

# Daily Current Affairs

## 11 December 2023

### ‘Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar’

- Union **Minister G. Kishan Reddy**, responsible for culture, tourism, and the development of the North Eastern Region, announced a groundbreaking project in the Rajya Sabha.
- The initiative, titled “**Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar**” (MGMD), is set to spotlight the cultural richness embedded in villages across the nation.
- Developed in collaboration with the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts** (IGNCA) under the **Ministry of Culture**, MGMD is a pivotal component of the National Mission on Cultural Mapping. G. Kishan Reddy emphasized the significance of the MGMD programme in preserving and **promoting India’s cultural heritage**.



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- The initiative aligns with the government’s commitment to safeguarding and **celebrating the diverse cultural identity** each village contributes to the nation.
- The documentation and mapping under MGMD are poised to serve as a testament to the unique cultural tapestry woven by Indian villages. The primary objective of MGMD is to make the **wealth of information about Indian villages** accessible to both virtual and real-time visitors.
- This aligns with the broader goals of the **National Mission on Cultural Mapping**, reflecting the government’s commitment to document and map the cultural diversity inherent in villages across the country.

## 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.

## “FIRST SWYP”

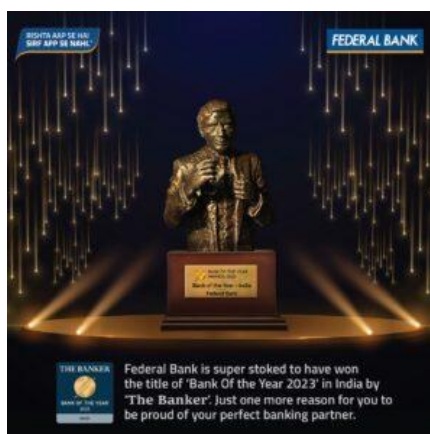
- In a strategic move targeting the dynamic preferences of Millennials and Gen Zs, IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced the “**FIRST SWYP**” credit card, a **youth-centric** offering designed to cater to the unique demands of the new-age customer.
- The FIRST SWYP credit card stands out as a **no-interest charge card**, providing users with financial flexibility.



- Offering curated features, the card allows for **flexible bill repayments** through EMIs, aligning with the financial needs and habits of the target demographic.
- The card boasts a **benefit-laden referral program**, incentivizing users to introduce their peers to the FIRST SWYP experience.
- Through exclusive and relevant **merchant partnerships**, the card provides users with access to a range of lifestyle-related offers, enhancing the overall value proposition.

## 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.

## World Investment Conference

- India will host **27<sup>th</sup> WAIPA World Investment Conference** in New Delhi from tomorrow.
- **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency** of the Government of India, and World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies are organizing the conference at the India International Convention & Expo Centre - **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**.
- Under the aegis of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, it will be the largest World Investment Conference ever.



- Union **Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles**, Shri Piyush Goyal will deliver the keynote address on the Role of Trade and Investment in the Decade of Action on 13th December.
- Shri Goyal will also launch the **Experience India Centre (EIC)**, showcasing the best of India's offerings across services, technology, and products through a variety of technologies, including virtual reality, augmented reality, interactive touch screens, and projection mapping.
- **World Investment Conference** is being held in India for the first time. Over 1000 attendees, 50 Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and various multilateral agencies will attend the conference.

## Global Climate Performance Index

- In a significant stride towards sustainable practices, **India has ascended** to the **7th position** in this year's **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)**, showcasing a commendable improvement from its previous ranking.
- The announcement came during the **global COP-28 held in Dubai**, where India reaffirmed its status among the top performers for the fifth consecutive year.

- The spotlight is on India's **exceptional performance in renewable energy**, outpacing fellow developing nations and solidifying its position in the top tier.
- This achievement is particularly noteworthy considering the **ease of comparing countries** within the same timeframe.
- India's success is attributed to its **robust performance in the greenhouse gas category**, with a notable emphasis on the food sector, which holds significant weight in the CCPI.
- The **Policy Evaluation**, rated in the upper range of medium, further contributes to India's commendable standing.
- However, a **critical observation** emerges regarding **India's heavy reliance on fossil fuels**, prompting speculation about its future ranking if emission rates continue to escalate.



- The report underscores the **pivotal role of renewable energy** in influencing emissions, highlighting the potential impact on India's standing in the next assessment.
- A **comparative analysis with China** reveals India's per capita emissions at half the global average, while China's figures already surpass the world average.
- The report concludes with a call for international collaboration and support for India's transition to renewable energy.
- Published **annually since 2005**, the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) tracks countries' efforts to combat climate change.
- As an independent monitoring tool it aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries. **Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network** publish the index annually.

## 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.

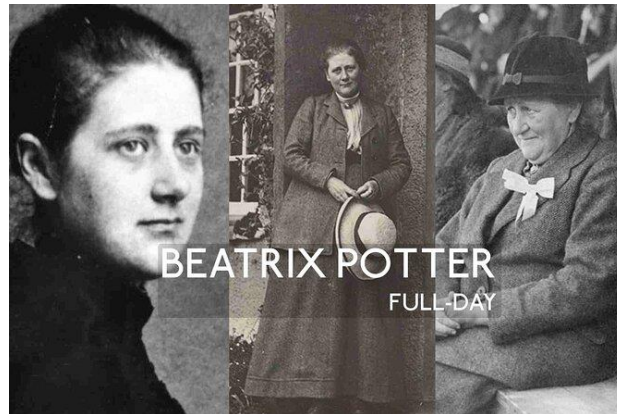
## P. Asteroxylicola

- 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.

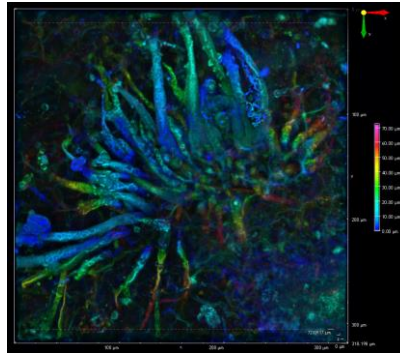




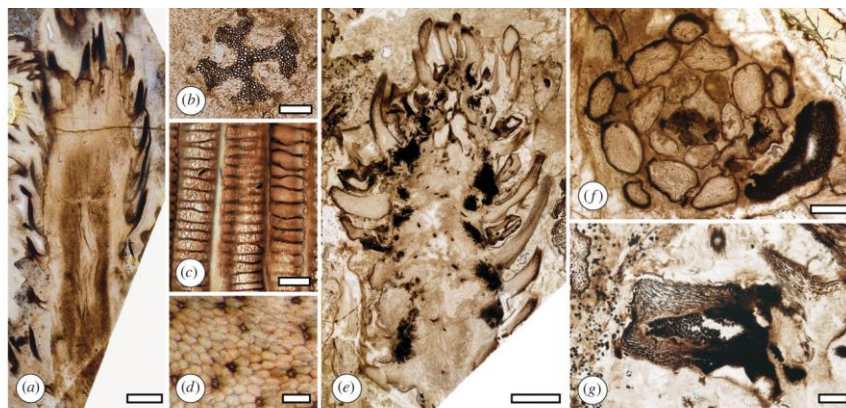
- Producing beautiful drawings of wild mushrooms and **examining their structures under a microscope**, Potter was forced to stay an amateur enthusiast, given that women were largely shut out of professional sciences in the Victorian era.
- The discovery of this prehistoric pathogen now resonates with 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. 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 Second Largest Cable Stayed Bridge In India, Located In**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**20. India's First Uranium Mine Is Located At Which Among The Following Places**

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

**ANSWER: A**