Promote Safety Skills."

Special Ayurveda wellness centres being planned in Kerala

Context:

- Kerala's Health Minister, Veena George, has announced plans for establishing specialized Ayurveda wellness centers aimed at attracting foreign visitors.
- These centers will cater specifically to international tourists seeking Ayurveda treatments, potentially boosting medical tourism in the state.
- This initiative highlights the growing recognition of Ayurveda, a traditional Indian system of medicine, as a potential driver of healthcare and wellness tourism.

Tax revenue from fuel sale up by ₹445.25 crore

Context:

- Kerala's tax revenue from the sale of petrol and diesel has increased by ₹445.25 crore in the financial year 2023-24 compared to the previous year, according to the state's Finance Department.
- In the 2023-24 fiscal, the revenue from tax, additional tax, and social security cess stood at ₹9,101.07 crore till January 2024
- During the same period in 2022-23, the tax revenue from fuel sales was ₹8,655.82 crores

Six MH 60R multi-mission helicopters to be commissioned into Indian Navy in March

Context:

- A squadron comprising six MH 60R multi-mission helicopters will be commissioned into the Navy in March at INS Garuda, the naval air station in Kochi.
- They are being inducted to make good the shortage of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) helicopters in the Navy.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



- These advanced helicopters, renowned for their role in the raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound, are **manufactured by Lockheed Martin.**

Key Features & Capabilities:

- **Anti-Submarine Warfare:** The MH-60R is optimized for hunting and tracking submarines.
- **Multi-Role Versatility:** These helicopters also excel in anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and vertical replenishment operations.
- **Technological Edge:** Advanced sensors, radar systems, and weaponry give these helicopters a crucial edge in modern maritime operations.

Zero Discrimination Day



Context:

- **Zero Discrimination Day**, observed annually on **March 1st**, is a global initiative to **promote equality and combat discrimination in all its forms.**
- **UNAIDS** had launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on 'World AIDS Day' in December 2013.
- The day was **first celebrated on March 1, 2014**
- The day **emphasizes everyone's right to live a dignified and fulfilling life free from prejudice and bias.**
- This year marks the **10th anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day**

Theme:

- The Theme of **Zero Discrimination Day 2024** is **"To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights."**
- It emphasizes upon **building association with human rights and public health and achieving the goal of eliminating AIDS by 2030.**

Copyright © by Adda247

All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of Adda247.