



मराठी

05 April 2024

National and International News

<p>Govt. to record parents' religion to register births</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The government is set to update its <b>birth registration process</b> by requiring parents to separately declare their religion.</li><li>• This change, outlined in <b>Model Rules by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs</b>, will necessitate <b>State governments to adopt and notify these rules for implementation.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023</b>, passed by Parliament on August 11 last year, mandates the <b>maintenance of a national birth and death database</b>, which may be used to update various records, including the National Population Register (NPR), electoral rolls, Aadhaar numbers, ration cards, passports, and driving licenses.</li><li>• Previously, only the <b>family's religion was noted in birth registers.</b></li><li>• The new "Form No.1-Birth Report" will expand the <b>religion column to include the "religion of father" and "religion of mother," as well as for parents of an adopted child.</b></li><li>• All births and deaths must now be digitally registered through the Centre's portal for the Civil Registration System (crsorgi.gov.in), as per the law effective since October 1 last year.</li></ul>
<p>Manufacturing PMI rises to 16-year high</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>India's manufacturing sector showed strong performance in March 2024</b>, driven by robust production and sales, according to a monthly survey.</li><li>• The <b>HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reached a 16-year high of 59.1 in March</b>, up from <b>56.9 in February 2024.</b></li><li>• This marks the 33rd consecutive month of growth in manufacturing output.</li></ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an <b>economic indicator</b> derived from <b>monthly surveys of various companies.</b></li><li>• It reflects <b>trends in both manufacturing and services</b> sectors and indicates whether market conditions, as perceived by purchasing managers, are expanding, contracting, or stable.</li><li>• PMI is <b>closely watched as an indicator of business activity and helps predict a country's economic health.</b></li><li>• <b>There are two types of PMI:</b> Manufacturing PMI and Services PMI, with a combined index also being used.</li></ul>



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Leap Second



Context:

- The Earth's slowing rotation may lead to the first-ever negative leap second in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), according to a recent study published in Nature.
- This phenomenon is attributed to **climate change**, which is causing the melting of ice caps and rising sea levels, **resulting in a slower Earth rotation.**

Key points:

- **Leap seconds are added to UTC to keep it synchronized with Earth's rotational speed** over millions of years.
- If Earth continues to rotate slower, a **UTC minute might need to be 61 seconds long for the planet to catch up.**
- Initially scheduled for **2026**, the need for a leap second has been **postponed to 2029**, marking the first negative leap second.
- This adjustment **poses a challenge, as time meteorologists are uncertain how to cope with a missing second**, as stated by Felicitas Arias, former director of the Time Department at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

About:

- **Leap seconds have been used since 1972** to align official time with atomic clocks due to Earth's inconsistent rotation speed.
- However, a panel of scientists and government representatives **decided in 2022 to end leap seconds by 2035 due to complications in computing caused by leap seconds.**
- The exact timing of a negative leap second is uncertain, contingent upon **Earth's current rotation rate.**
- The **International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service** will determine when a leap second will be introduced based on the **Earth's ongoing rotation speed.**
- Astrogeophysicist Christian Bizouard noted that the speculation regarding the need for a negative leap second hinges on the Earth's rotation continuing at its current rate.



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### SCORES 2.0

#### Context:

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has **launched an upgraded version of SCORES, its online system for handling investor complaints.**
- The new version aims to **improve the efficiency of the complaint redressal process** by introducing automated routing and oversight by designated authorities.

#### About:

- **SCORES (SEBI Complaint Redressal System)** is an online platform where investors can lodge complaints related to the securities market.
- It was initially launched in **June 2011.**
- The enhanced version of SCORES enhances the investor complaint redressal mechanism by introducing features such as auto-routing, auto-escalation, and monitoring by designated bodies, reducing complaint resolution timelines," Sebi stated.

#### Features of Sebi SCORES 2.0

- The new version of SCORES includes **automated routing of complaints to the relevant regulated entity, reducing delays in complaint processing.**
- Other features include **standardized timelines for complaint resolution** (21 calendar days from receipt of complaint) and monitoring of complaint resolution by designated bodies.
- The new version also offers **two levels of review: first by the designated body and, if needed, a second review by Sebi.**
- Additionally, complaints will be auto-escalated to the next level if the regulated entity or designated body fails to adhere to prescribed timelines.
- Integration with the KYC Registration Agency database has been introduced for easy investor registration on SCORES.



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### VVPAT

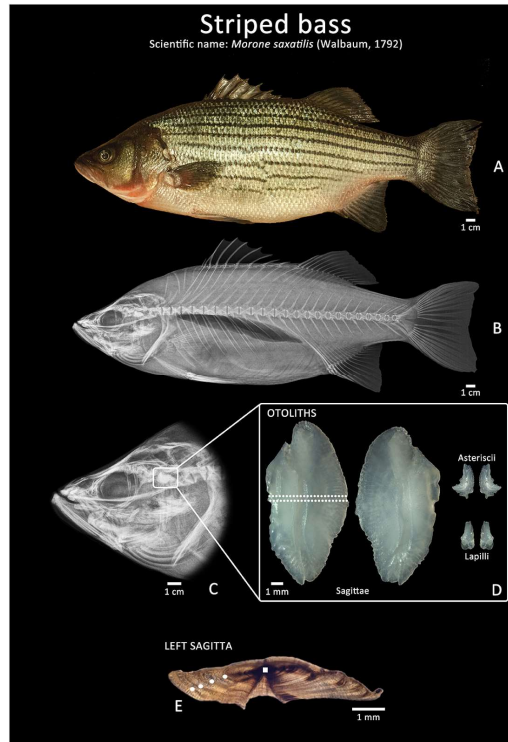
#### Context:

- In recent developments, the **Supreme Court** has announced its **decision to consider a series of petitions aimed at directing the Election Commission of India to implement mandatory cross-verification procedures for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) prior to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.**
- This process entails the **thorough counting of all Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips alongside the electronic count.**

#### About:

- Introduced during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system** provides an additional layer of transparency and verification to the electoral process.
- Linked directly to the **EVM**, the **VVPAT produces a paper slip visible to the voter, displaying the selected party's name and symbol.**
- This allows voters to **confirm the accuracy of their vote, with a transparent window facilitating visual confirmation of the printed slip.**
- The securely stored paper slips serve as tangible evidence in the event of electoral disputes, ensuring the integrity of the voting process.

### Fish otolith ornaments



#### Context:

- Ornamental jewelry made from **fish otoliths** has recently entered the market, created by a group of enthusiastic fisherwomen in **Vizhinjam.**
- These women were trained by scientists from the **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).**

#### Otoliths:

- Otoliths are **hard, calcium carbonate structures located behind the brain of bony fish.**
- They are **small, feather-like flakes** that can be fashioned into **jewelry.**
- Among fish, halibut otoliths are larger, making them more commonly used for this purpose.
- Otoliths have been historically regarded as lucky **stones by the Romans and Egyptians and are still utilized in countries like Brazil.**
- They have been worn as protective amulets and fashioned into jewelry.
- Otoliths can be stored in test tubes or vials, either dry or in a clarifying liquid.
- Another method is to affix them with transparent nail varnish to a slide or with two-sided sticky tape to a sheet of acetate.



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