

Daily Current Affairs

(12th December 2024)

International

India accounted for half of malaria cases in Southeast Asia in 2023:WHO

According to WHO's latest world malaria report, there were an estimated 263 million cases and 597,000 malaria deaths worldwide in 2023.

In 2023, India accounted for a half of all estimated malaria cases in the region, followed by Indonesia, which accounted for just under one third.

The estimated malaria deaths in the region fell by 82.9 per cent, from 35,000 in 2000 to 6,000 in 2023.

Important Days

International Mountain Day: 11th December

The International Mountain Day was observed on 11th December across the world.

This day is a call for action to protect mountains from serious threats such as deforestation, mining, climate change, and unsustainable tourism.

This time the theme of this day is Mountain Solutions Innovation Adaptation and Youth for a Sustainable Future.

International Day of Neutrality: 12th December.

International Day of Neutrality is commemorated on December 12 every year to raise awareness regarding the importance of neutrality in intergovernmental relations and to strengthen peace and security at the global level.

This date was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Neutrality by Turkmenistan in 1995, recognizing the country's status as a permanently neutral state.

Awards

Ang Lee Honored with DGA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Director Ang Lee will be honoured with the Directors Guild of America's Lifetime Achievement Award at the 77th Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards.

Ang Lee has won two Oscars for Best Director, for films Brokeback Mountain (2005) and Life of Pi (2012).

National

Centre revises wheat stock limits to curb hoarding.

The Union Government has decided to revise the wheat stock limit applicable until 31st March 2025.

In order to manage overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, the Centre had imposed stock limits on wheat for traders/wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers, and processors across all states and union territories. The wheat stock limit for traders and wholesalers has been reduced from 2,000 MT to 1,000 MT, while the limit for retailers has been cut from 10 MT to 5 MT per outlet.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution stated that a total of 1,132 LMT of wheat was recorded during Rabi 2024.

Lok Sabha passes Railways Bill 2024

The Lok Sabha passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024. The bill seeks to amend the Railways Act 1989 and is intended to enhance the power of the Railways Board and improve the functioning and independence of the body.

The bill seeks to repeal the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905, by suitably incorporating the provisions for the constitution and composition of the Railway Board into the Railways Act, 1989.

President Murmu Confers National Panchayat Awards 2024.

The President presented the National Panchayat Awards 2024, which include categories such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, and Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar.

These awards aim to recognise and encourage Panchayats for their efforts in poverty alleviation, health, child welfare, water conservation, sanitation, infrastructure, social justice, governance, and women's empowerment.

Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024.

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 7th Edition of bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024 at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida. The Union Minister said that currently, our logistics cost is 14-16 percent, and it will be reduced to nine percent within two years. Mr. Gadkari said this will make us more competitive in the international market.

Business and Economy

Sanjay Malhotra takes charge as RBI Governor.

Sanjay Malhotra took charge as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, succeeding Shaktikanta Das, who completed his six-year term.

The Governor mentioned that the RBI will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders, including financial regulators and central and state governments, to ensure that the benefits of formal financial inclusion reach everyone.

Adani ports to self-fund Colombo Terminal project, dismissing US financing.

Adani Ports has said that it will use its own resources to fund a Sri Lankan port project and not seek US funding.

The Colombo West International Terminal is being developed by a consortium of Adani Ports, Sri Lankan conglomerate John Keells Holdings, and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

The terminal will be Sri Lanka's largest and deepest container terminal. When complete, the terminal will be able to handle ultra large container vessels with capacities of 24,000 TEUs and is expected to have an annual handling capacity of over 3.2 million TEUs.

Asian Development Bank approves grant of 25.45 million US dollars to Solomon Islands.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a grant of 25.45 million US dollars to Solomon Islands. The grant will help the island nation to develop sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services in the greater Honiara area and in five other towns.

The ADB, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, and the European Union are funding the 125 million US dollar project.

Sports

India's squash teams shine at world championships in Hong Kong.

India registered victories in their respective pre-quarterfinal ties in the men's and women's events at the World Squash Team Championships 2024, in Hong Kong.

The Indian women's squash team defeated nine-time champions Australia.

The Indian men's squash team defeated Malaysia 2-1, with Veer Chotrani and Velavan Senthilkumar securing crucial victories.

Australia beat India by 83 runs in third & final ODI.

In women's cricket, Australia beat India by 83 runs in the third and final ODI at the W.A.C.A. Ground in Perth. With this victory, Australia completed a clean sweep of the series, winning 3-0.

Chasing a target of 299, India was bowled out for 215 in 45.1 overs. Smriti Mandhana was the top scorer for India with 105 runs. Earlier, Australia made 298 runs for 6 wickets.

Badminton Association of India has appointed Tan Kim Her as India's doubles badminton coach.

The Badminton Association of India has appointed Malaysian doubles specialist Tan Kim Her as India's doubles badminton coach. This marks his second stint with India. His first stint with India was between 2015 and 2019.

After working with Japanese men's doubles pairs since 2019, Tan has arrived in India and joined the team in Hyderabad.

Madhya Pradesh storms into semi-final of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy .

Madhya Pradesh stormed into the semi-final of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, defeating Saurashtra by 6 wickets at the Alur Cricket Stadium in Bengaluru.

Venkatesh Iyer was given Man of the Match award for his brilliant all-round performance.

FIFA confirms the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 men's World Cups.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced that Saudi Arabia will host the men's soccer World Cup in 2034, while the 2030 edition will be held in Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with one-off matches in three South American countries.

The 2030 and 2034 World Cups each had only a single bid and both were confirmed by acclamation.

The next World Cup in 2026 — the first involving 48 teams — will take place across North America.