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NASA's Curiosity Rover discovers sulfur on Mars

The Curiosity rover at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California discovered pure sulfur on Mars that has never been seen before on the Red Planet.



Key Points

- ❖ Scientists say the rover made the unprecedented discovery after running over a pile of rocks and uncovering one during its investigation of the Geddés Vallis Channel on Mount Sharp.
- ❖ This channel, which appears to have been formed by a combination of flowing water and debris 3 billion years ago, has been the focus of the rover's mission.
- ❖ Since landing on August 5, 2012, Curiosity has been exploring layers of Mount Sharp, a central peak within Gale Crater.
- ❖ Sulfur is a vital ingredient for life, one of the six building blocks along with carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen

and phosphorus. What makes this discovery even more important is that these elements together make up 98% of living matter on Earth.

The Indian delegation won five medals in the '54th International Physics Olympiad 2024' held in Isfahan.

The Indian delegation has achieved remarkable success in the 54th International Physics Olympiad 2024 held from July 21 to July 29 in Isfahan, Iran. All five Indian participants won medals, including 2 gold and 3 silver medals.



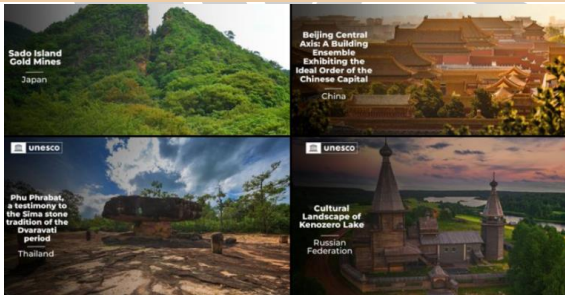
Key Points

- ❖ Chhattisgarh's Rhythm Kedia and Madhya Pradesh's Ved Lahoti won gold medals, while Maharashtra's Akarsh Raj Sahay, Uttar Pradesh's Bhavya Tiwari and Rajasthan's Jaiveer Singh were awarded silver medals.
- ❖ A total of 193 students from 43 countries participated in the competition.
- ❖ China is at the top, followed by Russia and Romania at second and third place respectively.

About International Physics Olympiad -

- ❖ The International Physics Olympiad (IPHO) is a world championship physics competition for high school students and is held in a different country every year.
- ❖ The first IPHO was held in Poland in 1967. It has gradually spread to more than 80 countries across 5 continents.
- ❖ The competition takes place every year and each host country follows the rules and traditions of the IPHO.

UNESCO has included seven new historical sites in the World Heritage List at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.



Key Points

- ❖ UNESCO added seven new historic sites to the World Heritage List at the 46th World Heritage Committee session today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ❖ Sado Island Gold Mines of Japan
- ❖ Beijing Central Axis of China
- ❖ Phu Phrabat Historical Park, Thailand
- ❖ Kenozero Lake Landscape of Russia

- ❖ Kenya's historic town and archaeological site of Gedi
- ❖ Nelson Mandela Heritage Site for Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation of South Africa
- ❖ The Niah National Park Cave Complex of Malaysia has been selected by the committee.

All these places have been selected in the cultural category.

About UNESCO -

- ❖ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations whose mission is to promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, science and culture.
- ❖ **Installation:** 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- ❖ **the headquarters:** Paris, France
- ❖ **founded by:** India, United States, France, Brazil, China, Türkiye, and more
- ❖ **Deputy Director General:** jing quo
- ❖ **Parent Organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Council

According to the report released by RBI, India's share in global real-time payments has increased to 48.5%.

According to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report, India accounts for 48.5

percent of the global real-time payments volume. India received US\$115.3 billion in 2023.



Key Points

- ❖ The digital economy currently makes up about one-tenth of India's GDP and is expected to grow to one-fifth of GDP by 2026 based on the growth rates seen over the past decade.
- ❖ According to the RBI, digital payments have registered a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 50 per cent in terms of volume and 10 per cent in terms of value over the last seven years, reaching 164 billion transactions worth Rs 428 lakh crore in 2023-24.

About Reserve Bank of India -

- ❖ The Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance recommended the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India. In 1926 Hilton young commission established.
- ❖ RBI Act, 1934 was passed.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India was established on 1 April 1935.

- ❖ At the time of establishment, the headquarters of RBI was in Calcutta. In 1937, the headquarters was shifted to Bombay.
- ❖ The first governor of RBI was Osborn Smith.
- ❖ The first Indian governor of RBI was C.D. Deshmukh, he was also the Finance Minister.
- ❖ The longest serving governor of RBI was B Rama Rao.
- ❖ After independence, RBI works as the central bank of India, Pakistan and Myanmar.
- ❖ RBI was nationalized in 1949.
- ❖ Current Governor - Shaktikanta Das

Second Hockey India Junior West Zone National Championship 2024

In the competition, players from Madhya Pradesh displayed excellent performance in the hockey game and won the title of winner.



Key Points

- ❖ The second Hockey India Junior West Zone National Championship 2024 was organized from 21 to 28 July in Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh).

- ❖ On this victory of Madhya Pradesh hockey team, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Shri Vishwas Kailash Sarang has congratulated the winning players.
- ❖ On July 21, Madhya Pradesh won against Goa by 14-1. Similarly, on July 22, Madhya Pradesh won against Gujarat by 15-0.
- ❖ On July 24, in Maharashtra vs Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh won by 04-07. After achieving consecutive wins, Madhya Pradesh remained ahead by 01-04 in the Rajasthan vs Madhya Pradesh competition held on 25th July.
- ❖ While Madhya Pradesh was in the lead, Madhya Pradesh won by 05-02 in the match between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on 27th July.
- ❖ In the competition, Madhya Pradesh team performed excellently in the competition and strengthened its hold in the competition by defeating the opposing team by a long distance.
- ❖ Junior hockey players of Madhya Pradesh made the state proud by winning the title of Second Hockey India Junior West Zone National Championship on the strength of their excellent sportsmanship.
- ❖ Players of Madhya Pradesh's winning hockey team include Vishvesh Singh,

Sohil Ali, Harsh Falswal, Ritendra Pratap, Anand Yadav, Vivek Pal, Almaz Khan, Anas Khan, Jatin Verma, Denik Singh, Subhan Avid and Tauheed Ahmed.

Short news

- ❖ 1. Every year on 30 July, 'International Friendship Day' is celebrated all over the world.
- ❖ 2. 'Nicolás Maduro' has won the election of President of Venezuela.
- ❖ 3. The Central Government has given in-principle approval for setting up 21 new 'Greenfield Airports' across the country.
- ❖ 4. The Bureau of Indian Standards has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 'Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology' to develop the first standardized agricultural demonstration farm of its kind in India.
- ❖ 5. India will host the 'Men's Asia Cup' in the year 2025.
- ❖ 6. The 'Tech Leaders Forum of India' has been officially launched on 29 July at the World Education Conference 2024.
- ❖ 7. 'Sri Lanka' has won the Women's Asia Cup 2024 title.
- ❖ 8. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has been awarded the 'Global Water Tech Award 2024' for its environmental initiatives.

- ❖ 9. The Ministry of Education celebrated the fourth anniversary of the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020 along with the All India Education Samagam, 2024 at the 'Manekshaw Centre Auditorium' in New Delhi on July 29.
- ❖ 10. The 'Supreme Court' is organizing a special Lok Adalat week from July 29 to August 3.
- ❖ 11. The South East Asian country 'Laos' has issued a postage stamp with the picture of Lord Ram and Lord Buddha.
- ❖ 12. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has been honored with the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.
- ❖ 13. IIT Kharagpur has conferred an honorary doctorate degree to Google CEO 'Sundar Pichai'.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. How many new historical sites have UNESCO included in the World Heritage List at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi?
- (a) Seven
 - (b) Eight
 - (c) Five
 - (d) Four

Answer- (a)

2. What has NASA's Curiosity Rover discovered on Mars?
- (a) Sulphur
 - (b) Nitrogen
 - (c) Fossil
 - (d) None of the above

Answer- (a)

