

Daily Current Affairs

23 November 2023

ASEAN India Millet Festival 2023

- The Indian Mission to **ASEAN** in collaboration with **Ministry of Agriculture** and **Farmers' Welfare** is organizing the ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023, in **Indonesia**.
- A **Millet-centric exhibition** is being held as part of the festival featuring participation from Millet-based FPOs, start-ups and Indian chefs.



- Aligned with **the International Year of Millets (IYM)** celebrations, an aim of this festival is to raise awareness and create a market for millets and millets-based products among the ASEAN Member states i.e. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



- During the festival, the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** is leading a delegation from India, representing a diverse set of professionals engaged in the Indian millet ecosystem, including chefs, start-ups, representatives from Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), industry leaders, state officials and more.

AGNI – ‘Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative’

- **Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS)**, Ministry of Ayush, in its new endeavour to promote research for mainstreaming the pragmatic Ayurveda practices through scientific validation and evidence-based appraisal, has launched **“Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative” (AGNI)** for physicians practicing in the field of Ayurveda.



सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTRY OF AYUSH

- Prof Rabinarayanan Acharya, Director General of CCRAS listed out the AGNI project's aims as; to **provide a platform for Ayurveda practitioners** to report their innovative practices & and experiences in various disease conditions along with promoting the culture of evidence-based practice among Ayurveda Practitioners.
- The initiative also aims to undertake **research for mainstreaming pragmatic practices** through scientific validation and evidence-based appraisal.
- CCRAS will document and **publish the reported medical practices** and therapeutic regimens for education and academic purposes in consultation with NCISM.
- Further research studies may be taken up by CCRAS on the reported medical practices for mainstreaming and scientific validation by developing research

proposals in collaboration with Ayurveda Practitioners and other relevant institutes/ organizations.

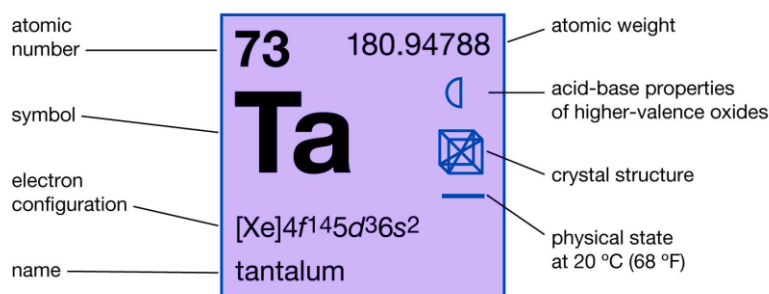


- CCRAS, under Ministry of Ayush is an apex research organization committed to undertaking, coordinating, formulating, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda.
- In the recent past, to boost scientific research through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals, CCRAS has initiated the Studentship Program for **Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK)** for Undergraduate Scholars, Scheme for Training in Ayurveda Research for PG Scholars (**PG-STAR**) for PG Scholars and Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching **Professionals (SMART)** program for teachers.

IIT Ropar Discovers Rare Metal ‘Tantalum’

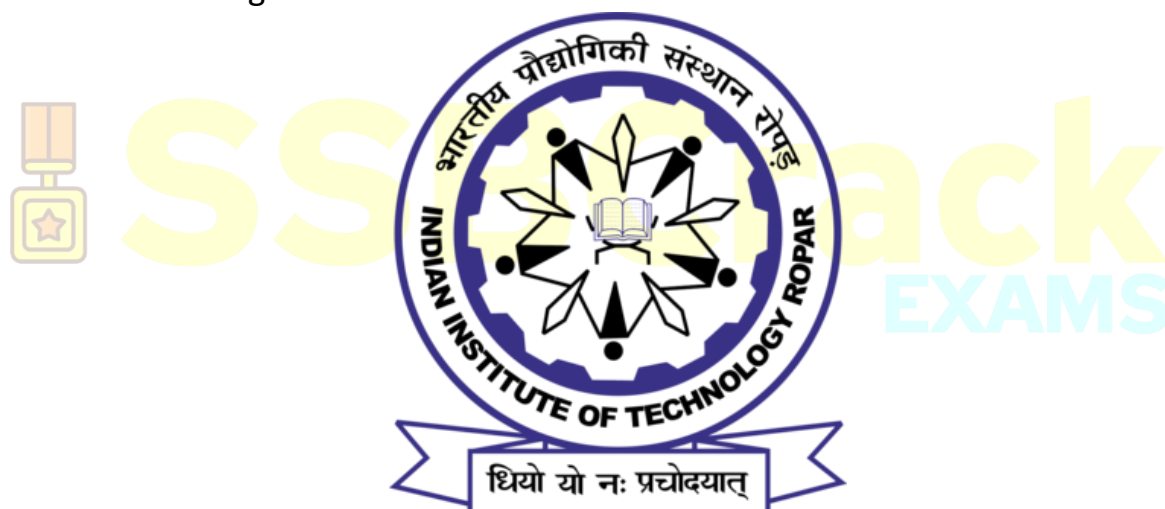
- A groundbreaking discovery has been made by a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar.
- Led by Dr. Resmi Sebastian, an assistant professor at the institute’s Civil Engineering Department, the team has identified the **presence of tantalum, a rare metal, in the sand of the Sutlej River in Punjab.**

Tantalum



	Transition metals		Solid
	Body-centred cubic		Weakly acidic

- **Tantalum, with the atomic number 73**, is a rare and remarkable metal. The metal is ductile in its pure form, allowing it to be stretched into thin wires without breaking.



- Notably, tantalum has an extremely **high melting point**, surpassed only by tungsten and rhenium. Grey, heavy, and exceptionally hard, tantalum boasts high corrosion resistance due to the formation of a stubborn oxide layer when exposed to air.
- This layer makes it challenging to remove, even in the presence of strong acids and high temperatures below 150°C.

“Ghol” Fish Declared State Fish of Gujarat

- In a significant move to recognize and promote the rich aquatic biodiversity of the region, the ‘**Ghol**’ fish has been officially declared the state fish of Gujarat.
- The announcement was made by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel during the inaugural ceremony of the first Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 held at Gujarat Science City.



- The conference witnessed a gathering of over 210 national and international exhibitors, representing a diverse spectrum ranging from startups to well-established fisheries associations and processing industries.
- The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and showcasing advancements in the fisheries sector.
- The **Ghol fish, scientifically known as Protonibea diacanthus**, is widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific region, spanning from the Persian Gulf to the Pacific Ocean.
- Commonly referred to as the **Black Spotted Croaker fish**, it holds cultural and economic importance in many coastal communities.

IISR Kozhikode Develops New Pepper Variety

- The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) in Kozhikode has achieved a significant milestone in the field of agriculture with the successful development of a groundbreaking black pepper variety named ‘**IISR Chandra.**’



- This achievement is the culmination of an innovative research and development process that deviates from conventional methods, providing the agricultural sector with a potential game-changer.



- The research team at IISR took a unique approach in developing 'IISR Chandra' by crossing two distinct pepper varieties – **Cholamundi** and **Thommankodi**.
- The resulting hybrid was then back-crossed with Thommankodi to ensure the retention of all desired parental traits.
- This novel approach has given rise to a **high-yielding black pepper** variety that possesses unparalleled potential in both quality and yield.

ICC Bans Transgender Players

- In a significant policy decision, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has recently implemented a ban on transgender cricketers from participating in international women's cricket at the highest level.

- This decision has raised discussions around **inclusivity, athlete rights** and the impact of the **ban on transgender individuals**.



- The move is said to be in alignment with the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) guidelines, considering cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics.
- The decision comes on the heels of controversy sparked by Canada's **Danielle McGahey**, who became the **first transgender cricketer** to participate in an official international match just two months ago.
- The 29-year-old opening batter playing in all six of Canada's matches during the Women's T20 World Cup Americas region qualifiers event in Los Angeles.
- Under the previous ICC regulations, which focused on reducing testosterone levels, McGahey met all eligibility criteria. However, the new rules prioritize the protection of the women's game's integrity, safety, fairness and inclusion.

SATHI Program

- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** cancelled the call for proposals under the **SATHI program**.
- The recent cancellation of the SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institutes) program under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has ignited a wave of apprehension among researchers and academics.



- This move has raised concerns regarding its potential impact on research funding, particularly in the context of the **anticipated introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF)** and the potential influence of the private sector in shaping the research landscape.
- **SATHI Program Launched in 2020**, the SATHI program aimed to establish centers equipped with advanced analytical instruments, fostering collaboration and resource-sharing among institutions.
- The recent cancellation of the call for proposals under SATHI has left educational institutions, especially in Kerala, anxious about the future of their research initiatives. Researchers fear that private sector involvement in funding could lead to market forces dictating research priorities.
- There's concern that this might compromise the autonomy of educational institutions, influencing their research agendas.

New Education For New India

- President Droupadi Murmu launched a **National Education Campaign, titled, “New Education for New India”** organized by Brahma Kumari Iswariya University, Sambalpur.
- She said that education is always important for building a better society.
- Focusing on the National Education Policy, Smt. Murmu stressed on teaching in the **mother language** which she said, can help in the intellectual development of children.



- The President in her address said, the **New National Education Policy** will play an important role in building a New India.
- Stressing the importance of technology and preserving culture, Smt. Murmu said, India's development is possible only through the convergence of technology and cultural values.

IBSF Billiards Championship 2023

- India's **Pankaj Advani** has lifted his **26th world title** as he won the **World IBSF Billiards Championship 2023** in Doha, Qatar.
- Pankaj defeated opponent Sourav Kothari with 1000-416 margin in the final.
- Advani stormed into the final with a convincing victory over fellow Indian Rupesh Shah. He defeated the Gujarat cueist 900-273.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. ASEAN India Millet Festival 2023 Held In

- A. Indonesia
- B. China
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Brazil

ANSWER: A

2. AGNI - 'Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative' Is Launched By

- A. Ministry Of Health
- B. Ministry Of Ayush
- C. WHO
- D. Global Centre for Traditional Medicine

ANSWER: B

3. Recently Seen In News Tantalum Metal Discovered By

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Madras
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Roorkee

ANSWER: C

4. State Fish of Gujarat Recently Declared Is

- A. Ghol
- B. Rohu
- C. Hilsa
- D. Basa

ANSWER: A

5. IISR Chandra Seen In News Is Variety Of

- A. Tomato
- B. Rice
- C. Pepper
- D. Clove

ANSWER: C

6. Pankaj Advani Seen In News Relates To Which Sport

- A. Cricket
- B. Billiards
- C. Chess
- D. Tennis

ANSWER: B

7. First Recipient Of Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award

- A. Dr Mathavaraj S
- B. P Veeramuthu Vel
- C. Ritu Karidhal
- D. Kalpana Kalahasti

ANSWER: A

8. Which Is The Cambridge Dictionary's Word Of The Year For 2023

- A. Hallucinate
- B. Manipulate
- C. Backfire
- D. Depression

ANSWER: A

9. As Per A CDC-WHO Report, Around 11 Lakh Children In India Missed Their First Dose Of _____ Vaccine

- A. COVID
- B. Measles
- C. Pneumonia
- D. Rubella

ANSWER: B

10. Which Indian Company Secured 15000 Crore- Project For A Gas Compression Plant In The Middle East

- A. Tata Industries
- B. Larsen & Toubro
- C. Reliance Industries
- D. ONGC

ANSWER: B

11. 'M- Kavach 2' Is A Bot Removal Tool Developed By Which Institution

- A. NIC
- B. C-DAC
- C. HAL
- D. EIL

ANSWER: B

12. World Local Production Forum Is An Initiative Of Which Institution

- A. WEF
- B. UNDP
- C. World Bank
- D. WHO

ANSWER: D

13. What Is The Amount, The Union Government Plans To Borrow Through Green Bonds In The Current Financial Year

- A. Rs 10000 Crore
- B. Rs 20000 Crore
- C. Rs 50000 Crore
- D. Rs 75000 Crore

ANSWER: B

14. Which Organisation Unveiled Operational Framework For Building Climate Resilient And Low Carbon Health Systems

- A. UNEP
- B. FAO
- C. WHO
- D. NITI Aayog

ANSWER: C

15. Tailored Deterrence Strategy Is Associated With Which Countries

- A. India-USA
- B. USA-South Korea
- C. Russia-China
- D. China-Pakistan

ANSWER: B

16. Diana Edulji, Seen In News, Is Associated With Which Sports

- A. Hockey
- B. Chess
- C. Cricket
- D. Athletics

ANSWER: C

17. Naitwar Mori Hydro-electric Project Is Located In Which State

- A. Goa
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: C

18. United States Recently Agreed To Resume Military Communications With Which Country

- A. Ukraine
- B. China
- C. Syria
- D. Israel

ANSWER: B

19. Sarige Suraksha Insurance Scheme' Is Implemented In Which State/UT

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: B

20. Which Actor Was Conferred With 'Special Recognition For Contribution To Bhartiya Cinema' At The IFFI Festival

- A. Madhuri Dixit
- B. Kamal Hassan
- C. Rekha
- D. Amitabh Bachchan

ANSWER: A