

National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)

The Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan has inaugurated the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS).

Key Points

- ❖ It is a digital initiative by the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.
- ❖ It utilizes cutting-edge technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning** to offer timely and precise pest management advisories.
- ❖ The system comprises a user-friendly mobile app and a web portal, ensuring accessibility for all farmers.
- ❖ By leveraging real-time data and advanced analytics, NPSS enables accurate pest identification, monitoring, and management.

Benefits

- ❖ Farmers will greatly benefit from NPSS as it provides **quick solutions to pest attacks** and crop diseases, reducing crop losses and thus improving productivity.
- ❖ The launch of NPSS marks a significant step forward in modernizing agriculture in India, enhancing food security, and supporting sustainable farming practices.

MPOX

WHO declares MPOX a global health emergency.

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- ❖ The declaration was made by WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus following a convening of the UN health agency's emergency committee.
- ❖ This announcement comes after the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classified mpox as a public health emergency on the continent.

What is MPOX?

- ❖ **Causing agent:** Mpox (monkeypox) is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus, a species of the genus Orthopoxvirus.

- ❖ **Discovered:** The monkeypox virus was discovered in Denmark (1958) in monkeys kept for research and the first reported human case of mpox was a nine-month-old boy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, 1970).
- ❖ **Transmission:** Mpox can spread from person to person or occasionally from animals to people
- ❖ It can be transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials, or with infected animals.
- ❖ **Symptoms:** Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions which can last 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.
- ❖ **Treatment:** It is treated with supportive care. Vaccines and therapeutics developed for smallpox and approved for use in some countries can be used for mpox in some circumstances.

On 15th August 2024, Sweden confirmed its first case of the MPOX Clade I variant, marking the first occurrence of this more dangerous strain outside Africa.

3rd Voice of Global South Summit

India hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ This unique initiative began as an extension of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', and is underpinned by India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- ❖ It was held in virtual format and was structured into Leaders' Session and Ministerial sessions. The inaugural session was hosted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- ❖ The countries of the Global South share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues.

- ❖ **Theme:** "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future".
- ❖ It acts as a platform to expand discussions held in the previous Summits on a range of complex challenges that continue to affect the world, such as conflicts, food and energy security crises, climate change – all of which disproportionately affect developing countries in a severe manner.
- ❖ At the Summit, the countries of the Global South would continue deliberations on challenges, priorities, and solutions for the Global South, particularly in the developmental domain.

Previous Summits

- ❖ Similar to the previous two Summits, the 3rd VOGSSThe theme of the Inaugural Leaders' Session is the same as the overarching theme of the Summit, i.e., "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future".

70th National Film Awards

The winners of the 70th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi on August 16.

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- ❖ The awards were announced by the chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Rahul Rawail; Nila Madhab Panda, chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury; and Gangadhar Mudalair, chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury.

Winners:

- ❖ Best Feature Film – Aattam
- ❖ Best Actor – Rishab Shetty, Kantara
- ❖ Best Actress – Nithya Menen in Thiruchitrambalam, and Manasi Parekh in Kutch Express
- ❖ Best Director – Sooraj Barjatya, Uunchai
- ❖ Best Supporting Actress – Neena Gupta, Unchai
- ❖ Best Supporting Actor – Pawan Malhotra, Fouji
- ❖ Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment – Kantara

ISO-certified Police Commissionerate

GB Nagar declared UP's first ISO-certified police commissionerate



Key Points

- ❖ The Gautam Buddh Nagar Police Commissionerate has been awarded the ISO 9001:2015 certification for delivering exceptional police services in line with international standards, implementing an efficient problem-resolution system, and maintaining excellent administrative management, the government.
- ❖ The Gautam Buddh Nagar Police Commissionerate was established in 2020.
- ❖ To be sure, the police commissionerate system was introduced in 2019 in seven cities:
 - Lucknow
 - Gautam Buddh Nagar
 - Ghaziabad
 - Kanpur
 - Varanasi
 - Prayagraj
 - Agra


Short News

- ❖ In a significant move to strengthen the fight against tuberculosis, Uttar Pradesh deputy chief had inaugurated Gautam Budh Nagar's **first state-of-the-art tuberculosis lab** at Greater Noida Institute of Medical Sciences.
 - The facility, which is the 15th such lab in the state, is equipped with advanced diagnostic facilities to detect and treat tuberculosis more effectively.


Person In News- Appointment

Govind Mohan	<p>He has been appointed as New Union Home Secretary.</p> <p>He is a 1989 batch IAS officer; he is currently serving as Secretary in the Culture Ministry.</p>	
Rahul Navin	<p>He has been appointed as the new director of the Enforcement Directorate.</p> <p>He is serving as the Special Director in the ED.</p>	

Person In News- Sports

Morne Morkel	<p>He has been appointed the bowling coach of the Indian men's cricket team.</p>	
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Person In News -Worldwide

Paetongtarn Shinawatra	<p>She was nominated to become Thailand's prime minister in a parliamentary vote by Pheu Thai party secretary general Sorawong Thienthong.</p>	
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Important Day/Dates

15th Aug	Independence Day of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India celebrated its 78th Independence Day on August 15, 2024. ❖ The theme/slogan for the 78th Indian Independence Day 2024 was 'Viksit Bharat,' which aligns with the government's vision of transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2047, coinciding with the 100th year of Independence.
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Important News- Other States

Tamil Nadu	India and Israel signed a joint statement to establish a <i>Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras in Chennai</i> . The agreement, involving the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the AMRUT mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, aims to tackle water management challenges in India.
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Important News- Worldwide

Germany	Germany joined the US-led <i>United Nations Command (UNC)</i> in South Korea, becoming the 18th member of the group dedicated to policing the border with North Korea.
Turkey	World's Oldest Sun-and-Moon Calendar Discovered in Turkey. Archaeologists at Göbekli Tepe, Turkey, have uncovered the world's oldest known Sun-and-Moon calendar, carved into a 13,000-year-old stone pillar. The pillar features 365 V-shaped symbols, indicating a sophisticated understanding of solar and lunar cycles, including 12 lunar months and an extra 11 days.

