



27 May 2024

National and International News

<p>Project Udbhav</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Udbhav, an initiative by the Indian Army, aims to integrate ancient strategic wisdom into modern military practices. ● The project is a joint initiative between the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI). ● Launched last year, this project delves into the Vedas, Puranas, Mahabharata, Upanishads, and Arthashastra, drawing insights to enhance contemporary military strategies. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The initiative focuses on exploring epic battles and strategic brilliance from India's rich military heritage, including the Mahabharata and past Indian dynasties. ● It also uncovers India's tribal traditions, Maratha naval legacy, and heroic exploits, particularly those of women. <p>Significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande highlighted that Project Udbhav promotes indigenous discourse and fosters collaboration among academia, scholars, practitioners, and military experts. ● This collective effort enriches the nation's strategic outlook by studying ancient Indian defence and governance. ● The findings will be compiled in the 'Udbhav Compendium' to benefit the Indian Armed Forces, ensuring they remain future-ready.
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Cyclone Laly

Context:

- Barely two weeks after **Cyclone Hidaya struck the East African coastline, Cyclone Laly** wreaked havoc in the region, killing two people in Kenya and impacting dozens in Somalia.

Key points:

- **The cyclone, a rare occurrence in its latitude range**, intensified from a tropical storm and unleashed strong winds, heavy rain, and high waves across the West Indian Ocean region.
- **In Somalia, it made landfall in the southwestern and southern regions, including the capital, Mogadishu.**
- In **Kenya's Kilifi County**, the cyclone caused the death of a four-year-old schoolgirl when strong winds tore off a classroom roof, and a warehouse worker perished when a wall collapsed on her, injuring others.

Impact:

- Cyclone Laly disrupted essential services, causing power outages and interrupting water supply in Kilifi and Mombasa counties.
- The adverse weather left many residents stranded and **highlighted the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events due to climate change.**
- The KMD noted that **tropical cyclones typically develop between 5° and 30° North or South of the equator and are rare within 5° of the equator due to insufficient Coriolis force.**

Cyclones:

- Cyclones are one of the **most destructive natural disasters on Earth, capable of causing widespread damage and loss of life.**
- These intense **low-pressure systems can form over oceans and cause devastating storms, high winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges along coastal regions.**

Cyclone: Different Names

- Cyclones are also known by various names depending on where they occur.
- In the North Atlantic and Eastern Pacific, they are called **hurricanes**, in the Western Pacific, they are known as **typhoons**, and in the Indian Ocean, they are called **cyclones**.

Formation of Cyclone:

- **Cyclones form over warm ocean waters where the sea**



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surface temperature is above 26.5°C (80°F).

- Warm water provides the energy needed for the storm to grow and intensify.
- As the warm air rises, it creates an area of low pressure that draws in more warm, moist air from surrounding areas.
- The rotating winds of the Earth then cause the system to spin, creating a vortex.

Gliese 12 b

Context:

- **Astronomers have discovered a potentially habitable exoplanet, Gliese 12 b, located about 40 light-years away from Earth.**
- This exciting find, detailed in a study published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, marks one of the **closest exoplanets discovered so far.**

Key points:

- Gliese 12 b's **average surface temperature is 42°C**, which is lower than most of the 5,000 or so exoplanets discovered to date.
- Despite being **warmer than Earth's average surface temperature of 15°C**, its size is comparable to Venus and is slightly smaller than Earth.

Research and Validation:

- The discovery and **validation of Gliese 12 b involved the use of NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) and the European Space Agency's CHEOPS.**
- The exoplanet orbits **Gliese 12, a M dwarf star**, every 12.8 days. This star hosts seven rocky planets, three of which lie within the **habitable zone — the region where liquid water can exist on a planet's surface.**

Scientific Insights:

- Further analysis is needed to determine **if Gliese 12 b has an atmosphere and maintains temperatures conducive to liquid water, which are critical for habitability.**
- The research team noted the potential for Gliese 12 b to have an atmosphere similar to Earth's, but it could also be of a different type.
- This investigation could provide insights into the atmospheric evolution of planets and the conditions necessary for life.

About:



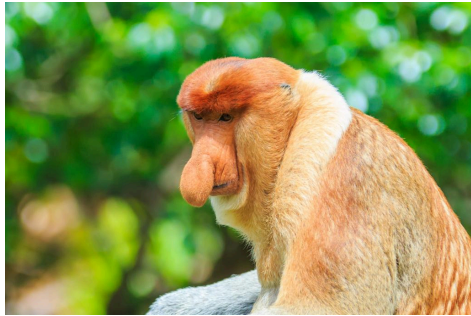
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The star Gliese 12 is metal-poor, which suggests it may have weaker magnetic fields and more volcanism than Earth. • This low magnetic activity might allow Gliese 12 b to retain an atmosphere. • Studying Gliese 12 b could also shed light on the evolutionary paths of Earth and Venus, particularly regarding the presence of a runaway greenhouse effect, which caused Venus to lose its water. <p>Future Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gliese 12 b is a potential target for the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which can detect atmospheric features of planets. Currently, the research team is focused on calculating the exoplanet’s mass, bulk density, and radius to understand its internal structure. The team has not yet submitted a JWST proposal for this target but sees significant potential for future studies.
<p>Advertising Standards Council of India</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has recently acted against 101 advertisements featuring celebrities, following complaints and violations of its guidelines. • ASCI noted that despite guidelines in place, celebrities continued to appear in ads that were deemed to be in violation of the ASCI code. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, due diligence is mandatory before making advertisements public. • This year, healthcare emerged as the most violative sector, contributing to 19 per cent of cases, followed by illegal offshore betting (17 per cent), personal care (13 per cent), conventional education (12 per cent), food and beverage (10 per cent), and realty (7 per cent). • Baby care also emerged as a new contender in the top violators category, with influencer promotions contributing to 81 per cent of baby care cases.



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Proboscis monkeys



Context:

- The proboscis monkeys of Borneo are known for their **distinctive, elongated noses, which are particularly prominent in males.**
- In a recent study published in Scientific Reports, **scientists delved into the evolutionary significance of these noses,** shedding light on their dual role as both visual and acoustic signals.

About:

- Proboscis monkeys, or **Nasalis larvatus,** are one of the largest monkey species in Asia and are native to Borneo.
- They inhabit various **environments, including coastal mangroves, peat swamps, and riverine forests, and have a diet predominantly consisting of leaves.**
- Notably, they possess webbed fingers and toes, enabling them to swim proficiently.
- Male proboscis monkeys exhibit a hierarchical social structure, with dominant males typically leading harem groups consisting of females and their offspring.
- **These males, characterized by their large noses, use deep honks and "nasal roars" to assert dominance and deter rival males.**

Kerala Regional News

Kerala CM congratulates director Payal Kapadia and her crew for Cannes win

Context:

- Kerala CM congratulated director **Payal Kapadia and her crew for winning the Grand Prix award at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival** for her film titled "All We Imagine as Light."

Key Points:

- **"All We Imagine As Light"** marks Kapadia's feature directorial debut.
- She won the **Grand Prix, the second-most prestigious prize** of the festival **after the Palme d'Or** at the closing ceremony of the **77th Cannes Film Festival on Saturday night**



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	<p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cannes Film Festival, held annually in France, is a prestigious event showcasing new international films. • Founded in 1946, it previews movies across genres, including documentaries.
<p>With diseases resurfacing Kerala, experts warn of outbreak</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala is seeing a rise in cases of leptospirosis (41 deaths) and dengue (16 deaths) due to recent flooding and waterlogging. • Experts warn of a potential outbreak if proper precautions aren't taken. • Leptospirosis spreads through contact with contaminated water. • Dengue is transmitted by mosquitoes. <p>About:</p> <p>Leptospirosis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection caused by Leptospira bacteria. • It spreads through contact with animal urine or contaminated water/soil. • It can cause flu-like symptoms, but in severe cases lead to kidney failure, meningitis, or even death. <p>Dengue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection found in tropical and subtropical climates around the world. • It's also sometimes called break-bone fever because of the severe aches and pains it can cause.
<p>World's largest palm leaf conservation project a sad 'storey'</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world's largest collection of palm leaf documents, over one crore (ten million), is facing a bleak future due to delays in its conservation project. • Envisioned as the International Archives and Heritage Centre (IAHC), the project in Kerala, has been stuck for years. • Despite funding allocated in 2016, only one floor of the planned three-story building is complete. • This bureaucratic hurdle threatens the preservation of invaluable historical and cultural records.
<p>Malayali appointed to Toronto's Superior Court</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carissima Mathen, a legal scholar with roots in Kerala, was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto.



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- She is known for her expertise in Canadian constitutional law.

Survey by forest dept reveals Catfish posing threat to native species in Periyar Tiger Reserve

Context:

- A recent survey by the forest department in **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)** has **identified a threat to native fish species.**
- It is due to an **increase in the population of exotic catfish.**
- The **survey, the first of its kind in the PTR since 1940, found 56 fish species, the highest ever recorded.**
- However, it also **revealed a decline in native fish populations likely due to the invasive catfish.**
- The forest department has already begun efforts to control the catfish population, with nearly 2,800 removed in the past two years.

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