




21 May 2024

**National and International News**

<p><b>Muria Tribes</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Muria tribes in the <b>Godavari Valley</b> practice a <b>traditional and eco-friendly method of seed preservation</b> called the 'deda' method.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This technique, handed down by their ancestors, <b>involves wrapping seeds in leaves and weaving them into a casing using Siali leaf (Bauhinia vahlii).</b></li> <li>The seeds are packed almost airtight, resembling boulders from a distance.</li> <li><b>The deda has three protective layers:</b> wood ash spread inside Siali leaves, covered with lemon leaves, and finally sealed with the seeds inside.</li> <li>This method ensures <b>protection from pests and worms</b>, allowing the seeds to be <b>stored for up to five years</b>, although they are typically used within three years.</li> <li>Muria families, who have settled along the <b>Godavari and Sabari rivers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana</b> after migrating from Chhattisgarh due to conflicts, continue this practice for their <b>food security.</b></li> <li>Despite restrictions on land expansion in reserve forests, they engage in <b>small-scale farming</b>, primarily cultivating pulses and maize, with minimal dependence on paddy.</li> <li>The Murias rarely sell their produce, focusing instead on <b>self-sufficiency.</b></li> <li>Their commitment to preserving traditional methods like the <b>deda reflects their cultural resilience in the face of displacement.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Sri Lankan golden-backed frog</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Sri Lankan golden-backed frog (Hylarana gracilis)</b> has been rediscovered after <b>200 years at the Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary in India.</b></li> <li>Bharath Bhupathi from the Zoological Survey of India suggests that this rediscovery provides evidence of a <b>historic land bridge between India and Sri Lanka during the late Pleistocene period or the Ice Age.</b></li> </ul>



REMARKABLE FIND



These findings highlight utility of DNA barcoding in confirming species identities and suggest that Eastern Ghats' biodiversity may be richer than previously understood — Deepa Jaiswal | ZSI HYDERABAD

- Hylarana gracilis the golden-backed frog belongs to family Ranidae
- ZSI Hyd, spotted the frog at Koundinya wildlife sanctuary in AP
- Also known as Gravenhorst's frog or Sri Lanka wood frog
- Considered endemic to Sri Lanka, found up to 1,250mts above sea level

Details of the Rediscovery:

- Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board, made the rediscovery.
- The frogs were found in the **Palamaner forest range of the Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary in the Chittoor district.**
- This discovery increases the number of freshwater frog species in India to **20.**

About:

- **Scientific Name:** Hylarana gracilis
- **Family:** Ranidae
- **Endemic:** Found in Sri Lanka and recently recorded in the Eastern Ghats
- **Body:** Slender body with a small head
- **Appearance:**
  - Iris: Reddish brown with golden specks and dark patches
  - Flanks: Light yellowish-gray
  - Limbs: Light brown with grayish cross-bands
  - Throat and Limbs: Light grey

New Caledonia

Context:

- French security forces are intensifying efforts to regain control over **New Caledonia, a French Pacific archipelago, amidst ongoing and deadly unrest.**

Key points:

- The immediate trigger for the current wave of unrest was the debate and subsequent approval of voting reforms by the **French legislature, allowing residents who have lived in New Caledonia for ten years to vote in provincial elections.**
- This change has been fiercely opposed by pro-independence supporters, particularly the **indigenous Kanak population**, who fear the new rules will dilute their political influence in favor of pro-France politicians.

About:

- New Caledonia is a **French overseas collectivity with significant autonomy under the 1998 Nouméa Accord.**
- It is situated in the **southwestern Pacific Ocean, about 1,500 km (900 miles) east of Australia.**



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlike many Pacific islands that are of relatively recent volcanic origin, New Caledonia is an ancient fragment of the Gondwana supercontinent.</li> <li>• The territory comprises the <b>main island of Grande Terre, the four Loyalty Islands (Ouvéa, Lifou, Tiga, and Maré)</b>, the Belep archipelago, the Isle of Pines, and several remote islands, with Nouméa, located on Grande Terre, serving as the capital.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Astra</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b> Google introduces Project Astra, a <b>real-time, multimodal AI assistant</b>.</p> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Astra, a novel multimodal AI agent developed by Google, exhibits remarkable capabilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ It answers real-time questions presented through text, video, images, and speech, retrieving relevant information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Astra can <b>visually perceive the world</b>, recall object locations, and even assess the correctness of computer code by analyzing it through a phone's camera.</li> <li>• Its voice <b>lacks emotional diversity, maintaining a straightforward tone</b>.</li> <li>• Not confined to smartphones, <b>Google demonstrated Astra's compatibility with smart glasses</b>.</li> <li>• Astra's learning ability enables it to acquire knowledge about the world, providing a human-assistant-like experience.</li> <li>• <b>Multimodal Model AI, such as Google's Gemini, refers to ML models adept at processing diverse modalities</b> (e.g., images, videos, text).</li> <li>• For instance, Gemini can analyze a photo of cookies to generate a recipe and vice versa.</li> <li>• This model enhances generative capabilities by processing information from various modalities, essentially granting AI the capacity to comprehend different sensory modes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Orcas</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two individuals were rescued after their 15-meter-long sailing yacht was sunk by a group of <b>orcas, also known as killer whales</b>, in the <b>Strait of Gibraltar</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Orcas (Killer Whales)</b></p>

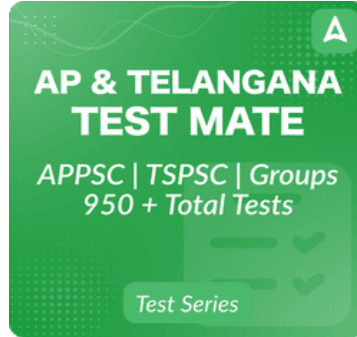


తెలుగు



## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- **Scientific Name:** Orcinus orca
- **Classification:** Largest member of the oceanic dolphin family; a toothed whale.
- **Unique Feature:** Distinct black-and-white patterned body.
- **Distribution:** Inhabit various marine environments, including:
  - Arctic regions
  - Antarctic regions
  - Tropical seas
- **Social Behavior:** Highly social animals.
- Some populations live in stable, matrilineal family groups called pods.
- **Conservation Status:** Data Deficient (International Union for Conservation of Nature).
- **Threats:**
  - Habitat loss
  - Pollution (particularly by PCBs)
  - Capture for marine mammal parks
  - Conflicts with human fisheries



**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.*