

20TH December 2024

Guinness World Record for Mass Varmam Therapy

The National Institute of Siddha (NIS) has set a Guinness World Record for providing Varmam therapy to 567 individuals simultaneously.



Key Point

- ❖ The event held on 18 December, at the NIS campus in Tambaram, Chennai, highlights the growing recognition of Siddha medicine and its non-invasive, drug-free therapeutic methods, particularly through the practice of Varmam therapy.
- ❖ The event saw 567 trained Varmanis (Varmam healers) simultaneously providing therapy to 567 individuals, underscoring the therapeutic reach and effectiveness of this traditional practice. The Guinness World Record not only demonstrated the therapeutic potential of Siddha medicine but also showcased the growing interest in traditional healing systems.
- ❖ Varmam therapy, a unique and traditional healing modality within the Siddha system of medicine, has long been revered for its effectiveness in treating various health conditions.

First-ever Ganges River Dolphin Tagging

18 December 2024 marks a historic achievement in wildlife conservation as the first-ever Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) has been tagged in Assam.



Key Point

- ❖ This initiative, conducted under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), was implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and Aaranyak, with funding from the National CAMPA Authority. This is the first tagging, not only in India, but also for the species, and this milestone is a significant advancement of Project Dolphin.
- ❖ The first of the tagging took place in Assam, where a healthy male river dolphin was tagged and released under utmost veterinary care.
- ❖ The tagging exercise will help in understanding their seasonal and migratory patterns, range, distribution, and habitat utilization, particularly in fragmented or disturbed river systems.

- ❖ India's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) has opened in Patna, Bihar to help protect the Gangetic river dolphin.

About Gangetic River Dolphins.

- ❖ **National Aquatic Animal:** The Gangetic River dolphin is India's national aquatic animal.
- ❖ **Other Name:** "Tiger of the Ganges."
- ❖ It was officially discovered in 1801.
- ❖ **Special Among Freshwater Dolphins:** It's one of only four types of freshwater dolphins in the world.
- ❖ The others were found in the Yangtze river in China (but now extinct), the Indus river in Pakistan, and the Amazon river in South America.
- ❖ **Features:** These are essentially blind.
- ❖ These dolphins live in the river systems of India, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
- ❖ **Protection Status:**
 - Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972: Schedule I.
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I

National Tansen Samman

The National Tansen Award and Raja Mansingh Tomar Award were given on



18 December in the world famous Tansen Festival organized in Gwalior, the music capital of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Point

- ❖ Renowned tabla player of Indian classical music **Pt. Swapan Choudhary** of Kolkata was honoured with the "National Tansen Samman" for the year 2023.
- ❖ At the National Tansen Award, an honorarium of five lakh rupees, citation plaque and shawl-shripthal was presented.
- ❖ This award, established by the Madhya Pradesh government in the name of Music Emperor Tansen, is the highest national music award in the field of Indian classical music.
- ❖ **Sanand Nyas**, an institution of Indore, was honoured with the "Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman" for the year 2023.
- ❖ This institution has been working in the field of classical music, drama and cultural festivals in Indore for the last 35 years.

Awards Of Madhya Pradesh

National Lata Mangeskar Award

- ❖ Established: 1984
- ❖ Prize Amount: ₹5 Lakhs (Initially ₹2 Lakhs)
- ❖ Field: Music Direction and Playback Singing
- ❖ First Awardee: Naushad

Recent Awardees:

- ❖ 2019: Shailendra Singh
- ❖ 2020: Anand-Milind
- ❖ 2021: Kumar Sanu

National Mahatma Gandhi Award

- ❖ Established: 1995
- ❖ Prize Amount: ₹20 Lakhs (Applicable from April 2022)
- ❖ Field: Gandhian Philosophy (for the institution)
- ❖ First Awardee: Kasturba Gandhi Trust (Indore).

National Kabir Award

- ❖ Established: 1986
- ❖ Field: Poetry of Indian Languages
- ❖ First Awardee: Gopal Krishna Adig

Maithili Sharan Gupta Samman

- ❖ Established: 1987
- ❖ Prize Amount: ₹5 Lakhs (Initially ₹2 Lakhs)
- ❖ Field: Hindi Literature
- ❖ First Awardee: Shamsheer Bahadur Singh

Ban on Bagging in Indore

The Indore administration banned offering money or alms to beggars in the city by violating the 'Beggars (control) Act' from 1st January 2025.



Key Point

- ❖ The district administration has invoked Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), like section 144 of the old IPC to act on this.
- ❖ Indore has become the first city in India to prohibit begging and impose penalties on those who provide money to beggars
- ❖ Any breach of the order is punishable by imprisonment that may not exceed six months or by a fine of ₹1000.
- ❖ The city of Indore is amongst the selected ten cities for the implementation of "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging" project which is started by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The cities in the project are Indore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ One that in the first phase of the campaign, which began in February 2024, beggars were taken from Indore to an ashram in Ujjain for treatment and rehabilitation.

- ❖ In the second phase which is from January 2025, offering food and money to those considered beggars will attract a criminal offense.
- ❖ The aim of the scheme is to make India a beggar-free nation and to do so it provides for rehabilitation of beggars.

India's First Solar Border Village

In Gujarat, Masali village in Banaskantha district has become country's first solar border village. Masali village, with a total population of 800, is located 40 kilometers from the Pakistan border.



Key Point

- ❖ Following the efforts of district administration, Masali has emerged as 100 percent solar powered village in country.
- ❖ Under PM Suryaghar Yojana, solar rooftops have been installed on a total of 119 houses in Masali village having population of 800 people.
- ❖ All these houses are generating more than 225 kilowatts of electricity.
- ❖ The Surya Ghar Bijli Yojana is a ₹75,000 crore central government initiative aimed at promoting rooftop solar installations (RTS) across India.
- ❖ Aim: To install rooftop solar panels on one crore households by March 2027, providing free electricity and promoting sustainable energy practices

- ❖ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

About Rooftop Solar (RTS)

- ❖ Rooftop solar refers to photovoltaic (PV) systems with electricity-generating solar panels installed on the rooftops of residential or commercial buildings.
- ❖ Rooftop-mounted systems are smaller compared to ground-mounted photovoltaic power stations.

Short News

- ❖ Rama Mohan Rao Amara is to become SBI's Managing Director to run the company in the next three years after passing the decision of the ACC.
- ❖ India has upgraded itself from the 23rd rank holder in the smartphone exports in the year 2019 to the third position by the year 2024 categorizing India's performance as a remarkable one in both manufacturing of smart phones as well as exports.
- ❖ India will host the World Boxing Cup Final & the prestigious World Boxing Congress in November 2025.
- ❖ Vinícius Júnior and Aitana Bonmatí were named the top footballers of the year at Fifa's Best Awards in Doha.

❖ Exercise SLINEX 2024 (Sri Lanka-India Exercise) is being conducted at Visakhapatnam from 17 to 20

December 2024 under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following cities has become the first city in India to prohibit begging?

- A. Bhopal
- B. Delhi
- C. Indore
- D. Mumbai

Answer-C

2. Who among the following was honoured with the “Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman” for the year 2023.

- A. Sanand Nyas
- B. Pt. Swapan Choudhary
- C. Zakir Hussain
- D. Amit Mishra

Answer-A

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