

Daily Current Affairs

28 March 2024

Francis Scott Key Bridge

- In the US a major portion of **Francis Scott Key Bridge** collapsed after being struck by a container ship in Baltimore.
- The Baltimore city fire department officials described the collapse of the Bridge as a “**mass casualty multi agency incident**”.



- The conditions were unsafe for rescuers due to freezing conditions and limited visibility.
- The rescue workers are searching for around 20 people and multiple vehicles are believed to have fallen into river. The ship caught fire and appeared to sink after hitting the bridge.

New Zealand Govt Accuses China

- The **New Zealand government** said, it has raised concerns with the Chinese government about its involvement in a state-sponsored **cyber hack on New Zealand’s parliament** in 2021, which was uncovered by the country’s intelligence services.



- The revelations that information was accessed through malicious cyber activity targeting **New Zealand's parliamentary entities** comes as Britain and the U.S. accuse China of a widesweeping cyber espionage campaign. Both New Zealand and Australia have condemned the broader activity.
- **Zealand's Foreign Minister Winston Peters** said, foreign interference of this nature is unacceptable, and they have urged China to refrain from such activity in future.



- He said, concerns about **cyber activity** attributed to groups sponsored by the Chinese government, targeting democratic institutions in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom had been conveyed to the Chinese ambassador.

S Jaishankar Meets Singapore Prime Minister

- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar called on Singapore **Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong**.
- During the meeting, both the leaders exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific and West Asia.



- Dr Jaishankar said, his positive sentiments on India's relationship have always been a source of strength for our ties. He said, India valued the Singapore Prime Minister's perspectives on the current state of the world.
- Dr Jaishankar is on a **three-day visit to Singapore**. Earlier, the External Affairs Minister also met the Foreign Affairs Minister of Singapore Vivian Balakrishnan. During the meeting, they reviewed the progress of India and Singapore's bilateral cooperation.

Guinness World Record

- India made history by making a **Guinness World record** with participation of 128 players, on The World Kabaddi Day. The history was written at Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium of Panchkula in Haryana.



- An MOU recently signed between **Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA) and the Government of Haryana**, for the promotion of Kabaddi, globally, was one of the main reasons to choose India as a venue and Haryana in particular, for the event.



- While Guinness had set the record **benchmark for 84 players** to break the record, the organizers had challenged the record, with an **attempt for 154 players**.
- The record was finally broken with a **participation of 128 players** as declared by the Guinness adjudicator, Mr Swapnil Dangarikar.
- The **Guinness team presented the Guinness World record certificate** to the Governor of Haryana Bandaru Dattatreya who was the Chief Guest at the event.

Philippines Summons China's Envoy

- The **Philippines has summoned China's envoy** to protest against aggressive actions in the South China Sea at the weekend, as Manila's defence minister dared Beijing to bolster its vast sovereignty claims by taking them to international arbitration.
- The foreign **ministry accused China's coastguard** of using the water cannon against a civilian boat supplying troops on Saturday at the Second Thomas Shoal, which it said damaged the boat and injured some crew.
- The Philippines foreign ministry said in a statement that China's continued interference with the Philippines' routine and lawful activities in its own exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is unacceptable.



Prof Jayant Murthy

- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**, a global organization responsible for naming celestial objects, has bestowed a rare honour upon an Indian scientist.
- **Professor Jayant Murthy**, an esteemed astrophysicist, has been recognized for his remarkable contributions to the field by having an asteroid named after him – (215884) Jayantmurthy.



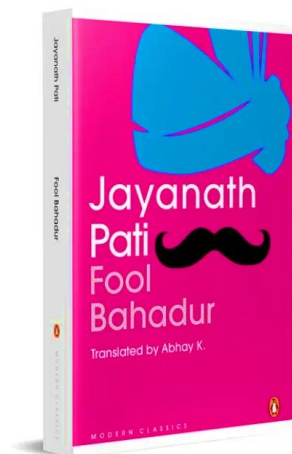
- **Originally discovered in 2005 by MW Buie** at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona, USA, and previously known as **2005 EX296**, this asteroid orbits the Sun between Mars and Jupiter every 3.3 years. Its new name, (215884) Jayantmurthy, will forever carry the rich legacy of the Indian scientist.

Phool Bahadur

- **Dibrugarh University International Literary Festival** witnessed the launch of a remarkable literary work – the English translation of the **first Magahi novel**, **‘Phool Bahadur’**. The translation was done by **Abhay K**, a **renowned writer** from Nalanda, Bihar.



- **‘Phool Bahadur’** was originally written by **Jayanath Pati** and **published in 1928**. Despite being the **first Magahi novel**, it failed to gain much popularity among readers initially.
- However, it has now been rediscovered and is gaining fame thanks to **Abhay K’s** English translation. The translator stumbled upon this literary gem while editing **‘The Book of Bihari Literature’**.



- Published by Penguin Random House India, **‘Phool Bahadur’** is a delightful novel set in the town of Biharsharif in Nalanda district of Bihar.
- The story revolves around the **ambitious Mukhtar Samlal**, and explores the harmonious yet exploitative relationships between a Nawab, a courtesan, and a

circle officer. Each character tries to manipulate the others, with Mukhtar's sole goal being to acquire the title of Rai Bahadur.

India's Oldest Temple

- The **Archaeological Survey Of India (ASI)** Is Conducting Excavations At Two Mounds In Nachne Village, Located In The **Panna District Of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The Goal Of These Excavations Is To Uncover What Could Potentially Be The **Oldest Temple In India**.
- The Excavation Sites Are Situated Just 30 Meters Away From Two Ancient Temples – A Gupta-era **Parvati Temple And The Chaumukh Nath Temple** Built By The **Kalachuri Dynasty**.



- These Temples, Known As The **Nachna Hindu Temples**, Are Among The Earliest Surviving Stone Temples In Central India, Alongside Those Found In Bhumara And Deogarh.
- While The Exact Date Of The Nachna Temples Is Uncertain, Their Architectural Style Is Comparable To Structures From The **5th Or 6th-century Gupta Empire** Era.
- The **Chaturmukh Temple**, Specifically, Dates Back To The 9th Century And Reflects The **North Indian Style Of Hindu Temple** Architecture.
- Madhya Pradesh Is Home To **Several Ancient Temples**, Including The '**Sanchi 17**', A Gupta-period Shrine Considered To Be The Oldest Complete Surviving Temple In India To Date, Dating Back To The **5th Century CE**.



- Temple No. 17 At Sanchi Serves As A Prime Example Of The Simplicity And **Grandeur Of The Gupta Period.**
- This Stunning Temple Features A Modest, Flat-roofed Sanctum With A Porch Boasting Four Front Pillars. The Sanctum's Ceiling Is Slightly Higher Than The Portico's Roof. While The Interior And Exterior Remain Unadorned, The Pillars Are Exquisitely Carved With Inverted Lotuses, And The Capital Supporting The Roof Features Small Lions.
- As One Of The Earliest Examples Of Temple Architecture In India, Temple No. 17 Holds Great Historical Significance.



- **Neighboring Temple No. 18** Is Believed To Have Been A Stone-and-brick Temple From The 2nd Century CE, But Little Of Its Original Structure Remains.
- Although It **Dwarfs Temple No. 17** In Size, Much Of Its Structure Has Been Lost, With Only The Foundation And A Handful Of Pillars Remaining.

- This **Chaitya Temple** Boasted A Horseshoe-shaped Plan And Is Thought To Have Housed A Stupa Within Its Walls. The Excavations In Nachne Village Hold The Potential To Uncover Invaluable Insights Into India's Ancient Architectural And Cultural Heritage, Further Enriching Our Understanding Of The Country's Rich History.

Australian Football League

- Manipur is known as a **Sports Power House of India** despite being a small State in size and population.
- The State has a huge potential in Sports. Among the various disciplines of Sports, Manipur has an excellent record in the field of football.
- The **woman footballer Bala Devi** from Manipur is already known for playing for the **Scottish Women's Premier League** Club- Ranger FC.



- The Union Minister Kiren Rijiju even named Bala Devi, the Pride of India Football. Now another woman footballer from Manipur, **Elangbam Panthoi Chanu** from Keirakhas set a record by becoming a footballer in the international arena.
- The people of Manipur are still celebrating **dominance in northeastern sports** by clinching the title of overall champion in the recently concluded 3rd North **East Games held in Nagaland**.
- Another woman footballer from Manipur added a feather by becoming **the first Indian footballer** to play in the Australian League.

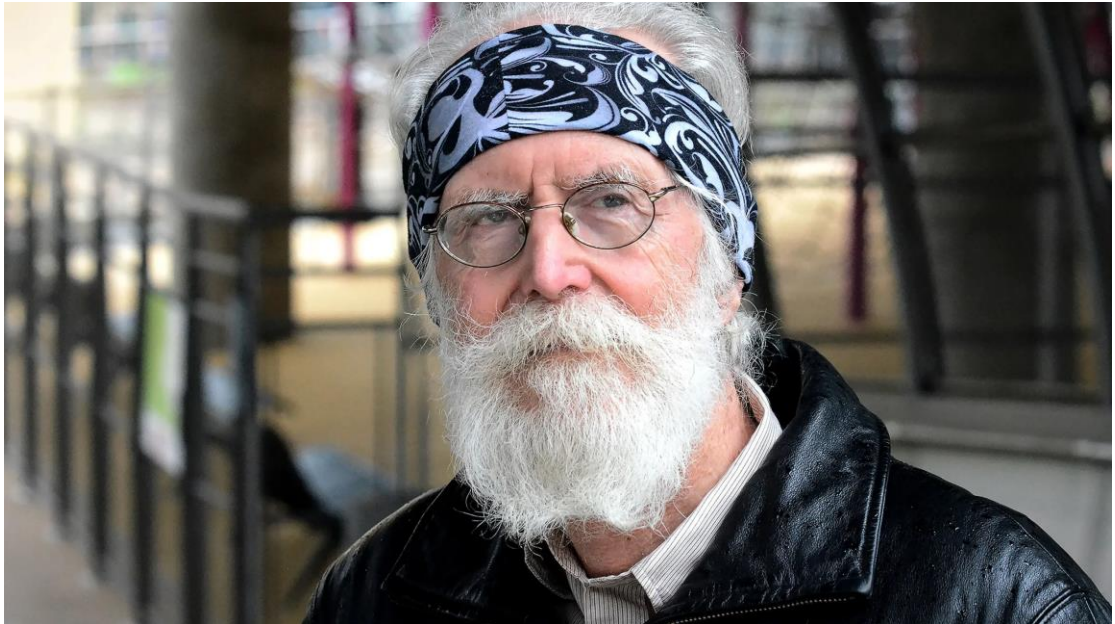
- The woman footballer Elangbam Panthoi Chanu from Keirak, a small village in the Kakching district of Manipur is the **current goalkeeper for the Indian National Team**.



- She is going to be the **first Indian footballer to play** professionally in Australia. Footballer Panthoi will represent Metro United WFC in the South Australia Women's National Premier League.
- After the record set by Manipur woman footballer Bala Devi in the international arena, another footballer Panthoi from the State has become a role model for aspiring footballers, especially young girls in Manipur. Moreover, the footballer has become a hope for countless young athletes across the country.

2024 Abel Prize

- **Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters** has awarded the 2024 Abel Prize to **Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)**, Paris, France.
- Talagrand received the prestigious prize "for his groundbreaking contributions to **probability theory and functional analysis**, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics."
- The common theme in Michel Talagrand's pioneering discoveries is working with and understanding the random processes we see all around us.
- In today's world, a thorough understanding of random phenomena is essential, as random algorithms underpin our weather forecasting and large language models. Much of Talagrand's work involves understanding and utilizing the "**Gaussian distribution**", also known as the "**normal distribution**" or the "bell curve".



- Our whole life is guided by the Gaussian distribution, from the weight of babies at birth to the test results students get at school and the ages athletes retire at.
- **Suprema of stochastic processes:** A stochastic process produces a sequence of random values, and the “supremum” is the largest value expected from a collection of those values.
- Understanding the supremum helps predict extreme events, like the largest wave to hit a beach next year.
- Talagrand has given sharp quantitative estimates for the counterintuitive phenomenon where different sources of randomness can compensate for each other, leading to more predictable results.
- Leaving abstract probability theory behind, Talagrand used his knowledge of statistics and probability to prove limits on how “**spin glass**” matter, a special form of matter that atoms can arrange themselves in, can behave. This completed the proof of **Giorgio Parisi’s Nobel Prize-winning work (2021)**.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Francis Scott Key Bridge Which Recently Collapsed Located In

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Australia
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

2. Name Seen In News Prof Jayant Murthy Is

- A. Astronaut
- B. Astrophysicist
- C. Singer
- D. Dancer

ANSWER: B

3. Elangbam Panthoi Chanu Seen In News Is Related To

- A. Tennis
- B. Football
- C. Cricket
- D. Badminton

ANSWER: B

4. Which Country Announced A Ban On Disposable E-cigarettes Or Vapes

- A. Australia
- B. New Zealand
- C. Poland
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: B

5. Order Of Druk Gyalpo' Award Is Highest Civilian Honour Award Of Which Country

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. Myanmar
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: A

6. Which Ministry Notified PIB's Fact Check Unit Under IT Rules 2021

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Communications
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

ANSWER: C

7. Dachigam National Park Is Located In Which State/UT

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

8. Gulaal Gota Is A Traditional Festival Of Which City

- A. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- B. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
- C. Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
- D. Surat, Gujarat

ANSWER: A

9. Where Were The First Foreign Office Consultations Between India And Mauritania Organized

- A. New Delhi
- B. Nouadhibou
- C. Nouakchott
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: C

10. Which Country Recently Performed The First Transplant Of A Genetically Modified Kidney From A Pig Into A Living Human

- A. US
- B. UK
- C. India
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

11. Who Received 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024' For Contributions To The Field Of Regenerative Medicine

- A. Pradeep Mahajan
- B. Ashok Saraf
- C. Babasaheb Purandare
- D. Anil Kakodkar

ANSWER: A

12. Which Country Become 97th Member To Ratify International Solar Alliance

- A. Iran
- B. Egypt
- C. Panama
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: C

13. Which State Became The First State In India To Declare Man-animal Conflict A State-specific Disaster

- A. Gujarat
- B. Kerala
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: B

14. Aghanashini Estuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: D

15. Which Organization Published A First National Report On AMR Surveillance In India's Fisheries, Livestock Sectors For 2019-22

- A. WHO
- B. FAO
- C. UNESCO
- D. UNEP

ANSWER: B

16. Shipra River Is Located On The Banks Of Which City

- A. Ujjain
- B. Varanasi
- C. Mathura
- D. Vadodara

ANSWER: A

17. What Is The Theme Of World TB Day 2024

- A. Invest to End TB. Save Lives
- B. Yes! We Can End TB!
- C. The Clock is Ticking
- D. Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free World

ANSWER: B

18. What Is The Theme For World Meteorological Day 2024

- A. At The Frontline Of Climate Action
- B. Early Warning And Early Action
- C. The Ocean, Our Climate And Weather
- D. Climate And Water

ANSWER: A

19. Global E-waste Monitor 2024 Report Is Released By

- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- D. World Bank

ANSWER: C

20. Who Is Poised To Become Ireland's Youngest Prime Minister At The Age Of 37

- A. Leo Varadkar
- B. Simon Harris
- C. Micheal Martin
- D. Mary Lou McDonald

ANSWER: B