

17th August 2024

First Case Of Mpox Outside Africa

Sweden has reported its first mpox case on Thursday, a day after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the infection a global public health emergency.



Key Points

- ❖ Sweden has also become the first country outside the African continent to report the more contagious strain of mpox virus.
- ❖ The patient is believed to have contracted the virus during a visit to a region in Africa currently experiencing a major outbreak of mpox clade 1.
- ❖ WHO declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years, following an outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo that has spread to other countries.
- ❖ The health emergency declaration came following an outbreak of the viral infection in the Democratic Republic of Congo which subsequently spread to neighbouring countries including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

- ❖ Mpox can spread through close contact. Usually mild, it is fatal in rare cases. It causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions on the body
- ❖ WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that a coordinated international response is essential to stop these outbreaks and save lives.

About Mpox

- ❖ Monkeypox was renamed to mpox to eliminate reference to monkeys which gave a connotation that the virus transmitted directly from monkeys to humans. About:
- ❖ Mpox or monkeypox is a DNA virus from the family Poxviridae and is among the large, double-stranded DNA viruses.
- ❖ Initially isolated from monkeys in 1958, the virus is also known to be pathogenic for humans.
- ❖ **Transmission:** Therefore mpox is commonly transmitted from animals to man, the animals include rodents and primates through direct contact or contaminated articles.
- ❖ **Symptoms:** In humans, mpox has symptoms similar to those of smallpox and presents with fever, headache, muscle pain, and symptomatological rash that goes through maculopapular, vesicular, and pustular stages.

❖ **Vaccination:** A vaccine for mpox has been developed but its supply is scarce and the vaccine is only partially effective underlining the importance of advancing the prevention and control mechanisms so urgently required

Independence Day 2024: President approves 103 Gallantry awards

President Smt Droupadi Murmu has approved **103 Gallantry awards** to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the eve of Independence Day 2024.



Key Points

- ❖ These are **four Kirti Chakras** including three posthumous; **18 Shaurya Chakras** including four posthumous; one **Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry)**; **63 Sena Medals (Gallantry)** including two posthumous; **11 Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)**; and six **Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)**.
- ❖ The President has also approved **39 Mention-in-Despatches**, including to **Army Dog Kent (posthumous)** for their significant contributions in different military operations. The operations include **Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Sahayata, Operation Hifazat, Operation Orchid** and **Operation Katchal**.

Recipient	Awarded For
Colonel Manpreet Singh (Posthumous)	Leading an anti-terror operation in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, where he lost his life.
Rifleman Ravi Kumar (Posthumous)	Displaying bravery during the same operation as Colonel Manpreet Singh.
Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu	Demonstrating exceptional courage in military operations.
Deputy Superintendent Himayun Muzzammil Bhat (Posthumous)	Recognized for his bravery during a counter-terrorism operation in Anantnag, where he was killed.

About Gallantry awards

- ❖ Post-independence, first three gallantry awards namely *Param Vir Chakra*, *Maha Vir Chakra* and *Vir Chakra* were instituted by the Government of India on 26th January 1950 which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August 1947.
- ❖ Thereafter, other three gallantry awards i.e. *Ashoka Chakra Class-I*, *Ashoka Chakra Class-II* and *Ashoka Chakra Class-III* were instituted by the Government of India on 4th January 1952, which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August 1947. These awards were renamed as *Ashoka Chakra*, *Kirti Chakra* and *Shaurya Chakra* respectively in January 1967.
- ❖ These gallantry awards are announced twice in a year first on the occasion of Republic Day and then on the occasion of Independence Day. Order of precedence of these awards is the *Param Vir Chakra*, the *Ashoka Chakra*, the *Mahavir Chakra*, the *Kirti Chakra*, the *Vir Chakra* and the *Shaurya Chakra*.

Tawa Reservoir In MP Declared Ramsar Site

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav today shared that India has added three Ramsar sites

to the network, taking the tally to 85 Ramsar sites. Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.



Key points

- ❖ With this addition, the area of Ramsar sites touched to 1358067.757 ha in the country.
- ❖ These new designated sites are a testament to the significant policy push from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for wetlands conservation and management in the country.
- ❖ India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
- ❖ India became a signatory to the convention on 1st February 1982. During 1982 to 2013, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites.
- ❖ During 2014 to 2024, the country has added 59 new wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.
- ❖ Currently, Tamil Nadu harbours maximum number of Ramsar Sites (18 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).

About Tawa Reservoir

- ❖ The Tawa Reservoir has been constructed at the confluence of the Tawa and Denwa rivers. River Malani, Sonbhadra, and Nagdwari are the major tributaries of Tawa reservoir.
- ❖ Tawa River, a left bank tributary originates from Mahadeo hills in Chhindwara district, flows through Betul district and joins river Narmada in Narmadapuram district.
- ❖ It is the longest tributary of river Narmada (172 Km).
- ❖ Tawa Reservoir is situated near Itarsi town. The total submergence area of Tawa reservoir is 20,050 hectares. The total catchment area of the reservoir is 598,290 hectares.
- ❖ Tawa reservoir comes under the administrative control of Forest department, district Narmadapuram.
- ❖ The reservoir is located inside the Satpura Tiger Reserve and forms the western boundary of the Satpura National Park and Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ Reservoir is important for aquatic flora and fauna especially birds and wild animals. Many rare and endangered species of plants, reptiles and insects are found here.

- ❖ It is an important habitat for many local and migratory birds.
- ❖ It is the largest protected area in the Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The region is endowed with many unique features from ecological, archaeological, historical and forestry point of view.

The 3rd Voice of Global South Summit to be Held in India

Another event is the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit scheduled for August 17, 2022, which will be held in India and its theme is "An empowered Global South for Sustainable Future."



Key Points:

- ❖ It will also continue with issues discussed at the previous summits, that include conflicts, food and energy security crises, and climate change.
- ❖ As for the countries of the Global South, they will remain discussing various concerns, interests, and approaches and will remain focused on the questions of development.
- ❖ Similar to the previous summits, 3rd Summit will be in the virtual setting and it will include

Leaders' and Ministerial levels. The first session shall be at the Head of State and Government level and will be chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- ❖ This scheme is in fulfillment of the Prime Ministers motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas" Practice and implemented based on the Indian ethos of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

NPSS Launched by Shivraj Singh Chauhan

The National Pest Surveillance System was launched by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan in New Delhi.



Key Points:

- ❖ Mr. Chauhan further explained that by using NPSS, farmers get information of types of insecticides and pesticides that can be used to safeguard effects on crops.
- ❖ The aim of NPSS is to extend the farmers' access to efficient source of pesticides and encourage the correct, scientific approach to pest control.
- ❖ In the future, NPSS will incorporated such an application to aid the farmers and experts in pest control as per the new records on pests.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav launches academic digital bus

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav inaugurated and flagged off the educational digital bus from Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal during the Independence Day celebrations



Key points

- ❖ The digital bus, run by SRF Foundation, an associate organization of the State Education Centre, has 20 computers and an internet facility.
- ❖ The digital bus will provide subject-based information to school students under the Smart Education Programme.
- ❖ To provide smart education to the students, the digital bus will continuously tour the selected schools of the capital Bhopal.
- ❖ Education Department officials, SRF Foundation officials, and students were present on the occasion of the digital bus launch.

Short News

- ❖ Renowned DRDO missile scientist Ram Narain Agarwal, widely known as the "father of Agni Missiles," passed away on Thursday in Hyderabad due to age-related ailments.

- ❖ *Axis Bank has partnered with Visa to launch Primus, an ultra-premium credit card designed to redefine luxury.*
- ❖ *An international conference on “Law and Technology: Sustainable, Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations” organised by the Commonwealth Legal Education Association will be inaugurated jointly by Chief Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud and the Chief Justice of Seychelles Justice Roney Govinden at Kumarakom in Kottayam district, Kerala*
- ❖ *Narendra Modi became the prime minister to hoist the Tricolour for the third highest time. It was his longest speech at 98 minutes.*
- ❖ *Tech giant Google today announced plans to bring its ‘AI Overviews’ feature to six new countries, including India.*
- ❖ *The cultural wing of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre is organising Bharat Sri Lanka Maitri Utsav to commemorate India’s Independence Day.*
- ❖ *The Indian Space Research Organisation launches third developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at 9:17am on 16 Aug.*

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following cities is going to host the 3rd voice of global South summit?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Bombay

Answer – (b)

2. Which of the following is declared a Ramsar site ?

- (a) Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary
- (b) Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary
- (c) Tawa reservoir
- (d) All of the above

Answer – (d)

