

Daily Current Affairs

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98.21% Of ₹2000 Notes Returned To Banking System

- Reserve Bank of India, RBI, has said **98.21 per cent of the 2000 rupee bank notes** have been returned to the banking system. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of bank notes of the 2000 Rupee denomination from circulation.



- The RBI said in a statement issued that the total value of 2000 Rs banknotes in **circulation was 3.56 lakh crore Rs at the close of business** on May 19, 2023. It has since declined to 6,366 crore Rs at the close of business on March 31 this year.
- The facility for deposit and/or **exchange of the Rs 2000 banknotes** was available at all bank branches till October 7, 2023. However, this facility is still available at the **19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank**. People can also send Rs 2000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country to any of the RBI-issued offices for credit to their bank accounts. The 2000 Rs banknotes continue to be legal tender

'Lakhpati Baideo' Programme

- Assam launched the '**Lakhpati Baideo**' programme. This initiative aims to empower **women entrepreneurs** through **financial support and training**. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the scheme, which targets 40 lakh women self-help group (SHG) members. The programme is designed to enhance **women's financial independence and promote rural entrepreneurship**.



- The Lakhpati Baideo scheme provides financial assistance to women SHG members. It **offers ₹10,000 as seed capital** in the first year. Beneficiaries can receive **₹25,000 in the second year and ₹50,000 in the third year** based on their business success. The total estimated cost of the scheme is ₹4,000 crore. The scheme focuses on women from SHGs across Assam.
- It aims to uplift those in general, **OBC, SC, and ST categories**. Specific eligibility criteria include family size restrictions. General and OBC beneficiaries cannot have more than three children, while SC and ST beneficiaries are limited to four.

Uttarakhand Government Renames 15 Places

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the **renaming of 15 places across Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital**, and Udham Singh Nagar districts, aiming to align with public sentiment and Indian cultural heritage. The move seeks to honor great historical figures and inspire the people of the state.

Renamed Places in Haridwar District

1. **Aurangzebpur → Shivaji Nagar**
2. **Gajiwali → Arya Nagar**
3. **Chandpur → Jyotiba Phule Nagar**
4. **Mohammadpur Jat → Mohanpur Jat**
5. **Khanpur Kursli → Ambedkar Nagar**
6. **Indrishpur → Nandpur**
7. **Khanpur → Shri Krishna Pur**
8. **Akbarpur Fazalpur → Vijayanagar**



Renamed Places in Dehradun District

9. **Miyanwala → Ramji Wala**
10. **Pirwala → Kesari Nagar**
11. **Chandpur Khurd → Prithviraj Nagar**
12. **Abdullah Nagar → Daksh Nagar**

Renamed Places in Nainital District

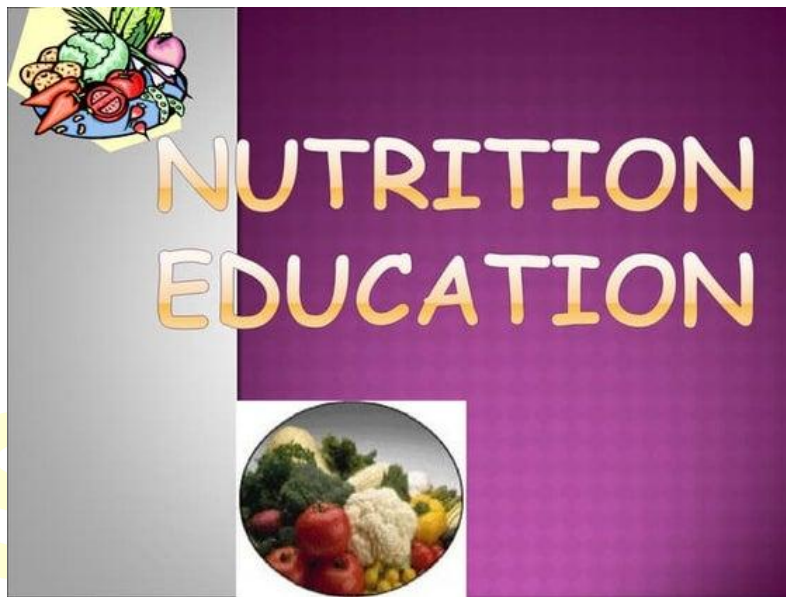
13. **Nawabi Road → Atal Marg**
14. **Panchakki to ITI Road → Guru Golwalkar Marg**

Renamed Place in Udham Singh Nagar District

15. **Sultanpur Patti Municipal Council → Kaushalya Puri**

UNESCO's "Education And Nutrition – Learn To Eat Well"

- During the 'Nutrition for Growth' event hosted by France on March 27-28, 2025, UNESCO releases a new report highlighting meal quality. Titled **Education and Nutrition: Learn to Eat Well**, the report urged governments to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals worldwide. Despite nearly half of primary school pupils receiving meals, the report marks concern regarding their nutritional value.



- The need for balanced meals and food education is paramount for the health and learning of children. As of 2024, **approximately 47% of primary school** pupils globally benefited from school meals. However, the nutritional quality of these meals is often inadequate.



- UNESCO stresses that improving meal quality is essential for reducing child undernourishment and supporting academic performance. Studies indicate that

nutritious meals can boost enrolment and attendance rates . **In 2022, 27% of school meals were** not designed with input from nutritionists. **Only 93 out of 187 evaluated countries** had any legislation regarding school food. Furthermore, **just 65% of these countries** had standards for food sold in cafeterias and vending machines.

Gold Mercury Award For Peace And Sustainability

- **Spiritual leader The Dalai Lama** was honored with the **Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability** at a special ceremony held at his residence in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, on April 1, 2025. The award was presented by Gold Mercury International, a globally recognized think tank dedicated to promoting peace, governance, and sustainable development. Gold Mercury Award is a prestigious international honor originally established in Italy.



- It recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to **world peace, good governance, and sustainable development.**
- Over the years, the award has been presented in major global cities such as Brussels, Moscow, Madrid, and Washington. The award has become a symbol of **ethical leadership and global responsibility.** Dalai Lama's lifelong advocacy for non-violence, human rights, and environmental sustainability made him an ideal recipient.

- He has consistently defended the **rights of the Tibetan people through** non-violent means. Long before climate change became a major global issue, the Dalai Lama warned of the urgent need to protect the environment.
- His **teachings emphasize universal responsibility**, interfaith dialogue, and the interconnectedness of humanity.

GI Tag

- **Saudagari block print, a traditional craft** practiced by artisans in Jamalpur, Ahmedabad, has been officially recognized with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This **unique handcrafted textile art has been** preserved for generations and continues to be a significant part of Gujarat's cultural heritage. Saudagari block printing is an **ancient textile printing technique** that has been practiced in Ahmedabad for nearly 300 years. The art involves intricate designs hand-printed on fabric, using natural dyes and traditional methods.



- Historically, this craft flourished in the Jamalpur area of Ahmedabad, where the **Khida community was actively engaged** in large-scale block printing. Over time, however, due to industrialization and modern technology, the craft began to decline.
- **Kumbakonam betel leaf of Thanjavur and the Thovalai flower garland** of Kanyakumari have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by the Government of India. This recognition brings the total number of GI products from Tamil Nadu to 62. The announcement was made after a four-month review period, with the official GI status published in the Government Gazette on November 30, 2024.



Sarhul Festival

- Sarhul festival marks cultural event for **Adivasis in Jharkhand and the Chhotanagpur region**. Celebrated in spring, it venerates the Sal tree, which is central to Adivasi tradition. This festival represents a deep connection to nature and the cycle of life. It marks the Adivasi community's agricultural practices and their spiritual beliefs.



- **The Sal tree, or Shorea robusta, holds a sacred place in Adivasi culture.** It is believed to be the **dwelling of Sarna Maa**, the deity who protects villages. The tree is not only a source of livelihood but also a symbol of the unity between the Sun and the Earth, which is essential for life.

ZooWIN Platform

- India faces a critical health challenge with rabies and snakebite fatalities. The government has **introduced ZooWIN, a digital platform** aimed at real-time monitoring of **anti-rabies vaccines and anti-snake venom stocks**.
- This initiative seeks to enhance healthcare delivery across the country and reduce mortality rates associated with these conditions. Rabies causes **approximately 60,000 deaths worldwide** each year, with India accounting for about 36%.



- Additionally, **snakebites result in around 50,000 fatalities** annually in the country. The need for effective management of these health crises prompted the development of ZooWIN.
- The platform will centralise data, facilitating better collaboration among healthcare providers, municipal authorities, and veterinary services. ZooWIN operates **similarly to the Co-WIN and U-WIN platforms**. It leverages the existing infrastructure of the **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**. The platform will provide real-time tracking of vaccine stocks and ensure timely administration to victims of animal bites and snake bites.
- It aims to increase the availability of **anti-rabies vaccines and anti-snake venom** in health facilities. The pilot programme **for ZooWIN will launch in five states** – Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh. Training sessions for state health officials have already been conducted, with more

planned at state and district levels. This phased approach ensures that healthcare providers are well-equipped to utilise the platform effectively.

Locomotive Production

- Won India Has Surpassed **The United States And Europe** By Producing **One Thousand 681 Locomotives** During The Financial Year 2024-25. The Ministry Of Railways Said That This Marks **An Increase Of 19 %**, Compared To The 1,472 Locomotives Produced In The Previous Financial Year 2023-24.



- Record-breaking **Production Is The Highest Ever For Locomotive Manufacturing** In The Country, Reflecting The Significant Achievements Of **All Units In Enhancing Railway Infrastructure** And Capacity. It Added That Locomotive Manufacturing Has Witnessed A Significant Surge In Ten **Years Since 2014 By Producing 9,168 Locomotives**, Raising The Annual Average To Approximately 917.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Organization Released Report Education & Nutrition Learn To Eat Well

- A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- C. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D. World Bank

ANSWER: B

2. Gold Mercury Award For Peace And Sustainability Is Awarded To

- A. Dalai Lama
- B. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- C. Pope Francis
- D. Muhammad Ibn Abdullāh

ANSWER: A

3. Saudagari Block Print Recently Receives GI Tag Belongs From

- A. Kerala
- B. Gujarat
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: B

4. Kumbakonam Betel Leaf Recently Receives GI Tag Belongs From

- A. Kerala
- B. Gujarat
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: C

5. Thovalai flower Recently Receives GI Tag Belongs From

- A. Kerala
- B. Gujarat
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: C

6. Sarhul Festival Celebrated In

- A. Haryana
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

7. 'Lakhpati Baideo ' Programme Related To

- A. Youth Artisans
- B. Women Entrepreneurs
- C. Scientists
- D. Teachers

ANSWER: B

8. ZooWIN Platform Deals With

- A. Rabies
- B. TB
- C. Dengue
- D. Diabetes

ANSWER: A

9. Scarborough Shoal, Is Located In Which Sea

- A. East China Sea
- B. Red Sea
- C. South China Sea
- D. Black Sea

ANSWER: C

10. Which Country Is The Host Of 6th BIMSTEC Summit

- A. Bangladesh
- B. India
- C. Thailand
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: C

11. Which Country Has Launched The “Perm Nuclear Powered Submarine”

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Australia
- D. India

ANSWER: A

12. Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Gujarat
- B. Odisha
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

13. Parbati-II Hydroelectric Project, is located in which state

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Punjab
- D. Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER: D

14. Lok Sabha Passed A Bill To Establish Tribhuvan Sahkari University In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: C

15. Which District In Jharkhand Has Become The First To Launch A Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) Screening Campaign

- A. Ranchi
- B. Palamu
- C. West Singhbhum
- D. Hazaribagh

ANSWER: A

16. Which Day Is Observed As National Maritime Day Every Year In India

- A. April 2
- B. April 4
- C. April 5
- D. April 6

ANSWER: C

17. What Was The Total Vehicle Production In India Under The 'Make In India' Initiative For The Year 2023-24

- A. 25 million
- B. 28 million
- C. 30 million
- D. 32 million

ANSWER: B

18. What Is India's Ranking In The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index For 2024 Out Of 166 Countries

- A. 95th
- B. 109th
- C. 120th
- D. 130th

ANSWER: B

19. Which Nation Is Associated With "Quiet Revolution" Of The 1960s

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Russia
- D. Canada

ANSWER: D

20. Kemal Ataturk Is Known As Founder And Builder Of Modern_____

- A. Turkey
- B. Georgia
- C. Syria
- D. Kuwait

ANSWER: A