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Current Affairs

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Today's Important News

NITI Aayog launches National Birth Defects Awareness Month 2024



1. NITI Aayog launches National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024

- “Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is an aspirational scheme which covers half of India’s health and that can be instrumental in child health too along with existing Rashtriya Bal Swashtya Karyakram.” Speaking on the occasion, Dr Paul lauded Rashtriya Bal Swashtya Karyakram which is proving to be a catalyst in child health.
- This was stated by Dr. V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog as he launched the National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024 in the august presence of Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



2. PM Modi launches Multiple development projects worth Rs 7200 crore in Arambagh Hooghly West Bengal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for an array of development projects worth Rs 7,200 crore in Arambagh, situated in West Bengal's Hooghly district. The projects span diverse sectors including rail, ports, oil pipeline, LPG supply, and wastewater treatment.
- In his address, PM Modi underscored India's rapid strides in the 21st century and reiterated the nation's commitment to achieving full development by 2047. He



emphasized the government's dedication to empowering various segments of society, including youth, women, farmers, and the underprivileged, highlighting the tangible impact of policies in lifting 25 crore people out of poverty.

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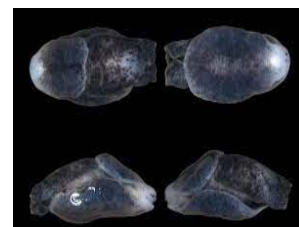
About West Bengal:

Capital: Kolkata

Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee

3.ZSI names a newly discovered head – shield sea slug after President Droupadi Murmu

- Scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), who have discovered a new species of headshield sea slug in the Bay of Bengal along the Odisha-West Bengal coast, have named it after President Droupadi Murmu.
- “The new species, discovered in Udaipur and Digha coast in Odisha and West Bengal, respectively, was named *Melanochlamys droupadi* in honour of the President,” said Dhriti Banerjee, director, ZSI. The proposed common name of the new species is Droupadi’s headshield sea slug, said one of the scientists who discovered the species.



4.9th SHAKTI International Women Entrepreneurs Summit

- Union Minister for MSME Shri Narayan Rane said in the last 10 years, under the transformative leadership of the respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, better policies as well as a better environment were created to promote women entrepreneurship, as a result of which there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of women entrepreneurs in India.
- Addressing the 9th Annual Shakti International Women Entrepreneurs Summit held in New Delhi today he said we are extremely proud to say that there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of women entrepreneurs in the MSME sector also. Shri Rane said today more than 1.40 crore MSMEs are led by women. The Union Minister said Zed Certification of women owned MSMEs is now completely free.



5. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Leads Review Meeting on National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Performance in New Delhi

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the meeting to review the performance of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) in New Delhi.
- To date, NaBFID has made total sanctions of more than ₹86,804 crore, with projects spread across the country and in diversified sub-sectors of infrastructure, such as Roads, Renewable Power, Ports, Railways, Water and Sanitation, City Gas Distribution, etc.



6. Union Minister launches revamped Jiyo Parsi Programme and Avesta – Pahlavi Language Centre

- In the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, the Ministry of Minority Affairs Smriti Zubin Irani launched the revamped Jiyo Parsi Programme and the Avesta-Pahlavi Language Centre at the Mumbai University in an event at New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the importance of the revival of languishing languages, especially those related to notified minority communities.
- The Ministry of Minority Affairs in collaboration with Mumbai University aims to establish the Centre and required infrastructure for undertaking certificate courses, diploma courses, and PhD programs with an amount of 11.20 Crore rupees.



7. Ministry of women and child Development Organizes 'Poshan Utsav: Celebrating Nutrition' in Delhi

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized the Poshan Utsav at The Oberoi on 29th February 2024. The event aimed to promote good nutrition behavior and highlighted India's ongoing efforts to combat malnutrition by promoting good nutrition practices.
- The event was graced by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, and Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).



8. Former Canadian PM Brian Mulroney dies at age of 84

- Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian Prime Minister known for his transformative policies and complex legacy, has died at the age of 84. His passing marks the end of an era in Canadian politics and prompts reflections on his significant contributions and controversies.
- Brian Mulroney led the center-right Progressive Conservatives to a historic victory in 1984, defeating Pierre Trudeau's Liberals. His nine-year tenure was marked by significant policy reforms, including the negotiation of the Canada-United States Free Trade.



9. IPS officer Daljit Singh Chawdhary appointed as new director General of NSG

- Daljit Singh Chaudhary, a 1990 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG), marking a significant development in India's security apparatus. Chaudhary, currently serving as the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), will now shoulder the additional responsibility of leading the NSG, commonly referred to as the "black cats".
- The NSG operates under federal jurisdiction, specializing in counter-terrorism and anti-hijacking operations. Trained rigorously to handle high-risk situations, the NSG is deployed selectively for extraordinary circumstances sanctioned by the government.



Foot Note:

About NSG:

Formed: 16 October 1984

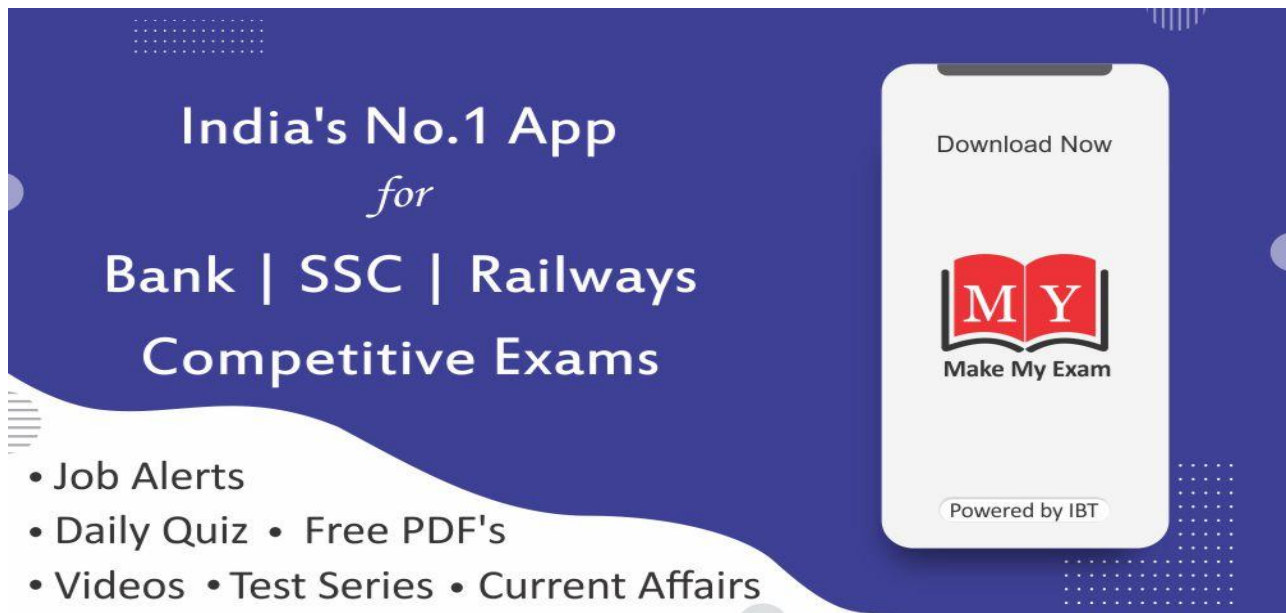
Headquarters: New Delhi

10. Google DeepMind Unveils Genie: AI Model Generates Interactive Video Games from Text or Image Prompts

- Google DeepMind has unveiled Genie, a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) model capable of generating interactive video games solely from a text or image prompt. Genie serves as a foundation world model trained on videos sourced from the Internet.
- The model can "generate an endless variety of playable



(action-controllable) worlds from synthetic images, photographs, and even sketches.” It is the first generative interactive environment that has been trained in an unsupervised manner from unlabelled internet videos.



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