

# Daily Current Affairs

## 16 December 2023

### Pune Surpasses China

- In a momentous occasion for India, **Pune has etched** its name in the prestigious **'Guinness World Record'** books by hosting the **largest reading activity** in collaboration, **surpassing China's** previous record.



- At SP College, a remarkable total of 3,066 parents gathered to read aloud to their children, creating a magical atmosphere and leaving an indelible mark in history.
- The **previous record, held by China, stood at 2,884 simultaneous readers.**
- This extraordinary feat was orchestrated by the **National Book Trust** as part of the Pune Book Festival, where parents immersed themselves in reading aloud from the **book "निसर्गाचा नाश करू नाका"** by Kshipra Shahane for an exhilarating three minutes.

### ADB Allocates \$200M To Improve Sanitation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has taken a significant stride in fostering sustainable urban development by approving a **USD 200 million loan** to bolster the **Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission-Urban 2.0.**

- This initiative, committed to making **all cities garbage-free by 2026**, aims to introduce **international best practices**, integrate new technologies, and adopt climate- and disaster-resilient approaches in municipal solid waste management.



- The ADB's financing will play a pivotal role in the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0- Comprehensive **Municipal Waste Management** in Indian Cities Program, with a specific emphasis on improving sanitation practices.
- This ambitious undertaking seeks to **engage the private sector**, strengthen women's participation in sanitation and service delivery, and enhance waste management facilities in **100 cities across eight states**.
- According to ADB Urban Development Specialist, Alexandra Conroy, "Municipal waste management is a major issue in India's rapidly growing urban centres."
- This ADB program will help develop municipal solid waste management and sanitation facilities and practices in **100 cities across eight states**.



- Having a clean environment free from garbage and pollution coupled with quality urban basic services like water supply and sanitation will ensure that **citizens are healthy**, happy, and productive—essential to the country's **sustainable economic growth**.
- The financial support from ADB will be strategically allocated **to upgrade and establish waste management facilities**.
- This includes **bio-methanation plants**, composting plants, managed landfills, material recovery facilities, and plastic waste processing facilities.
- Additionally, the funds will support the construction of communal toilets and urinals, as well as the acquisition of sweeping equipment.

## Nyholm Prize

- In a significant recognition of her outstanding contributions to chemistry education, **Professor Savita Ladage from Mumbai's Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education**, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, has been awarded the prestigious **Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize** for Education.
- Her unwavering dedication to advancing chemistry education in India and mentoring fellow educators has placed her among the esteemed winners of this accolade.



### Nyholm Prize for Education

Savita Ladage

#RSCPrizes

- Professor Ladage's tireless advocacy for the significance of **chemical education has earned her** this esteemed award. She has played a pivotal role in mentoring chemistry educators and spearheading impactful teacher and student programs that have significantly contributed to the enhancement of chemistry education in the country.

- The Nyholm Prize places Professor Ladage in an illustrious group of past winners in the RSC's prize portfolio. **Notably, 60 individuals from this list** have later received Nobel Prizes for their exceptional contributions, a testament to the prestigious nature of this accolade. The distinguished laureates include 2022 Nobel Laureate Carolyn Bertozzi and 2019 Nobel laureate John B. Goodenough.
- In addition to the honor, Professor Savita Ladage will be bestowed with **£5,000, a medal**, and a certificate as part of the Nyholm Prize. This acknowledgment reflects not only her personal achievements but also the broader impact of her work on the field of chemistry education.

## UWW Rising Star Of The Year

- **Indian wrestler Antim Panghal** has been named the **Rising Star of the Year among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW)**, the sport's global governing body.
- The 19-year-old dynamo, competing in the **53 kg category**, has had a remarkable season that has not only garnered accolades but has also overshadowed senior stalwart Vinesh Phogat in the same weight class.



- Antim Panghal embarked on her remarkable journey this season with a **silver in the Asian Championships**, making a statement by defeating Japan's Akari Fujimani, who had not lost a senior match in her career.
- The 19-year-old from Haryana further solidified her prowess by defending her **U20 world champion title in Jordan**, showcasing her dominance on the international stage.

- Hailing from Haryana, Antim Panghal has etched her name in history as the only two-time junior world champion for India, a testament to her exceptional skill and dedication to the sport.

## Golden Owl Award

- In Sri Lanka, **three Indian officers** were awarded the prestigious Golden Owl award by Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremasinghe at the graduation ceremony held yesterday evening.
- The officers were undergoing Command and Staff course at Sri Lanka's Defence Services Command and **Staff College at Colombo**.
- The officers, **Wing Commander Sumeet Mahajan, Major Rohit** and **Lieutenant Commander Sunny Sharma** received the award for standing first amongst the foreign student officers.



## Haitham Bin Tarik

- **Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tarik**, will arrive in New Delhi on a three-day state visit to India.
- He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including senior Ministers and officials.
- He is scheduled to hold **bilateral meeting with Prime Minister** Narendra Modi tomorrow. External Affairs Ministry said, the **first state visit of Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** marks a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between India and Oman.
- The visiting dignitary will be given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhawan tomorrow morning. He will meet President Droupadi Murmu later in the evening. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will also call on the Sultan of Oman.



- India and Oman share a longstanding history of friendship and cooperation, built on the foundation of mutual trust and respect, and strong people-to-people ties going back centuries.
- India and Oman are **strategic partners and the bilateral trade and investment** relationship between the two nations has flourished over the years.
- The visit will be an opportunity to explore **avenues for future collaboration** between India and Oman for regional stability, progress and prosperity.

## **Aktocyte Tablets For Cancer**

- Scientists from the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and Bengaluru-based **IDRS Labs** have united their expertise to develop **Aktocyte tablets for the treatment of pelvic cancer**.
- The tablets, **designed as an adjuvant to** cancer radiotherapy, regenerative nutraceutical, immunomodulator, and antioxidant, mark a significant advancement in cancer care, according to a statement from the DAE.
- The collaboration reflects a synergy of knowledge and **resources from leading institutions**, combining their strengths to address the challenges posed by pelvic cancer treatment, specifically focusing on minimizing the side effects associated with radiotherapy.
- The primary aim of this collaborative effort is **to minimize the side effects of radiotherapy**, a crucial aspect of cancer treatment.
- Radiotherapy is a common therapeutic approach, but it often comes with significant side effects that **impact patients' quality of life**.



- By developing Aktocyte tablets as an **adjuvant to cancer radiotherapy**, the researchers aim to enhance the treatment's efficacy while reducing its adverse effects.
- Aktocyte tablets have been designed with multiple functions, making them a versatile addition to cancer treatment.
- Acting as a regenerative nutraceutical, the tablets aim **to support the body's natural healing processes**.
- Additionally, they **function as immunomodulators**, enhancing the body's immune response to cancer cells.
- The **antioxidant properties of Aktocyte** further contribute to protecting healthy cells from damage during the course of radiotherapy.

## Iran Waives Visa Requirements

- Iran has decided to unilaterally **cancel visa requirements** for visitors from 33 more countries including India.



- The list also includes Russia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Japan and the UAE.

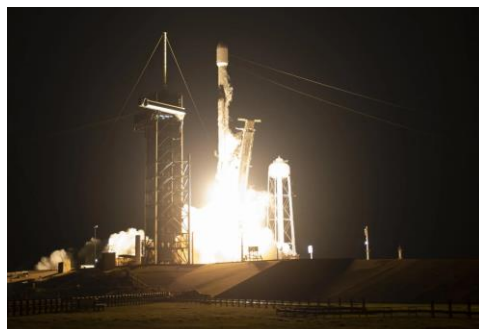
- The decision is aimed at **boosting tourist arrivals** and attracting more visitors from countries around the world.
- Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ezzatollah Zarghami said, efforts to boost tourism can neutralize Iranophobia campaigns.
- As a result of the decision, people of 45 countries or territories will be able to visit Iran without a visa now.

## PACE Mission

- **NASA PACE mission is all set for its 2024 launch the Plankton Aerosol Cloud Ocean ecosystem mission** with the aim of enhancing our **understanding of Earth's atmosphere.**



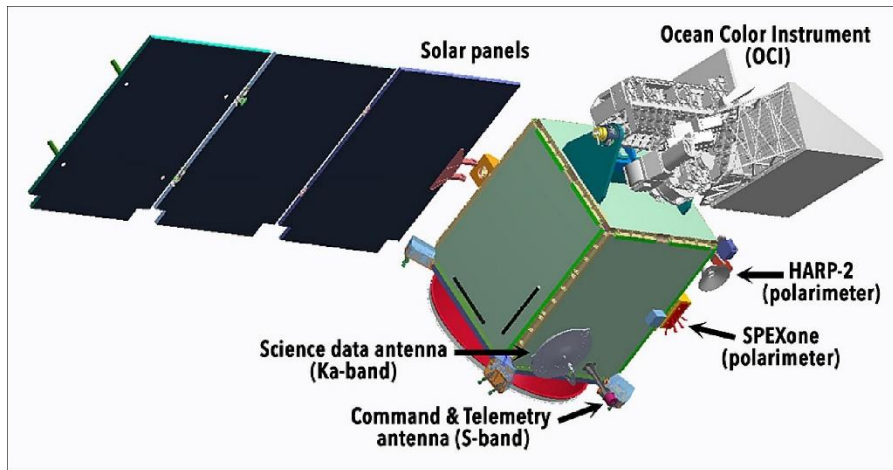
- The PACE mission will **continue and improve NASA's 20-year record of satellite** observations of global ocean biology, aerosols, and clouds.



- PACE will help us better understand how the **ocean and atmosphere exchange carbon dioxide**, measure key **atmospheric variables** associated with air quality and Earth's climate, and monitor ocean health, in part by studying **phytoplankton, tiny plants and algae** that sustain the marine food web.



- **Ocean Color Instrument (OCI)**, a primary science instrument on board, is specifically designed **to measure the ocean's color** across a wide spectral range, from ultraviolet to shortwave infrared.
- By analyzing the ocean color, scientists can gain **valuable insights into its health and ecosystem**.



- PACE mission will also feature two advanced polarimeters, the **Spectro-polarimeter for Planetary Exploration (SPEXone)** and the **Hyper Angular Research Polarimeter (HARP2)**.



- Engineers and technicians are now preparing the ground equipment for processing and fuelling before the final encapsulation.
- The PACE mission not only represents an exciting milestone in **NASA's scientific exploration** but also holds the promise of groundbreaking discoveries in aerosol, cloud, and ocean research.
- Through the collaboration of sophisticated instruments and cutting-edge technology, the world can expect a deeper understanding of **our planet's delicate ecosystem** and its role in shaping our future.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Which City Made Guinness World Record For Largest Reading Activity**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Pune
- C. New Delhi
- D. Lucknow

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Pune Made Guinness World Record For Largest Reading Activity & Surpassed**

- A. Japan
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Pakistan

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Which Book Did Parents Read Aloud From During The Guinness World Record Event In Pune**

- A. "निसर्गाचा नाश करू नाका" By Kshipra Shahane
- B. "The Art Of Parenting" By Savita Ladage
- C. "A Journey Through Indian Literature" By Prajakta Mali
- D. "The Magic Of Reading Together" By Vikram Kumar

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Purpose Of ADB's \$200 Million Loan For Swachh Bharat Mission-urban 2.0**

- A. Enhance Waste Management And Sanitation
- B. Power Supply
- C. Establish Air Purifiers
- D. Make Water Treatment Plant

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Haitham Bin Tarik Relates To Which Country**

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. UAE
- C. Oman
- D. Iran

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Aktocyte Tablets Developed For Treatment Of**

- A. Blood Cancer
- B. Pelvic Cancer
- C. Throat Cancer
- D. Stomach Cancer

**ANSWER: B**

**7. PACE Mission Is Launched By**

- A. ISRO
- B. ESA
- C. NASA
- D. JAXA

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Who Received Nyholm Prize For Education In Chemistry**

- A. Anita Panghal
- B. Savita Ladage
- C. Meira Chand
- D. Anita Desai

**ANSWER: B**

**9. What Award Did Indian Wrestler Antim Panghal Receive**

- A. Arjuna Award
- B. Khel Ratna Award
- C. Rising Star of the Year by UWW
- D. E-Sports Award

**ANSWER: C**

**10. In Which Country Did 3 Indian Officers Receive The Golden Owl Award**

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Russia
- C. UAE
- D. USA

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Which Institution Launched Its Retail Division, For Providing Loans To Borrowers In The PM-KUSUM Scheme**

- A. NABARD
- B. IREDA
- C. SIDBI
- D. NHB

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Who Was SR Bommai In Famous SR Bommai Judgment By Supreme Court**

- A. Owner Of A Newspaper
- B. Chief Minister Of A State
- C. A Civil Servant
- D. A Lawyer In Supreme Court

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Which Country Has Recently Devalued Its Currency Peso Against Dollar Significantly Recently**

- A. Chile
- B. Argentina
- C. Bolivia
- D. Paraguay

**ANSWER: B**

**14. The Term “Wakayama Soryu” That Was Recently In News, Denotes**

- A. A Fossil
- B. An Asteroid
- C. An Art Work
- D. A Tradition

**ANSWER: A**

**15. PM- Devine Scheme Is A New Venture Of Government Exclusively Targeted For Infrastructure Projects In**

- A. Most 150 Backward Districts
- B. Most Backward Tribal Areas
- C. North East India
- D. Coastal Regions

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Peace Activist Ali Abu Awwad, Recipient Of Indira Gandhi Prize For Peace, Disarmament, & Development Belongs To**

- A. Qatar
- B. Palestine
- C. Bangladesh
- D. India

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Antim Panghal Plays Which Sports**

- A. Badminton
- B. Cricket
- C. Wrestling
- D. Athletics

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Khan Younis, Seen In The News, Is A City In Which Country**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Who Has Been Named As 'Person Of The Year 2023' By Time Magazine**

- A. Volodymyr Zelensky
- B. Taylor Swift
- C. Simone Biles
- D. Xi Jinping

**ANSWER: B**

**20. Which Indian Woman Took Top Spot From India, In The Forbes' List Of 100 Most Powerful Women In 2023**

- A. Mary Kom
- B. Nirmala Sitharaman
- C. Roshni Nadar
- D. Madhuri Buch

**ANSWER: B**