

CURRENT AFFAIRS

**MAR
2025**

VOL 4

**MARCH 2025
VOL 4
16TH MAR - 31ST MAR**

IMPORTANT EVENTS

**DETAILS OF IMPORTANT
EVENTS**

IMPORTANT DATES

**IMPORTANT DATES
RELATED TO JANUARY**

EXPLANATIONS

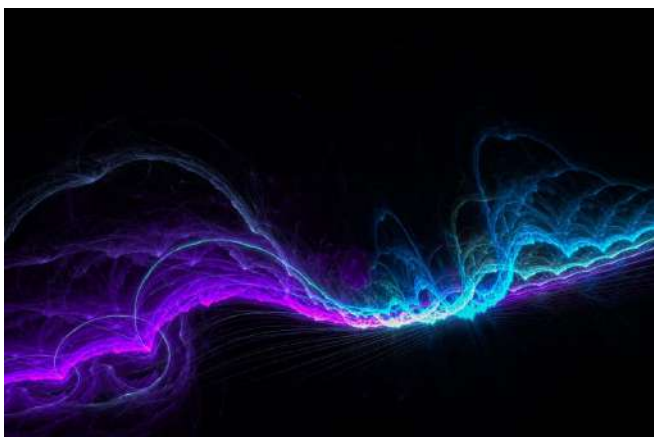
**DETAILED
EXPLANATION OF
EACH EVENT**

16TH MARCH 2025

- The Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs have been added to India's tentative list of Unesco World Heritage Sites. Telangana currently has only one Unesco World Heritage Site, the Ramappa Temple, added in 2021. If approved, the Mudumal menhirs could become the state's second World Heritage Site.



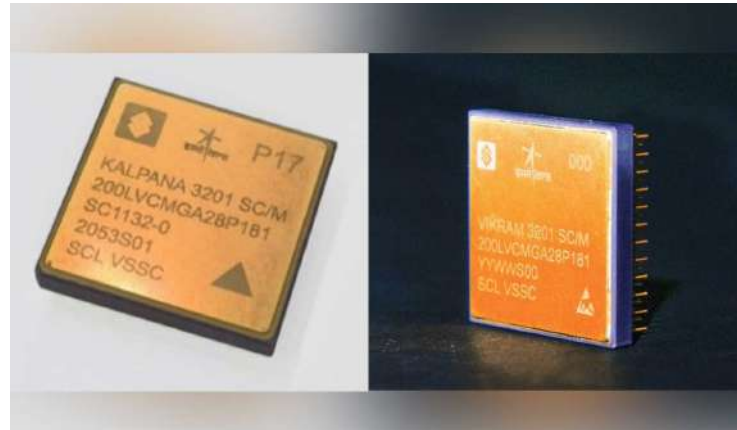
- Recent studies have brought into light the growing concern of melioidosis, particularly in Odisha. Research indicates that South Asia accounts for a portion of global melioidosis cases. The collaboration between microbiologists and climate scientists aims to understand the conditions that facilitate this disease's transmission.



- Recent advancements in quantum physics have revealed a remarkable phenomenon – light can be transformed into a “supersolid.” This breakthrough, achieved by Italian researchers, marks a new phase of matter that combines the properties of solids and superfluids. The implications of this discovery extend to various fields, including quantum computing and materials science.

17TH MARCH 2025

- Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced the development of two advanced 32-bit microprocessors, Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201. These processors are designed for space applications and represent a leap in India's indigenous technology capabilities. They were developed in collaboration with the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh.



- Recently, researchers confirmed the existence of a new plant species, *Uniyala keralensis*, in the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in Kerala. This discovery marks the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The species was first collected 27 years ago but was only classified recently. It is endemic to southwest India and showcases the ongoing importance of botanical research.
- India and New Zealand have resumed negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) after a decade-long hiatus. This decision marks a step towards enhancing bilateral economic ties. The announcement coincided with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's visit to India. The two nations aim to unlock new trade opportunities and encourage mutual growth.

19TH MARCH 2025



- Kanger Valley National Park (KVNP) has been added to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the 'Natural' category. This park, nestled in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, is renowned for its stunning landscapes, rich biodiversity, and geological features. Once plagued by Maoist violence, the region has transformed into a peaceful tourist destination.

- Recently, France made breakthrough in clean energy with the discovery of a vast reserve of natural hydrogen in Folschviller, Moselle. This reserve is estimated to contain 46 million tons of "white hydrogen," a naturally occurring gas that offers a sustainable alternative to traditional hydrogen production methods.



- Five years after Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, the Indian government is reviewing a draft of a National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP). This policy suggests monitoring wildlife diseases, doing more research, and setting up new testing labs. The policy aims to integrate disease surveillance, research, and diagnostics for better pandemic preparedness.

20TH MARCH 2025

- Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has launched India's first frozen zoo. This innovative facility aims to preserve the genetic material of endangered Himalayan species. In collaboration with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, the zoo will store DNA samples in liquid nitrogen at minus 196 degrees Celsius. This initiative seeks to protect species like red pandas and snow leopards from extinction.



- The Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) is initiative by the Government of India aimed at enhancing the livestock sector. The mission has received an additional allocation of Rs.1000 crore, bringing the total to Rs.3400 crore for the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26. This revised mission focuses on improving milk production and productivity while supporting farmers engaged in dairy farming.



- The the first satellite under the FireSat project was launched by Google recently. It has successfully entered low Earth orbit. The project aims to create a constellation of over 50 satellites that will use artificial intelligence to identify and track wildfires as small as 5×5 metres.

21ST MARCH 2025

- Sonic weapons have emerged as contentious tools in crowd control. Recent protests in Serbia have brought into light their potential use. President Aleksandar Vucic denied allegations of using a banned sonic weapon against demonstrators. This raises questions about the legality and ethics of such devices. Sonic weapons can produce loud sounds designed to disperse crowds. They have been in use since the early 1990s, with military applications becoming prominent in the 2000s.

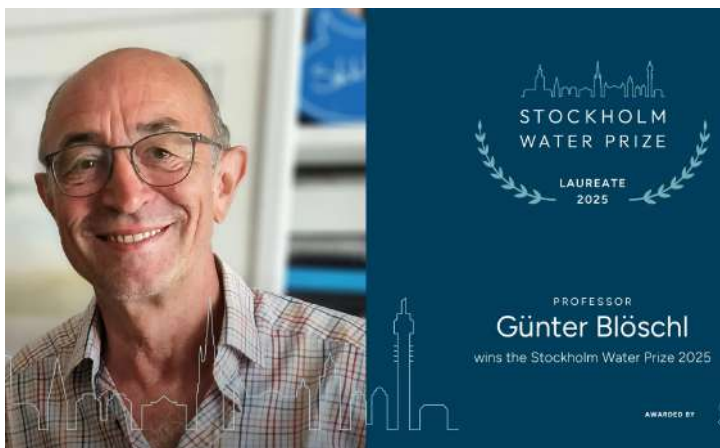


- The African penguin, a unique species endemic to southern Africa, is facing alarming population declines. Recent legal actions in South Africa have initiated measures to protect these penguins and their breeding sites. A landmark court ruling on March 18, 2025, imposed a 10-year ban on commercial fishing around six vital breeding colonies. This decision aims to address the critical threats to their food supply, particularly from sardine and anchovy fishing.
- The 2030 Global Forest Vision: Priority Actions for Governments in 2025 was published on March 19, 2025, by the Forest Declaration Assessment before World Forest Day. The report was backed by the United Nations Development Programme, Climate Land Use Alliance, and other partners.



22ND MARCH 2025

- The tomb of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in Khuldabad, Maharashtra, is currently under scrutiny. Recent protests have sparked violent clashes in Nagpur. The protests demand the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb, which has been a symbol of historical grievances. In response, the Archaeological Survey of India has installed tin sheets around the tomb to protect it from vandalism and to maintain order.



- Günter Blöschl, a renowned hydrologist, has been awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize in 2025. This recognition marks his contributions to flood risk management and water resource engineering. His work has transformed the understanding of floods and their relationship with climate change. Blöschl's extensive research and innovative methodologies have greatly influenced global flood prediction and mitigation strategies.
- The Government of India plans to launch a statistical business register by the end of 2025. This initiative aims to monitor the opening and closing of businesses across the nation. It will provide a framework for the economic census and various business surveys. The register is designed to enhance data accuracy and reduce errors in business information collection.



23RD MARCH 2025



- The world is witnessing alarming rates of glacier thinning, particularly in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region. A recent United Nations report marks that glaciers in this area are retreating 65% faster from 2011 to 2020 compared to the previous decade. This report was released on World Day for Glaciers and puts stress on the urgency of addressing climate change.



- Chandrayaan-4 is India's fourth lunar mission, set to launch in October 2027. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aims to achieve a remarkable feat by not only soft landing on the Moon but also collecting lunar samples and returning them to Earth. This mission represents advancement in India's space exploration capabilities.



- Recently, the Trump administration announced the termination of temporary legal status for over 530,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. This decision follows a Federal Register document indicating that the temporary parole programmes will end on April 24, 2025. These programmes, initiated during the Biden administration, allowed migrants to stay in the US for up to two years.

24TH MARCH 2025

- ISRO is advancing its capabilities in space technology by developing a LOX-methane engine for its Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV). This new engine features a reusable booster stage and two expendable upper stages. The initiative aims to enhance mission flexibility through multiple restarts. Recent successful tests of a spark torch igniter mark step forward in this ambitious project.



- Noma, also known as cancrum oris, is a severe, gangrenous disease primarily affecting children aged 2 to 6 years. It is classified as a neglected tropical disease by the World Health Organization (WHO) as of December 2023. Noma is most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa but has also been reported in parts of Asia and the Americas. The disease is characterised by rapid progression, often leading to severe disfigurement and social stigma.



- The use of hawala networks has surged in recent years, particularly for illegal activities such as poaching and money laundering. An investigation revealed that a poaching network in central India has exploited these informal money transfer systems to facilitate the killing of tigers.

25TH MARCH 2025

- India celebrated advancement in its naval capabilities with the launch of the stealth frigate 'Tavasya' on March 22, 2025. This event, held at Goa Shipyard Limited, marks a very important moment in India's indigenous shipbuilding journey. The launch was officiated by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth, denoting India's commitment to self-reliance in defence.



- The Sundarbans, a vast mangrove forest located at the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers, faces a severe groundwater crisis. This unique ecosystem, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1987, is home to diverse flora and fauna, including the Bengal tiger. Recent studies indicate alarming rates of groundwater depletion, primarily due to illegal extraction for agriculture.



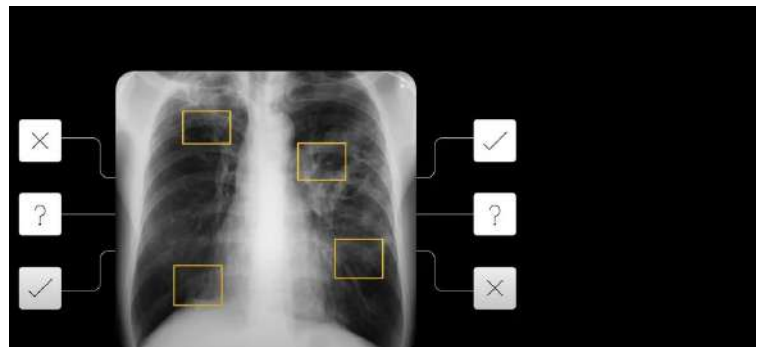
- Recently, the Supreme Court of India established a National Task Force (NTF) to address the alarming rise in student suicides in higher educational institutions. This decision followed the tragic deaths of two students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, which brought into light the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to mental health in academia.

26TH MARCH 2025

- Recent discoveries in the Pilbara region of Western Australia have revealed the oldest known meteorite impact crater on Earth. Formed over 3.5 billion years ago, this crater predates all previously known craters by more than a billion years. The findings support theories regarding the formation of Earth's first continents. This discovery opens new avenues for understanding early geological processes and the origins of life.



- Tuberculosis (TB) remains a global health challenge. Despite advances in medicine, it affects millions each year. TB is primarily caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It mainly targets the lungs but can also affect other organs.

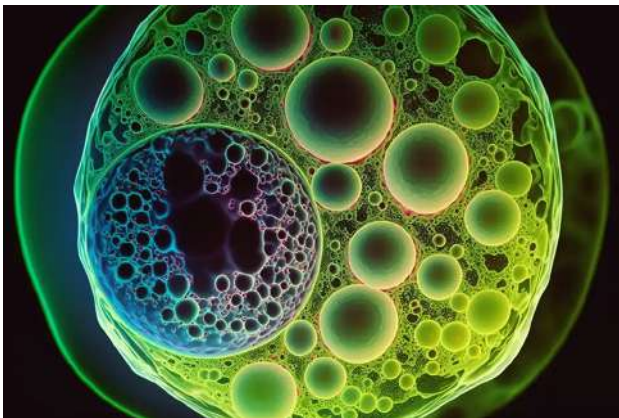


- Recent studies highlight the critical role of black carbon in climate change. A report by the Clean Air Fund and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development reveals that black carbon, a potent climate pollutant, is responsible for nearly half of global warming. It poses severe threats to water security for billions, particularly in the fragile ecosystems of the Hindu Kush Himalayas.



27TH MARCH 2025

- On April 6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the New Pamban Bridge in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu. This event coincides with Ram Navami, marking milestone in India's infrastructure development. The bridge, measuring 2.5 kilometres, enhances connectivity between mainland India and Rameshwaram Island. It reduces travel time for trains from 25-30 minutes to just under five minutes.



- Recent advancements in Lyme disease research have revealed a promising target for therapeutics. Scientists have identified an enzyme called BbLDH, crucial for the survival and infectivity of the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This discovery paves the way for more effective treatments against Lyme disease and potentially other tick-borne illnesses.
- The Lok Sabha recently passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, marking step in cooperative education in India. This initiative aims to establish the country's first national cooperative university at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) in Gujarat. The university is designed to enhance education, research, and training in the cooperative sector nationwide.

28TH MARCH 2025

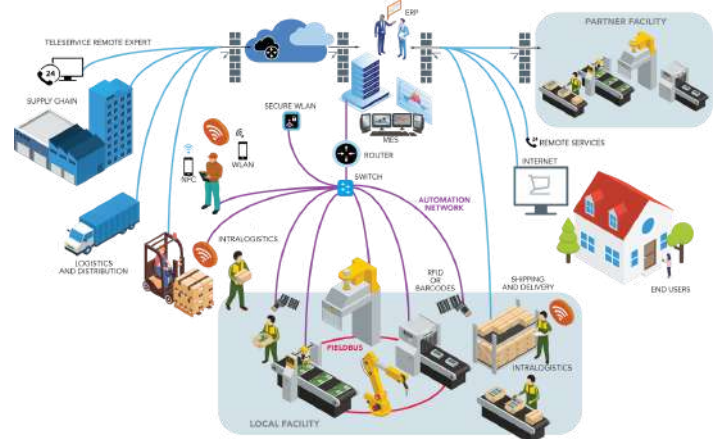
- Recently, the Ministry of Defence of India signed contracts aimed at modernising the country's defence capabilities. These agreements, valued at approximately ₹2,500 crore, include the procurement of the Nag Missile System (NAMIS) and around 5,000 light vehicles. The contracts were signed under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category, promoting indigenous defence production.



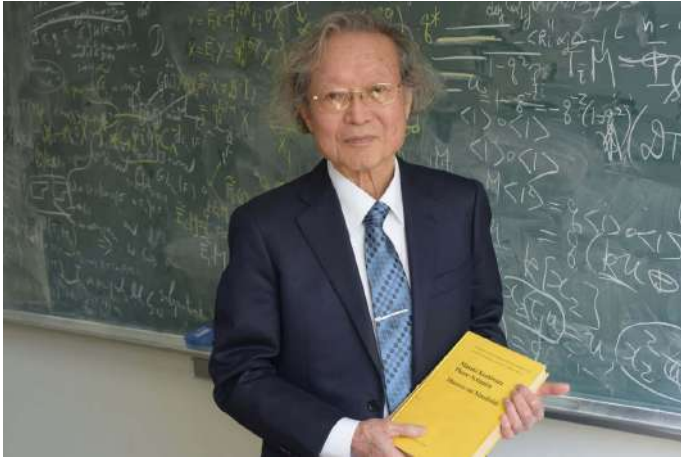
- India's extensive coastline is facing challenges from illegal fishing practices, particularly light fishing. This method employs high-intensity artificial lights to attract fish, causing severe ecological damage and threatening traditional fishers' livelihoods. Despite a national ban on this practice in 2017, enforcement remains inconsistent, leading to ongoing conflicts and resource depletion.



- Recently, India launched the 'Digital Excellence for Growth and Enterprise' (Dx-EDGE) initiative. This platform aims to empower micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with essential digital tools and knowledge. The initiative is a collaboration between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), NITI Aayog, and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). It seeks to enhance MSME performance through digitalisation, making them competitive and resilient.

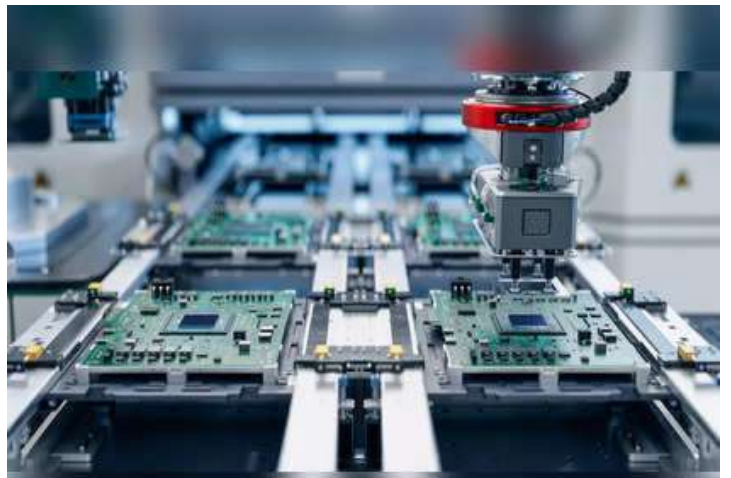


29TH MARCH 2025



- The Abel Prize for mathematics was awarded to Masaki Kashiwara in 2025. The 78-year-old Japanese mathematician received this honour for his contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory. The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters recognised his work in developing D-modules and discovering crystal bases. This award marks the importance of mathematics in advancing scientific knowledge.

- On March 28, 2025, the Union Cabinet of India approved the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme. This initiative is backed by a substantial budget of ₹22,919 crore. The scheme aims to enhance India's electronics manufacturing capabilities, focusing on the production of crucial electronic components. It represents step in the government's ongoing efforts to establish a robust electronics manufacturing ecosystem.
- Recently, a new species of snakehead fish was identified in Meghalaya. Named *Channa nachi*, this species marks the rich biodiversity of the region's freshwater ecosystems. The fish was collected from a stream in the South Garo Hills four years prior.



30TH MAR 2025

- The availability of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like diclofenac and flunixin poses risk to avian scavengers in South America. A recent study found a widespread registration of these drugs across ten Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries. Researchers revealed that these substances are approved for use in various livestock and domestic animals, raising concerns about their impact on local bird populations.



- The Government of India is set to launch “Sahkar Taxi,” a cooperative-based taxi service. This initiative aims to provide a viable alternative to popular ride-hailing platforms such as Ola and Uber. Union Minister Amit Shah announced this plan in Parliament, denoting its focus on benefiting drivers directly rather than large corporations. The service will encompass two-wheeler taxis, auto-rickshaws, and four-wheeler taxis across the country.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) has officially concluded its Gaia mission on March 27, 2025. Launched in December 2013, Gaia has advanced our understanding of the Milky Way galaxy. This mission has provided unprecedented vital information about the galaxy’s structure and evolution through extensive observations.

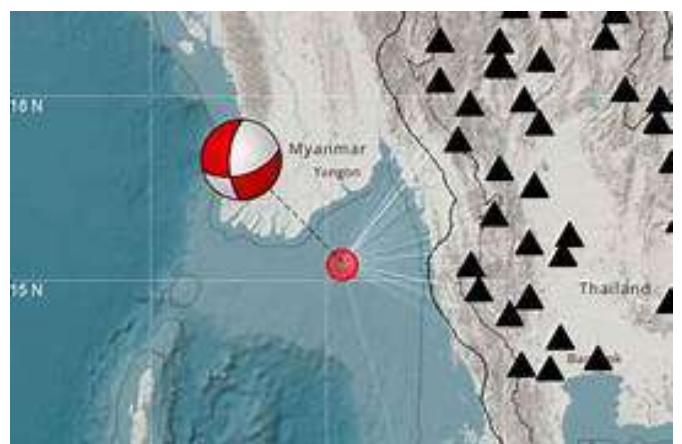


31ST MAR 2025



- The Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project is an initiative aimed at improving irrigation and flood management in Bihar. Recently approved by the Cabinet, this project is part of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP). The project will utilise surplus water from the Kosi River to enhance irrigation in the Mahananda basin. With an estimated cost of Rs. 6,282.32 crore, it is expected to be completed by March 2029.

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently identified alarming threats to biodiversity, focusing on fungi extinction, lion population decline, and the endangered status of frankincense trees.
- Myanmar has been hit by more powerful aftershocks, hindering rescue efforts for those still missing after Friday's magnitude 7.7 earthquake. Some 1,700 people have now been confirmed dead, but there are fears the death toll could be significantly higher. At least 3,400 people have been injured and many others are still missing. Poorly equipped rescuers and volunteers are digging through the ruins of collapsed buildings looking for bodies.





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