



05 April 2024

National and International News

Govt. to record parents' religion to register births	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The government is set to update its birth registration process by requiring parents to separately declare their religion.This change, outlined in Model Rules by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, will necessitate State governments to adopt and notify these rules for implementation. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, passed by Parliament on August 11 last year, mandates the maintenance of a national birth and death database, which may be used to update various records, including the National Population Register (NPR), electoral rolls, Aadhaar numbers, ration cards, passports, and driving licenses.Previously, only the family's religion was noted in birth registers.The new "Form No.1-Birth Report" will expand the religion column to include the "religion of father" and "religion of mother," as well as for parents of an adopted child.All births and deaths must now be digitally registered through the Centre's portal for the Civil Registration System (crsorgi.gov.in), as per the law effective since October 1 last year.
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Manufacturing PMI rises to 16-year high

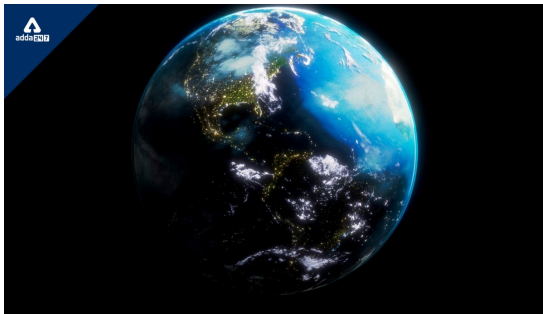
Context:

- India's manufacturing sector showed strong performance in March 2024, driven by robust production and sales, according to a monthly survey.
- The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reached a 16-year high of 59.1 in March, up from 56.9 in February 2024.
- This marks the 33rd consecutive month of growth in manufacturing output.

About:

- Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an economic indicator derived from monthly surveys of various companies.
- It reflects trends in both manufacturing and services sectors and indicates whether market conditions, as perceived by purchasing managers, are expanding, contracting, or stable.
- PMI is closely watched as an indicator of business activity and helps predict a country's economic health.
- There are two types of PMI: Manufacturing PMI and Services PMI, with a combined index also being used.

Leap Second



Context:

- The Earth's slowing rotation may lead to the first-ever negative leap second in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), according to a recent study published in Nature.
- This phenomenon is attributed to climate change, which is causing the melting of ice caps and rising sea levels, resulting in a slower Earth rotation.

Key points:

- Leap seconds are added to UTC to keep it synchronized with Earth's rotational speed over millions of years.
- If Earth continues to rotate slower, a UTC minute might need to be 61 seconds long for the planet to catch up.
- Initially scheduled for 2026, the need for a leap second has been postponed to 2029, marking the first negative leap second.
- This adjustment poses a challenge, as time meteorologists are uncertain how to cope with a missing second, as stated by Felicitas Arias, former director of the Time Department at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.



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	<p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leap seconds have been used since 1972 to align official time with atomic clocks due to Earth's inconsistent rotation speed. • However, a panel of scientists and government representatives decided in 2022 to end leap seconds by 2035 due to complications in computing caused by leap seconds. • The exact timing of a negative leap second is uncertain, contingent upon Earth's current rotation rate. • The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service will determine when a leap second will be introduced based on the Earth's ongoing rotation speed. • Astrogeophysicist Christian Bizouard noted that the speculation regarding the need for a negative leap second hinges on the Earth's rotation continuing at its current rate.
SCORES 2.0	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has launched an upgraded version of SCORES, its online system for handling investor complaints. • The new version aims to improve the efficiency of the complaint redressal process by introducing automated routing and oversight by designated authorities. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCORES (SEBI Complaint Redressal System) is an online platform where investors can lodge complaints related to the securities market. • It was initially launched in June 2011. • The enhanced version of SCORES enhances the investor complaint redressal mechanism by introducing features such as auto-routing, auto-escalation, and monitoring by designated bodies, reducing complaint resolution timelines," Sebi stated. <p>Features of Sebi SCORES 2.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new version of SCORES includes automated routing of complaints to the relevant regulated entity, reducing delays in complaint processing. • Other features include standardized timelines for complaint resolution (21 calendar days from receipt of complaint) and monitoring of complaint resolution by designated bodies.





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new version also offers two levels of review: first by the designated body and, if needed, a second review by Sebi. Additionally, complaints will be auto-escalated to the next level if the regulated entity or designated body fails to adhere to prescribed timelines. Integration with the KYC Registration Agency database has been introduced for easy investor registration on SCORES.
VVPAT	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In recent developments, the Supreme Court has announced its decision to consider a series of petitions aimed at directing the Election Commission of India to implement mandatory cross-verification procedures for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) prior to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. This process entails the thorough counting of all Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips alongside the electronic count. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system provides an additional layer of transparency and verification to the electoral process. Linked directly to the EVM, the VVPAT produces a paper slip visible to the voter, displaying the selected party's name and symbol. This allows voters to confirm the accuracy of their vote, with a transparent window facilitating visual confirmation of the printed slip. The securely stored paper slips serve as tangible evidence in the event of electoral disputes, ensuring the integrity of the voting process.
Fish otolith ornaments	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ornamental jewelry made from fish otoliths has recently entered the market, created by a group of enthusiastic fisherwomen in Vizhinjam. These women were trained by scientists from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). <p>Otoliths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otoliths are hard, calcium carbonate structures located behind the brain of bony fish. They are small, feather-like flakes that can be fashioned into jewelry.



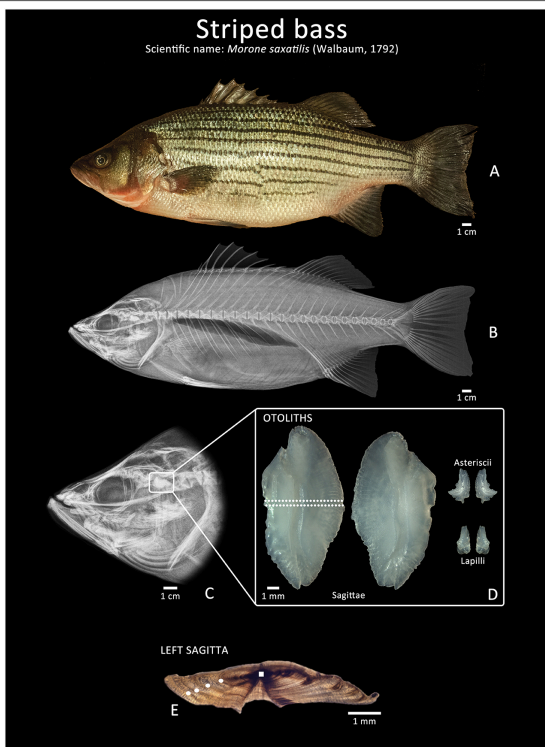
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- Among fish, halibut otoliths are larger, making them more commonly used for this purpose.
- Otoliths have been historically regarded as lucky **stones by the Romans and Egyptians and are still utilized in countries like Brazil.**
- They have been worn as protective amulets and fashioned into jewelry.
- Otoliths can be stored in test tubes or vials, either dry or in a clarifying liquid.
- Another method is to affix them with transparent nail varnish to a slide or with two-sided sticky tape to a sheet of acetate.

Kerala Regional News

National Maritime Day



Context:

- **National Maritime Day** is celebrated in India every year on **April 5th.**
- It marks the maiden voyage of the **SS Loyalty** in **1919**, a pivotal moment symbolizing **India's journey as an independent maritime nation.**

Key Points:

- Recognizes the vital role of the **maritime sector in India's history, economy, and development.**
- **Honors the contributions of seafarers** and those working in the maritime industry.
- **Raises awareness** about the importance of maritime trade and the challenges faced by the industry.

About:

- **SS Loyalty** is the **first Indian merchant ship** to set sail under the **Indian flag** in **1919.**





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This historic voyage, departing from Mumbai for London, marked a significant step towards India's independence as a maritime nation. The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., owned by the visionary industrialist Seth Walchand Hirachand Doshi, played a key role in this achievement. <p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Theme for 2024 National Maritime Day is "Navigating the future: safety first!"
IAES-2024	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Conference on Advances in Aerospace and Energy Systems (IAES-2024) commenced at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), an ISRO centre headquartered at Valiamala. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This ISRO facility is a hub for developing propulsion systems for India's space program. The conference, organized by the Indian Society for Heat and Mass Transfer and LPSC, aims to bring together researchers and professionals from academia, industry, and research institutes. They'll discuss advancements in aerospace and energy systems, with a focus on areas like propulsion, aerodynamics, energy generation, and artificial intelligence in these fields.
Kochi Metro joins ONDC, tickets are now available on various buyer apps	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) has joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), offering greater ticketing convenience to commuters. It paves the way for enhanced ticketing services and future collaborations with an array of buyer applications. With this, Kochi metro tickets are now available for purchase on the Yatri, Paytm, Rapido, and redBus platforms. Kochi Metro is the second metro service – after Chennai Metro – to join the open network. This is a big step towards a more accessible and efficient ticketing system. In the future it can be expected to see Kochi Metro tickets available on even more apps, including Google Maps, Uber, and EaseMyTrip.



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Cherry Blossom festival in city celebrates the world of 'sakura' & 'kani konna'



Context:

- A festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, is honoring the beauty of spring with both the iconic Japanese cherry blossoms (sakura) and the local flowering trees known as kani konna.
- This event, called **Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival)**, highlights the cultural and aesthetic connection between these two springtime blooms.
- The festival provides an opportunity to appreciate the delicate beauty of both sakura and kani konna, which like cherry blossoms, flower in spring and fade as the season changes.
- This celebration is a nod to the Japanese tradition of **hanami**, which involves enjoying the fleeting beauty of cherry blossoms.

International Day of Conscience



Context:

- The **International Day of Conscience** is celebrated annually on **April 5**
- It is a **global day of awareness** commemorating the importance of human conscience.
- The day encourages us to reflect on our values and how we can use them to build a better world.

About:

- It was established by the **United Nations General Assembly on July 25, 2019**, with the adoption of **UN resolution 73/329**.
- On **April 5, 2020**, the first International Day of Conscience was celebrated.

Theme:

- The theme for 2024 is **"Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience."**
- This emphasizes using our conscience to guide actions that foster peace and respect for all.

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