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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

03 November 2023 – Daily Current Affairs

<p><b>Researchers identify a new mushroom species from the Western Ghats</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b> A tiny, fragile-looking mushroom sporting a <b>honey-yellow ‘cap’</b> found on the campus of the <b>Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI)</b> at Palode in Thiruvananthapuram has been identified as a new species.</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new species belongs to the <b>genus Candolleomyces</b>.</li> <li>• The new species has been named <b>Candolleomyces albosquamosus</b> - ‘<b>albosquamosus</b>’ for the white woolly scale-like structures on its pileus or cap.</li> <li>• Delicate in build, the mushroom grows to a height of just about <b>58 mm</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know?</b> The discovery of a new species of the genus Candolleomyces in India is special given that there are only <b>35 species</b> in this genus worldwide</p>
<p><b>Akhaura-Agartala rail link to be inaugurated</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b> The much-awaited <b>Akhaura-Agartala rail link</b> will be inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister <b>Narendra Modi</b> and his Bangladesh counterpart <b>Sheikh Hasina</b></p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rail link is <b>12.24 km</b>, with a <b>6.78-km dual gauge line</b> in Bangladesh and <b>5.46 km</b> in Tripura.</li> <li>• This rail link is being seen as a first step to connect <b>Tripura to Kolkata</b> through <b>Bangladesh</b>.</li> <li>• The link will significantly reduce the time and distance needed to reach <b>Tripura, southern Assam, and Mizoram from Kolkata</b>.</li> <li>• It will also help <b>boost India-Bangladesh trade</b> in agriculture products, tea, sugar, construction items, iron and steel, consumer items, besides people-to-people ties.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Modi pays tribute to Patel, launches development projects at Statue of Unity</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> 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 <b>National Unity Day.(31st October)</b></p>



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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 Budget Estimate.

Keraleeyam festival

Context

- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the first-ever **"Keraleeyam" festival on Kerala's foundation day**.
- It 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 who are proud of themselves as Keralites, to share their happiness in it with others, and to announce this to the world.



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### PM launches new projects in Gujarat



#### Context

Prime Minister dedicated a slew of infrastructure projects worth **₹5,950 crore** in Gujarat during his two-day visit to his home State.

#### Key points

- He **inaugurated railway projects**, such as new sections of the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor** and 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.

### TN government forms fact-check unit to curb fake news on social media



**In News:** TN government forms fact-check unit to curb fake news on social media

- The state government has **formed a Fact Check Unit (FCU)** under the Special Programme Implementation Department to check the authenticity of information related to the state government across all media platforms.

#### Key Points:

- The unit will check the veracity of information related to the announcements, policies, schemes, guidelines, and initiatives of the state government.
- The FCU will act as a deterrent to the perpetrators/creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation.
- The government has **appointed Iyan Karthikeyan**, editor of the Youturn.in, a fact-checking website as the mission director of FCU.
- The Project Lead for Fact Check, working under the mission director, is **responsible for debunking fake news** about the government.

### Migration of birds in Tamil Nadu begins on good note

**In News:**

- With the onset of the **northeast monsoon** across the State, the **bird migration has gained momentum in north Tamil Nadu and western Tamil Nadu**

#### Key Points:

- It comprises ancient bird sanctuaries and nesting grounds for winged visitors from **central Asia and north India**.



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- **Vedanthangal**, one of the country's oldest bird sanctuaries, and Pulicat sandwiched between **Tamil Nadu and Andhra border** has started recording the early arrival of birds and the pre-migration season has opened on a good note
- In the case of Chengalpattu district, some of the water bodies have received copious inflow
- So far around **5,000 birds** have arrived in and around the Vedanthangal area.

### TN charts campaign for green buildings

#### In News:

- Taking note of the estimation that electricity consumption of domestic buildings in the State is expected to grow by **65 percent by 2030**, the **State Environment and Climate Change Department** has decided to create awareness about energy saving and climate-friendly buildings among builders and also residents' associations.

#### Key Points:

- The Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission will conduct these awareness campaigns in all city corporations, including Greater Chennai Corporation.
- The initiative is a part of a **Rs 500 crore project**, which was announced in the State Assembly.
- A document prepared in this regard noted that the **built environment generates 40 percent of annual global carbon dioxide emissions**.
- In Tamil Nadu, the electricity consumption by the domestic sector is expected to grow 65 per cent, to 49,900 million units from 30,392 million units in 2021.

### A new industrial revolution happening in TN: CM



#### In News:

- Tamil Nadu ChM said that the arrival of new firms to the State was proof of a new industrial revolution happening in Tamil Nadu in the next couple of years.

#### Key Points:

- **CM inaugurated the Capital and International Tech Park at Pallavaram in the city.**
- He said that the testimony to the revolution is the arrival of new firms to Tamil Nadu in the last couple of years.
- Stating that the **five million square feet International Technology Park** has been designed to accommodate 50,000 IT experts, the CM said that it was imperative for the State's industrial sector to keep pace with the rapid technological advancement world over.



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**Sothuparai dam in Theni dist opened for irrigation and drinking water needs**



### In News:

- Water was released from **Sothuparai dam in Periyakulam taluk of Theni district** for crop irrigation and drinking purposes

### Key Points:

- Collector RV Shajeevana inaugurated the release of water to benefit farmers relying on 2,865 acres and for the drinking purpose for the people of Periyakulam municipality.
- Water will be released to cater to their needs till March 15, 2024.
- Depending on the storage of water and inflow, 30 cusecs of water will be released for a period of 45 days till December 15 and 27 cusecs of water for the next 31 days from December 16 to January 15, 2024.
- The water release for single crop cultivation would benefit farmers in Kailashpati, Lakshmipuram, Vadugapatti, Melmangalam and Jeyamangalam.



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