

# Daily Current Affairs

## 16 November 2023

### National Press Day

- **National Press Day- The 16th of November** – is symbolic of a free and responsible press in India.
- This was the day on which the **Press Council of India started functioning** as a moral watchdog to ensure that not only did the press maintain the high standards expected from this powerful medium but also that it was not fettered by the influence or threats of any extraneous factors.



- Though there are several Press or Media Councils world over, the Press Council of India is a **unique entity** in as-much-as this is the only body to exercise an authority even over the instruments of the State in its duty to safeguard the independence of the press.
- Recommending the establishment of a **Press Council in 1956 the first Press Commission** had concluded that the best way of maintaining professional ethics in journalism would be to bring into existence a body with statutory authority, of people principally connected with industry whose duty it would be to arbitrate.
- To this end the Press Council of India was established and the body that has evolved since **November 16, 1966** has not belied the objective.

## Shital Mahajan Makes History

- Indian skydiver **Shital Mahajan** jumped off a helicopter from the height of **21,500 ft in front of the world's highest peak, Mt Everest.**
- She became the **first woman to do so.** Mahajan landed at Kalapatthar peak at an altitude 17,444ft.
- Mahajan is a well-known Indian skydiver who holds several skydiving records and is the recipient of the fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri in 2001.



## India & US Sign MoU

- India and US have signed an MoU with the objective of connecting both the countries' dynamic startup ecosystems, particularly in critical and emerging technologies (CET).
- The understanding named '**Enhancing Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake**' was signed by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal from the Indian side, who is on a 4-day US visit.



- In a social media post, Mr Goyal said the MoU is poised to **positively impact economic activity**, attract investment, and generate employment.

- During his ongoing visit, **India joined the United States and 12 other Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) partners** to ink the IPEF supply chain resilience agreement.



## International Science Festival

- The **9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023** will be held at **Faridabad, Haryana** from January 17th-20th, 2024.
- India's mega Science Fair will be held at the Campus of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) of Department of Biotechnology in Faridabad.
- The theme of the present edition is '**Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal**'.
- IISF 2023 aims to **provide a platform for inspiring public at large and individuals** with diverse levels of interests like students, educators, scientists, researchers, industry professionals, entrepreneurs and science communicators.



- IISF 2023 will have a total of **17 themes to showcase scientific achievements** offering diverse benefits to participants and the general public.
- The event holds interface among all stakeholders through various activities such as seminars by national and international experts, interactions with speakers, exhibitions, competitions, workshops, knowledge-sharing activities, technology shows, etc.
- The IISF is dedicated towards fostering creativity in Science, Technology and Innovation for the advancement of prosperous India. This event was initiated under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through collaborative efforts of the **Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati.**
- Since 2015, the IISF has hosted eight editions in different geographical regions of India and expanded as a mega science festival. In 2021, the Department of Space and the Department of Atomic Energy became an integral part of IISF.

## ICC Cricket Hall Of Fame

- Three cricketing greats and standout performers in the history of the game - legendary opener **Virender Sehwag**, former Indian Women Test skipper **Diana Edulji** and Sri Lanka's iconic star **Aravinda de Silva** are the latest inductees to be added to the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- The International Cricket Council announced the name of the three legends of cricket as the latest inductees.



- **Sehwag**, a destructive opener of the modern era, holds a record that is still hard to match, the first Indian with a two Triple centuries.
- The second inductee **Edulji** captained India for almost three decades, and as a left-arm orthodox spinner claimed 100 wickets while making 54 international appearances.
- The third inductee was a winner of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup with Sri Lanka in 1996 - **Aravinda de Silva**. The Sri Lankan batter was known for his consistency, scoring 20 Test centuries during an 18-year international career which is the third most by any Sri Lanka men's player.
- The ICC Hall of Fame honours the greatest international cricketers throughout the long history of the sport, and the enduring legacies of de Silva, Edulji and Sehwag see them join as inductees number 110, 111 and 112 respectively.

## Two New Species Of Seer Fish In Indian Waters

- Researchers at the **ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** have made a significant discovery by identifying two new species of seer fish.
- Led by principal scientist E M Abdussamad, the team of taxonomists unveiled the **Arabian sparrow seer fish** (*Scomberomorus avirostrus*), a previously unknown species, and resurrected **Russell's spotted seer fish** (*Scomberomorus leopardus*).



Arabian Sparrow seer fish (new species)



Russell's spotted seer fish (resurrected species)

- These findings have expanded the number of top-demanding seer fish species in Indian waters from four to six, enhancing our understanding of marine biodiversity.

- The discovery was the result of a comprehensive taxonomic study focused on the spotted seer fish species found along the Indian coast.
- It revealed that the spotted seer fish (*Scomberomorus guttatus*), once considered a single species, is actually a complex comprising three distinct species.

## Hyderabad's Sadar Festival

- Hyderabad is gearing up for the **annual Sadar festival**, a lively celebration centered around buffalo cattle, held every year on the second day after Diwali.
- This vibrant festival is a cherished tradition of the **Yadav community** and is also known as Dunnapothula Panduga. It serves as a significant occasion for community bonding and merriment in villages and towns.
- The buffaloes are decorated with garlands of flowers, painted horns, and paraded through the streets, often accompanied by the crowd dancing to the sounds.
- For the Yadav community, the Sadar festival holds great importance and is considered their oldest and most revered celebration.
- While **variations of this festival** are celebrated across India with different names, such as Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu, Sadar Sammelan in Telangana stands out as the biggest festival for the Yadav community.

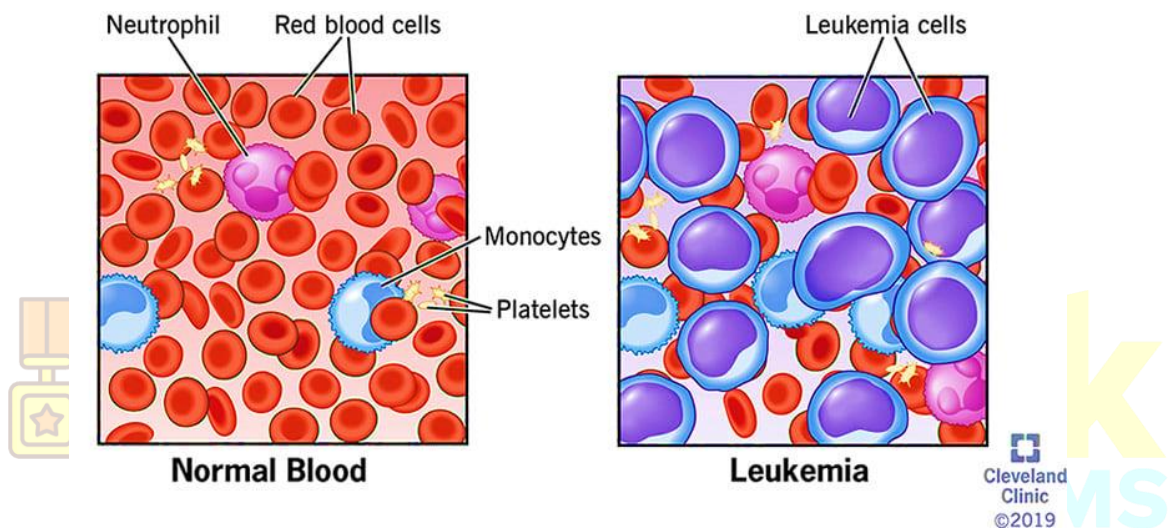


- The festival's origins are rooted in ancient tales, particularly one from **Dwapar Yug, where God Shri Krishna** lifted a mountain on his finger to save people. This legendary event is commemorated during the Sadar festival, serving as a testament to the community's deep cultural and religious ties.
- Organized by the Yadav community, the Sadar festival traces its beginnings back to **1942**. Over the years, it has grown into a grand celebration that draws

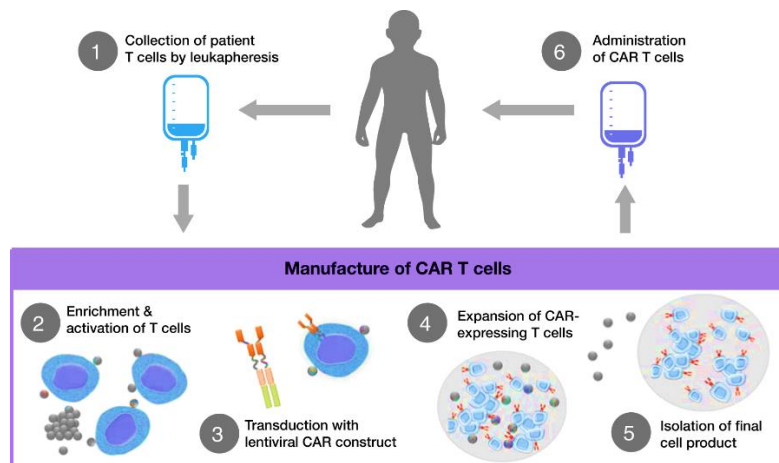
participants of all religions, transcending caste and creed boundaries. The festival is especially popular among the youth, who actively participate in the festivities.

## 'Kill Switch' For Cancer Cells

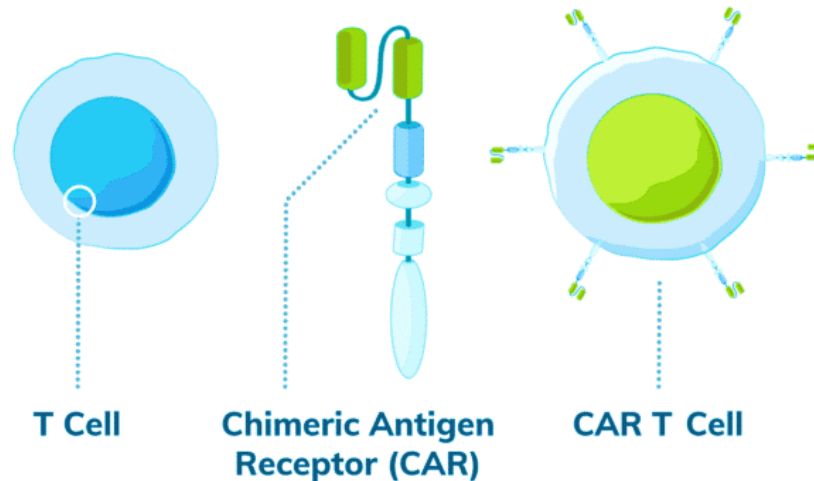
- Scientists in California have made a significant breakthrough by discovering a **'kill switch' that triggers** the death of cancer cells.
- The experts from UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center in Sacramento have identified a protein on a receptor that can be engineered to induce the death of cancer cells.



- These receptors, known as **CD95 receptors or Fas receptors**, are often referred to as 'death receptors' and are located on cell membranes.
- When these receptors, specifically CD95 receptors or Fas receptors, are activated, they release signals that prompt cancer cells to undergo self-destructive processes.



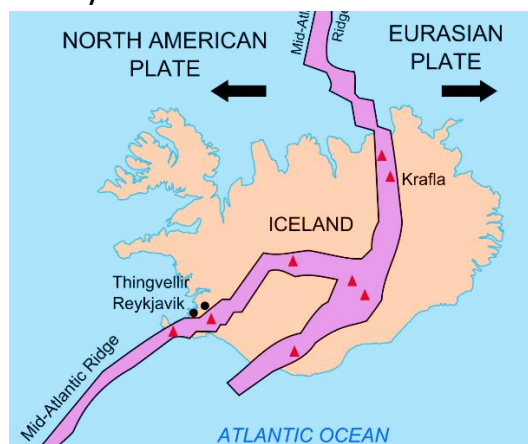
- The therapy based on this discovery is termed **CAR T-cell therapy**. It involves extracting T cells from the patient's blood and genetically modifying them in a laboratory to produce receptors known as **chimeric antigen receptors (CARs)**.
- These modified cells are then reintroduced into the patient's bloodstream, where they can target and induce the death of cancer cells.



- **CAR T-cell therapy** has shown promising efficacy against **liquid cancers**, including leukemia and other blood-related cancers. However, its success against solid tumors, such as breast, lung, and bowel cancers, has been limited.

## Seismic Activity In Iceland

- **Iceland is on high alert as a seismic swarm**, marked by 800 earthquakes in 14 hours, raises concerns of an imminent volcanic eruption in the Reykjanes peninsula.
- The Iceland Met Office has issued a stark warning of a “considerable” likelihood of a volcanic eruption in the coming days, following a series of seismic events that have rattled the country.





- This seismic activity has prompted the declaration of a state of emergency in Iceland.
- On November 10, Iceland experienced an extraordinary swarm of earthquakes, with a staggering 800 quakes hitting the southwestern **Reykjanes peninsula** in less than 14 hours.
- Satellite observations have identified **land deformation in the affected area**, intensifying concerns about an impending volcanic eruption.
- The frequent occurrence of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in Iceland is attributed to the unique geological setting of the country.
- The meeting of the **North American and Eurasian tectonic plates** in the middle of the North Atlantic, **characterized by a separation rather than convergence**, creates significant seismic activity.
- The mid-Atlantic ridge, a massive fissure in the seabed, crosses Iceland, splitting the country in two. This geological reality, although inherently hazardous, is integral to Iceland's volcanic landscape and its position as a hotspot for seismic events.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. National Press Day Is Observed On**

- A. 15<sup>th</sup> November
- B. 16<sup>th</sup> November
- C. 17<sup>th</sup> November
- D. 18<sup>th</sup> November

**ANSWER: B**

**2. World Press Day Is Observed On**

- A. 5<sup>th</sup> April
- B. 6<sup>th</sup> June
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- D. 16<sup>th</sup> December

**ANSWER: C**

**3. First Indian Women To Jump From 21,500 Ft In Front Of Mt Everest**

- A. Shweta Parmar
- B. Shital Mahajan
- C. Naik Manju
- D. Dorothy Hoffner

**ANSWER: B**

**4. International Science Festival 2023 Will Be Held In**

- A. Gurugram
- B. Faridabad
- C. New Delhi
- D. Hyderabad

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Dunnapothula Panduga Festival Is Celebrated In**

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Telangana
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: C**

**6. CAR T- Cell Therapy Is Used In**

- A. Treatment Of Myopia
- B. Treatment Of Cancer
- C. Treatment Of Tuberculosis
- D. Treatment Of Dengue

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Where Was 62<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day Parade Ceremony Of ITBP Held**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- C. Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
- D. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Where Was 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference Of National Human Rights Institutions Under Paris Principles Organized**

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. Paris, France
- C. Copenhagen, Denmark
- D. New York City, USA

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Recently For Which Virus Was 1<sup>st</sup> Vaccine Approved By The U.S. Food And Drug Administration**

- A. Zika
- B. Dengue
- C. Ebola
- D. Chikungunya

**ANSWER: D**

**10. Which Country's Cricket Board Has Been Suspended By The ICC Due To Government Interference**

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Pakistan
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh

**ANSWER: C**

**11. United Nations Adapted A Charter Of Economic Rights In The Year**

- A. 1969
- B. 1974
- C. 1956
- D. 1964

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Which State Emerged As Champion Of The 2023 National Game**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Which Group Of Investors Is Now Allowed To Freely Invest In The Government's Sovereign Green Bonds For 2023-24**

- A. Resident Indians
- B. Non-Resident Indians
- C. Foreign Institutional Investors
- D. Qualified Foreign Investors

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State**

- A. Odisha
- B. Bihar
- C. Sikkim
- D. Goa

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Lucy Spacecraft By NASA, To Observe Which Celestial Body**

- A. Moon
- B. Jupiter
- C. Asteroids
- D. Meteors

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Mars Sample Return Mission' Is Associated With Which Country**

- A. Israel
- B. UAE
- C. USA
- D. Russia

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Bologna In News, Is The City Located In Which Country**

- A. USA
- B. Italy
- C. Finland
- D. Sweden

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Makaravilakku Festival Is Celebrated In The Shrines Of**

- A. Meenakshi temple
- B. Sabarimala temple
- C. Kashi Viswanath temple
- D. Brihadeswara temple

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Recently, Cyrtodactylus Vairengtensis Was In News, Is A Species Of**

- A. Snail
- B. Butterfly
- C. Gecko
- D. Frog

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Recently, 'Thalidomide Tragedy' Was In The News. What Was Thalidomide**

- A. A Sedative
- B. A Painkiller
- C. An Herbicide
- D. An Anti-knocking Agent

**ANSWER: A**