

Daily Current Affairs

10 December 2023

GPAI 2023

- Currently serving as the **incoming Support Chair of GPAI**, India is set to take on the **Lead Chair position for GPAI in 2024**.
- To showcase its commitment to the advancement of AI, India is hosting the Annual GPAI Summit. The event is anticipated to be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- The **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**, established in **June 2020**, is a groundbreaking multi-stakeholder initiative. India is one of the founding members of GPAI in 2020.
- With a primary objective to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the field of AI, GPAI supports **cutting-edge research** and applied activities on AI-related priorities.

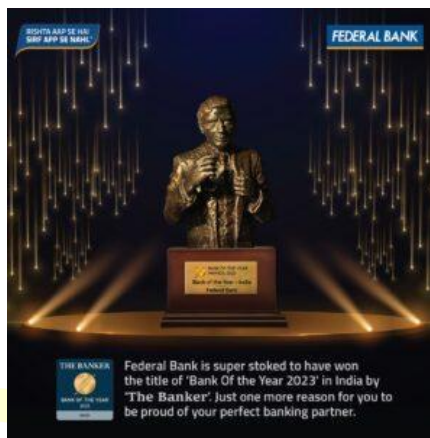


- Initially launched with **15 member countries**, GPAI has significantly expanded its membership to include **28 member countries** and the **European Union**. The Annual GPAI Summit is a gathering of senior-level government delegations from 29 member countries.
- In addition to government representatives, the Summit will welcome GPAI's multi-stakeholder Experts' Group, Global AI Experts, multilateral organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

- This collaborative environment aims to **foster international cooperation** and knowledge exchange in the ever-evolving field of artificial intelligence.

Bank Of The Year 2023

- In a momentous achievement, **Federal Bank**, a prominent financial institution, has been awarded the prestigious title of **“Bank of the Year (India)”** by **The Banker**, a renowned publication under the Financial Times umbrella.



- This accolade, one of the few global awards recognizing banks on a worldwide scale, reflects **Federal Bank’s exceptional commitment** to innovation, customer-centric services, and its outstanding contributions to the banking industry in the past year. Recognizing the challenges faced by customers in rural areas, Federal Bank launched the **‘Bank on the Go’ initiative**.
- This groundbreaking effort involves a **mobile vehicle** equipped with banking kiosks.
- This vehicle travels to different locations, eliminating the need for rural customers to travel long distances for banking services.



- The vehicle is equipped with a **leased line internet connection** to ensure stable connectivity, providing a practical solution to enhance financial inclusion. Federal Bank has embraced cutting-edge technology to enhance customer support by introducing “**Feddy,**” an **artificial intelligence**-powered chatbot. It operates across multiple touchpoints, including the company website, WhatsApp, Alexa, and Google Maps.
- Feddy provides instant responses based on website content.
- Moreover, it seamlessly connects customers to live agents for further **24/7 support**. This chatbot ecosystem exemplifies Federal Bank’s commitment to **continuous growth and expanding capabilities** to meet the evolving needs of customers.

Chillai Kalaan

- A **40-day period of "Chillai-Kalaan" in Kashmir** is beginning on 21st of this month. This is the harshest period in the entire Kashmir Valley. The period begins on 21st December and ends on 31st January of the next year.



- In the **Kashmir Valley**, the minimum temperature continued to **settle below freezing point** in the region while Pahalgam, a famous tourist attraction in south Kashmir's Anantnag district was recorded coldest at minus 5.5 degree Celsius.
- Qazigund in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.0 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius.
- During Chillai-Kalaan, the weather in the region continues to remain **dry and cold with minimum temperatures** hovering below the freezing point.

First Ever Khelo India Para Games

- The **first-ever Khelo India Para Games** kicked off in **New Delhi**.
- More than 1,400 participants from across 32 states and Union Territories including Services Sports Control Board are participating in the 8-day event.
- The Para athletes will compete for honours in **7 disciplines including** para-athletics, para shooting, para archery, para football, para-badminton, para table tennis and para weight lifting. Khelo India Para Games aim to provide opportunities for aspiring para-athletes to showcase their skills and develop their career in para-sports.
- Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry has said that athletes participating in the Khelo India Para Games will receive comprehensive medical coverage.



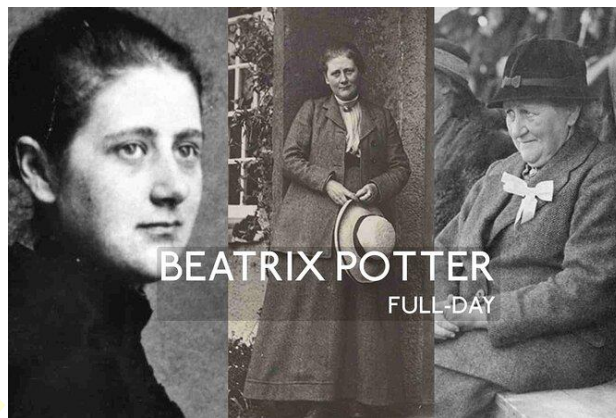
- The Ministry said that the **medical coverage includes** emergency medical services, on-site medical teams and access to necessary healthcare facilities.

P. Asteroxylicola

- Researchers at the **Natural History Museum in London** have made a groundbreaking discovery, unearthing a fossilized specimen from their extensive collection that reveals a **407-million-year-old fungus fossil**.



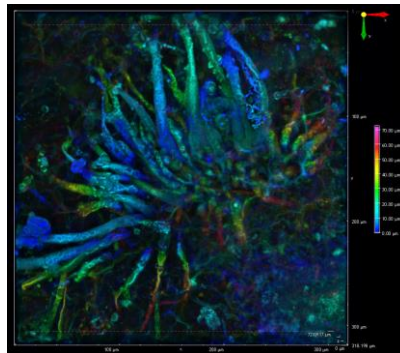
- This finding not only captures the fascination of scientists but also provides the oldest known evidence of fungi causing diseases.
- Nicknamed **Potteromyces asteroxylicola**, this ancient microbe has been named in honor of the renowned children's author and mycologist, **Beatrix Potter**.
- Potter, famous for her whimsical tales, had a profound interest in and **knowledge of fungi**, spending a considerable amount of time studying and meticulously illustrating them.



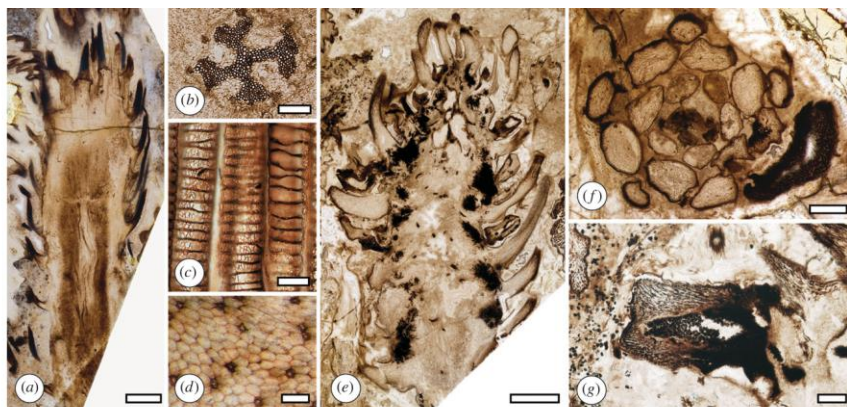
- Producing beautiful drawings of wild mushrooms and **examining their structures under a microscope**, Potter was forced to stay an amateur enthusiast, given that women were largely shut out of professional sciences in the Victorian era.
- The discovery of this prehistoric pathogen now resonates with Potter's dedication to understanding the fungal kingdom.
- **P. Asteroxylicola. fungus** was found in fossil samples taken from the **407-million-year-old Rhynie chert sedimentary deposit**, an important geological site near **Aberdeen in Scotland** that preserved incredible early Devonian life forms of plants, bacteria and fungi.



- The fossilized specimen offers valuable insights into the **ancient world** and the **evolution of diseases** caused by fungi.
- By analyzing the ancient remains, scientists can gain a better understanding of the impact these microorganisms had on past ecosystems and how they continue to shape our world today.



- The significance of this discovery goes **beyond mere curiosity**.
- Fungi have been causing **diseases for millions of years**, affecting various organisms, including plants, animals, and even humans.
- Understanding the **origins and evolution** of these diseases can provide vital information for modern medicine and the development of treatments.
- By studying ancient pathogens like *Potteromyces asteroxylicola*, scientists can draw parallels with present-day diseases and further comprehend their evolution.



- As our knowledge of ancient organisms continues to expand, it becomes increasingly evident that the secrets of the past hold valuable lessons for the future.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar Is Launched By

- A. Ministry Of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry Of Culture
- C. Ministry Of Rural Development
- D. Ministry Of Agriculture

ANSWER: B

2. "FIRST SWYP" Credit Cards Launched By

- A. IDFC
- B. HDFC
- C. SBI
- D. PNB

ANSWER: A

3. 'Bank On The Go' Initiative Is Of

- A. RBI
- B. SBI
- C. Federal Bank
- D. HDFC

ANSWER: C

4. Name Of AI Powered Chatbot Of Federal Bank

- A. Feddy
- B. Hello Feddy
- C. Hi Feddy
- D. Namaste Feddy

ANSWER: A

5. World Investment Conference Will Be Held In

- A. Rashtrapati Bhawan
- B. Bharat Mandapam
- C. Yashobhoomi
- D. Red Fort

ANSWER: C

6. India Is Hosting WAIPA Summit For

- A. First Time
- B. Second Time
- C. Third Time
- D. Twenty Seventh Time

ANSWER: A

7. India Ranked _____ In Global Climate Performance Index

- A. Second
- B. Fifth
- C. Seventh
- D. Eighth

ANSWER: C

8. Global Climate Performance Index Is Published By

- A. Germanwatch
- B. WWF
- C. UNFCCC
- D. SankalpTaru Foundation

ANSWER: A

9. Chillai Kalaan Is

- A. Wild Fruit Of Kashmir
- B. Traditional Dress Of Kashmir
- C. Winter Period Of Kashmir
- D. Folk Song Of Kashmir

ANSWER: C

10. Khelo India Para Games Is Inaugurated In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bhopal
- C. Chennai
- D. Bhubaneshwar

ANSWER: A

11.P. Asteroxylicola Seen In News Is Type Of

- A. Bacteria
- B. Fungus
- C. Disease
- D. Virus

ANSWER: B

12.iGOT Karmayogi Platform Is For Which Category Of People

- A. MSME owners
- B. Street vendors
- C. Sanitary workers
- D. Government officials

ANSWER: D

13.Central Government Approved 1st Urban Flood Mitigation Project In

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Odisha
- C. West Bengal
- D. Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: A

14.Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment Is Under

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. IISc Bengaluru
- D. IIT Madras

ANSWER: B

15.Tiriyani Block, Which Secured Top Position In Delta Rankings Of Aspirational Blocks Programme Is From Which State

- A. Telangana
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Odisha
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: A

16.Which Institution Built The Bharat Bill Payments

- A. RBI
- B. NPCI
- C. NASSCOM
- D. SEBI

ANSWER: B

17.Which African Country Announced First Utility Scale Geothermal Energy Independent Power Producer

- A. South Africa
- B. Zimbabwe
- C. Rwanda
- D. Congo

ANSWER: B

18.Name Of Memorial Of Former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- A. Shakti Atal
- B. Sadaiv Atal
- C. Vikas Atal
- D. Bharat Atal

ANSWER: B

19.Zuari Bridge 2nd Largest Cable Stayed Bridge In India, Located In

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Goa
- D. Jammu and Kashmir

ANSWER: C

20.India's 1st Uranium Mine Is Located At Which Among The Following Places

- A. Jadugauda
- B. Tummalapalle
- C. Pichli
- D. Dalbhum

ANSWER: A