

Daily Current Affairs

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2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners Announced

- The prestigious **Pulitzer Prizes for 2024** were announced by Columbia University in the United States of America.
- The awards, considered the most prestigious in the fields of journalism and arts, were conferred by Columbia University on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- The Pulitzer Prize was **established by Joseph Pulitzer**, a newspaper owner who, in 1904, provided funds for the foundation of the Pulitzer Prize as an incentive for excellence in journalism, arts, and culture. He donated money to the Faculty of Journalism at Columbia University to administer the prizes.
- The **first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded in 1917**, and they continue to recognize outstanding achievements in these fields annually.

Category	Winner
Public Service	Pro Publica (Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski, and Kirsten Berg)
Investigative Reporting	Hannah Dreier (The New York Times)
International Reporting	Staff of The New York Times
Editorial Writing	David E. Hoffman (The Washington Post)
Breaking News Photography	Photography Staff of Reuters
Feature Photography	Photography Staff of Associated Press
Audio Reporting	Staff of the Invisible Institute and USG Audio

Category	Winner
Fiction	Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips
Drama	Primary Trust by Eboni Booth
History	No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era by Jacqueline Jones
Biography	King: A Life by Jonathan Eig Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom by Ilyon Woo
Memoir and Autobiography	Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice by Cristina Rivera Garza
Poetry	Tripas: Poems by Brandon Som
Music	Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith) by Tyshawn Sorey
General Nonfiction	A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy by Nathan Thrall

Russia's Batagaika Crater

- **Batagaika Crater, also spelled as Batagay,** often referred to as the “gateway to the underworld,” is in the permafrost regions of Siberia, Russia and is known for its significant size and rapid expansion.
- Recent studies have shown that the crater is growing at an **alarming rate of 35 million cubic feet** every year due to the thawing of the permafrost.
- Originally **identified in 1991** via satellite imagery, the Batagaika Crater was formed after a section of hillside in the Yana Uplands of northern Yakutia, Russia, collapsed.



- This event revealed ancient permafrost layers that have been frozen for as long as 650,000 years, making it the oldest known **permafrost in Siberia** and the second oldest globally.
- The collapse of the hillside not only exposed these ancient icy layers but also initiated a continuous process of melting and sinking, primarily driven by global temperature rises impacting permafrost areas.



- The permafrost thaw rate around the crater's cliff face is currently estimated at approximately **40 feet (12 metres) per year**, contributing to the increasing size of this geological feature.
- The dimensions of the **Batagaika Crater** have shown significant changes over recent years. In 2014, the width was recorded at 2,600 feet (790 m), and by 2023, it had expanded to 3,250 feet (990 m).
- This rapid expansion has resulted in vast amounts of ice and sediment, equivalent to over **14 Great Pyramids of Giza**, being lost since the initial collapse event.

“School on Wheels”

- **Manipur's government introduces the “School on Wheels”** program, aiming to provide education to students sheltered in relief camps across the state.
- The initiative, inaugurated by **Governor Anusuiya Uikey**, entails a mobile educational setup equipped with a library, computers, and sports items, accompanied by a teacher, to visit various camps.
- The **“School on Wheels” initiative** addresses the educational gap caused by the year-long ethnic conflict and subsequent displacement, particularly impacting the student population of Manipur.



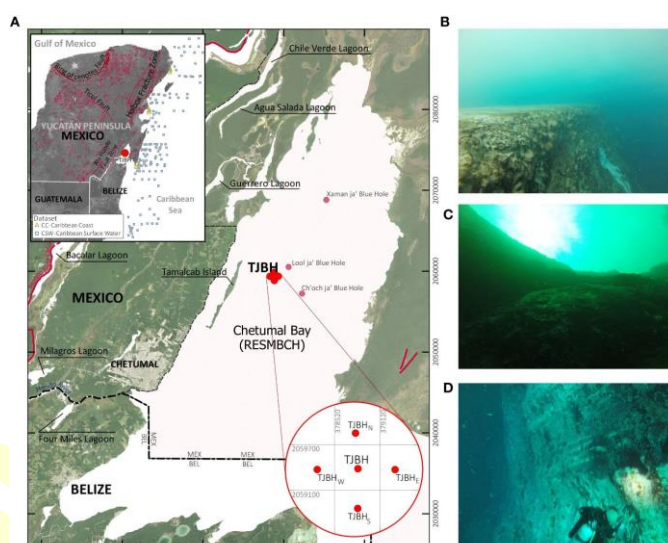
- Governor Uikey emphasizes the significance of reaching out to students in relief camps and providing them with essential education during this challenging period.
- Acknowledging the plight of displaced individuals, Governor Uikey expresses her empathy and pledges support by directing the state authorities to facilitate a process for the permanent settlement of those residing in relief camps.
- This comprehensive **approach aims to not only provide immediate** educational support but also work towards long-term solutions for the affected communities.

World's Deepest Blue Hole

- Scientists have recently unveiled the **Taam Ja' Blue Hole in Mexico's Chetumal Bay** as the deepest known blue hole globally, plunging to an astounding depth of 1,380 feet.
- Surpassing its predecessor, the **Sansha Yongle Blue Hole**, by 480 feet, this chasm presents an exciting prospect for scientific investigation and the potential unearthing of novel marine species.



- Initial measurements of the Taam Ja' Blue Hole in 2021 left much to speculate, registering only **900 feet with** echo-sounders. However, a recent expedition equipped with cutting-edge technology, including a state-of-the-art CTD profiler, provided deeper insights into its profundity.
- Despite exhaustive efforts, researchers were unable to fathom its depths, encountering potential hindrances such as underwater ledges or formidable **currents at 1,380 feet.**



- This mysterious depth prompts inquiries into the configuration and conceivable interconnectedness of subterranean cave systems within the blue hole. There is widespread conjecture regarding the presence of undiscovered life forms inhabiting the recesses of the **Taam Ja' Blue Hole.**
- Scientists postulate that this submerged domain might house a labyrinth of **caverns and passageways bustling** with unseen aquatic life, adept at flourishing in the harsh conditions of darkness and pressure.
- Drawing parallels to analogous findings in blue holes in the Bahamas, where unique bacteria were **found thriving in absolute darkness**, researchers propose that such extreme habitats offer invaluable insights into the potential for extraterrestrial life.

UK Court Rejects The Bail Plea

- A UK court has rejected the bail plea of **fugitive businessman Nirav Modi**, saying he continued to pose a substantial risk of absconding justice.
- Nirav Modi, who has been in prison in London for over five years, made a new bail application. Declared a fugitive economic offender in December 2019, Nirav

Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi are accused of committing a 14,000 crore rupee scam by obtaining credit facilities fraudulently from the Punjab National Bank and are wanted in India.



- The 52-year-old diamond merchant, who lost his extradition battle to face fraud and money laundering charges in India, did not appear for the bail hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court in London, but his son and two daughters were present on his behalf.
- **A joint Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) team had arrived from India for the hearing and followed the proceedings in court.**

Pickleball Championships

- India **clinched three gold and two bronze medals** at the **Asian Open Pickleball Championships** in Vietnam.
- Sachin Pahwa and Priyanka Chhabra led **India to its first gold medal**, defeating Ruben Hellberg and Chitlada Hemasee 11-9, 5-11, 11-9, in the mixed doubles intermediate 35+ category final.
- While in the women's doubles open category, the pair of Isha Lakhani and Pei Chuan Kao bagged the gold medal with a dominating 15-7, 15-3 win against **Dang Kim Ngan and Tyak K.**
- In the men's doubles, India's Aniket Patel and Rohit Patil claimed the yellow metal despite losing the opening game.
- The duo defeated Nik Alessandro Isagan and Lester Ga 5-11, 11-6, and 11-8 in the final. In the men's singles advance 35+ category, Vijay Menon defeated Yu Hsuan Cher to secure the bronze, while in the women's singles intermediate 35+

event, Priyanka Chhabra defeated Marissa Phongsirikul, earning India another bronze medal.



Boxing Championships

- In boxing, the Indian contingent wrapped up their electrifying journey at the ASBC Asian U-22 and Youth Boxing Championships with a remarkable haul of 43 medals in Astana, Kazakhstan.



- This includes 12 gold, 14 silver, and 17 bronze medals from both categories. The Indian U-22 team finished with 21 medals, including seven gold, five silver, and nine bronze medals, yesterday, while the youth section bagged 22 medals, including five gold, nine silver, and eight bronze medals, on Monday. India finished with the second-highest medal count, only behind the hosts, Kazakhstan, who have won 48 medals.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Was The First Indian To Win A Pulitzer Prize

- A. Gobind Behari Lal
- B. Geeta Anand
- C. Siddhartha Mukherjee
- D. Adnan Abidi

ANSWER: A

2. Who Designed The Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal

- A. Daniel Chester French and Henry Augustus Lukeman
- B. Barbara Kingsolver & Henry Augustus Lukeman
- C. Joseph Pulitzer & Daniel Chester French
- D. Gobind Behari Lal & Barbara Kingsolver

ANSWER: A

3. When Was Pulitzer Prize For Poetry Category Introduced

- A. 1920
- B. 1921
- C. 1922
- D. 1923

ANSWER: C

4. Where Was The 26th ASEAN- Indian Senior Officials' Meeting Held

- A. New Delhi
- B. Jaipur
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: A

5. What is 'MQ-9B Predator'

- A. A technique used to remove pest from crop
- B. High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- C. Nuclear Ballistic Submarine
- D. Earth Observation Satellite

ANSWER: B

6. Which Asset Management Company Has Launched India's First Nifty Non-Cyclical Index Fund

- A. Groww Mutual Fund
- B. Axis Mutual Fund
- C. UTI Mutual Fund
- D. Invesco Mutual Fund

ANSWER: A

7. Border Road Organization Comes Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Civil Aviation
- B. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- C. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: D

8. What is 'Choline'

- A. Nutrient
- B. Pesticide
- C. Virus
- D. Invasive plant

ANSWER: A

9. What is the IUCN Status Of Orangutan

- A. Endangered
- B. Critically endangered
- C. Vulnerable
- D. Least concern

ANSWER: B

10. What Is The Main Objective Of Indian National Center For Ocean Information Services

- A. To provide agricultural data and services
- B. To monitor and forecast weather patterns
- C. To provide ocean data, information, and advisory services
- D. To conduct research on space exploration

ANSWER: C

11. What Is The Primary Habitat Of 'Red Squirrel'

- A. Tropical rainforests
- B. Desert regions
- C. Coniferous forests
- D. Grasslands

ANSWER: C

12. What Is Another Name For 'India VIX'

- A. Fear Index
- B. Finance Index
- C. Dark Index
- D. Stock Index

ANSWER: A

13. What Is Theme Of 'World Asthma Day 2024'

- A. Closing Gaps in Asthma Care
- B. Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
- C. Enough Asthma Deaths
- D. Asthma Education Empowers

ANSWER: D

14. Tirthahalli Region IS In News Due To Areca Nut, Is Located In Which State

- A. Telangana
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: C

15. Polavaram Water Project Is Associated With Which State

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: D

16. Lake Maracaibo Is Located In Which Country

- A. Venezuela
- B. Mexico
- C. Malaysia
- D. Ukraine

ANSWER: A

17. Who Is Set To Become The First Minister Of Scotland

- A. Nicola Sturgeon
- B. Alex Salmond
- C. Kate Forbes
- D. John Swinney

ANSWER: D

18. Who Has Been Appointed As The President Of The Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal

- A. Rakesh Kumar Gupta
- B. Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
- C. Anil Kumar Singh
- D. Vikram Singh Chauhan

ANSWER: B

19. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. The Famous Book ' Brihat Katha' Was Written By__

- A. Gunadhya
- B. Sarva Varman
- C. Panini
- D. Radhagupt

ANSWER: A