

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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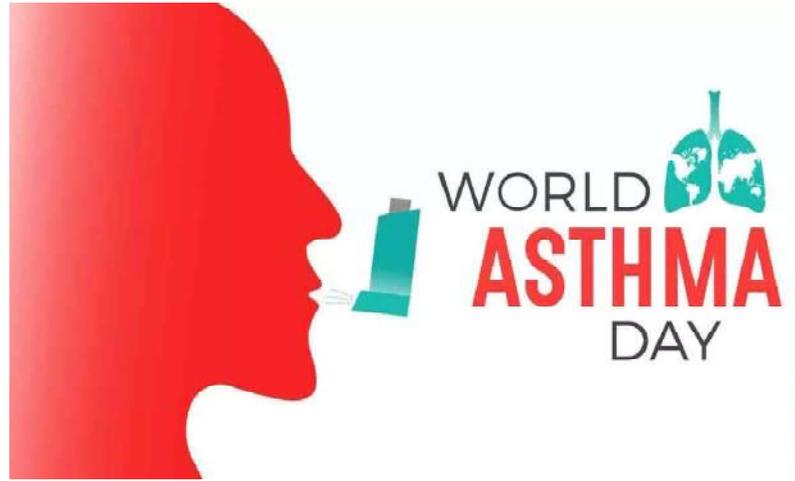
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## World Asthma Day: First Tuesday of May



- Every year on the **first Tuesday of May** is celebrated as **World Asthma Day**. This year the day was observed on **May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.
- **Theme:** “Asthma Education Empowers”
- **The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** was founded in **1993**. The **first World Asthma Day** was observed in the year **1998**.
- World Asthma Day is **celebrated** annually by **GINA** with the goal of raising awareness about the challenges faced by asthmatics.
- This is perhaps the most widely recognized chronic non-communicable illness that impacts over 260 million individuals around the world. The disease causes about 4, 50,000 deaths every year.

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## Border Road Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 65th raising day: May 7<sup>th</sup>

- **The Border Road Organisation (BRO)** celebrated its **65th raising day on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024**.
- A ceremony was organised in **New Delhi** on the occasion, presided over by the **Union Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane**.

### About BRO:

- **The Border Road Organization was set up on 7 May 1960** by the **Pandit Nehru government** to execute crucial road projects vital for the Army.
- It started its operation in **May 1960** with **two projects: Project Tuskar in the East and Project Beacon in the West**.
- The BRO's main function is to construct and maintain roads in the border areas, which have been classified as General staff roads per the country's defence requirements.
- BRO has recently completed the **world's longest bi-lane tunnel, the Sela Tunnel, in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- BRO is part of the Union **Ministry of Defence** and is always headed by an Army officer.
- **Director General:** Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan.



## World Red Cross Day 2024: May 8<sup>th</sup>



- **The world celebrates World Red Cross Day**, on May 8<sup>th</sup> every year.
- The day helps to highlight the humanitarian values and activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- **Theme:** I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward.
- In **1948**, the Board of Governors of the League of the Red Cross Societies proposed to celebrate the **birth anniversary of Henry Dunant**, the **founder** behind the **Red Cross** and the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** as the **World Red Cross Day**.

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IOB to sell 92 NPA accounts having Rs 13,472 cr loan outstanding



இந்தியன் ஓவர்சீஸ் வங்கி  
**Indian Overseas Bank**  
Good people to grow with

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** will sell **92 non-performing Assets loans** with an **outstanding of Rs 13,471.68 crore** through an **e-auction on May 28**.
- **Bank** invited **expressions of interest (EoI)** from **asset reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** and other eligible transferees by **May 13 to participate in the auction process**.
- The first portfolio encompasses, **46 accounts financed under consortium** arrangements, 3 accounts under Multiple Banking arrangements, with the remaining 2 accounts being sole banking ventures.
- Furthermore, 38 accounts within the portfolio are formally admitted under the purview of NCLT.
- The second portfolio consists of 41 sole banking accounts

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- Interested Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) and other eligible transferees are cordially invited to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) by May 13, 2024, to participate in the forthcoming e-auction scheduled for May 28.
- The bank's Gross NPA (GNPA) levels plummeted from 11.69 per cent as of March 31, 2021, to 3.90 per cent by December 31, 2023.

**About IOB:**

**Founded:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 1937

**Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**Chairman:** Srinivasan Sridhar

**CEO:** Ajay Kumar Srivastava

**Tagline:** Good people to grow with.

## Real Madrid wins its 36th Spanish League Title

- **Real Madrid** clinched **the Spanish League Title** with four games to spare.
- After **Girona defeated Barcelona** by 4-2, Real Madrid has been declared the winner of **36th La Liga title**.
- Real Madrid moved to 87 points on top of the standings, 13 ahead of Girona in second and 14 clear of third-placed Barcelona.
- Real Madrid has now shifted their focus to the prestigious Champions League.
- Madrid has only lost once in 34 rounds so far.

### About La Liga Title:

- **The La Liga, or the Campeonato Nacional de Liga de Primera División, is a professional men's club-based football championship in Spain.**
- It is the highest-ranking domestic football tournament in the country. It was **started in 1929 with 10 teams.**
- **Real Madrid is the most successful team, having won it 36 times. Barcelona is the second most successful team, having won it 27 times.**



## Nepal's population registered the lowest growth rate in last eight decades

- **Nepal's population growth rate** stood at **0.92 per cent per annum** in the past **one decade** and the lowest in the **last eight decades**.
- As per **the National Statistics Office (NSO) data**, the population growth rate was less than **1 per cent per year** during the review period.
- Nepal's population is currently around **29.2 million**. Nepal's population grew by **2.7 million during 2011 and 2021**.
- The national average life expectancy in **Nepal has reached 71.3 years**. **Female** life expectancy is **73.8 years**, while **male** life expectancy stands at **68.2 years**.
- People living in **Karnali Province** have a life expectancy of **72.5 years**, the highest in Nepal.
- Nepal's infant mortality rate went down to 17 per 1,000 in 2021.
- The reproductive rate has reduced to 1.94 children per woman.
- Nepal has been conducting the **national census since 1911 for every 10 years**.

### About Nepal:

**Capital:** Kathmandu

**Currency:** Nepalese Rupee

**President:** Ram Chandra Poudel

**Prime Minister:** Pushpa Kamal Dahal



## Adani Green signs a 20-yr agreement with Sri Lanka government for wind power stations

- **The Sri Lankan government** approved a **deal with Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's renewable energy wing Adani Green** to develop **wind power stations** in the country.
- A power purchase agreement for **20 years** has been signed between the two parties. As per the agreement, **Adani will be paid 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hours (kWh) of renewable energy.**
- **Adani Green Energy** will be developing **wind power stations in Mannar and Poonerin in Sri Lanka.**
- The Sri Lankan Cabinet has appointed a negotiation committee to evaluate project proposal which was furnished by Adani Green.
- The renewable energy company got the approval in **February 2023 to invest \$442 million** towards the development of the **484 megawatts wind power plants** in the **two areas located in Northern Sri Lanka.**
- **US government-backed International Development Finance Corp in 2023** extended a loan of around **\$553 million to Adani Ports for a container terminal in Sri Lanka.**

### About Sri Lanka:

**Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

**Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee

**President:** Ranil Wickremesinghe

**Prime minister:** Dinesh Gunawardena



**Adani Green Energy Limited**

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## 2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners

- **Columbia University of the United States of America** announced the **2024 Pulitzer Prize winners on 7 May 2024**.
- Columbia University announced the winners on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board. The award will be conferred by the president of Columbia University.
- The Pulitzer Award is considered **the most prestigious prize in the field of Journalism**.
- It recognises work in **15 journalism categories** and **eight arts categories**. It also gives **special citations and awards**.

**Some of the important winners of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize** are as follows.

### **Journalism Category:**

- **Public Service - Pro Publica**. Pro Publica is a non-profit investigative journalist body in California. It was given the award for the investigative work of its reporters Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski and Kirsten Berg.
- **Investigative Reporting** - Hannah Dreier of the New York Times
- **International Reporting** - Staff of the New York Times. The award was given for its



- Wide ranging and revelatory coverage of Hamas' lethal attack in southern Israel on October 7, Israel's intelligence failures and the Israeli military's response in Gaza.
- **Editorial Writing** - David E. Hoffman of the Washington Post Newspaper.
- **Breaking News Photography** - Photography Staff of Reuters news agency.
- **Feature Photography** - Photography Staff of Associated Press news agency.
- **Audio Reporting** - Staff of the Invisible Institute and USG Audio.

### **Book Drama and Music Category:**

- **Fiction** - Night Watch. The novel has been written by American novelist Jayne Anne Phillips.
- **Drama** - Primary Trust. The Primary Trust has been written by American playwright Eboni Booth,
- **History** - No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era. The book was written by American historian Jacqueline Jones.
- **Biography** -two books have been chosen this time.
- **Memoir and Autobiography** - Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice, by Cristina Rivera Garza.
- **Poetry** - Tripas: Poems, by Brandon Som. Brandon Som is an American poet.
- **Music** - Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith), by Tyshawn Sorey.
- **General nonfiction** - A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy, by Nathan Thrall.

## **Special Awards and Citation**

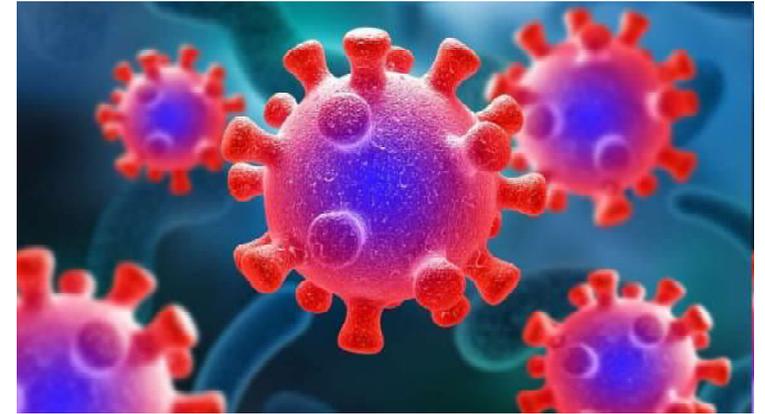
- **Greg Tate** - A special citation has been issued to the late American **writer and critic Gregory Stephen Tate**, also popularly known as **Greg Tate**.

### **About Pulitzer Prize:**

- The Pulitzer Prize was instituted by **Joseph Pulitzer**.
- He was a **newspaper owner** who, in **1904**, provided for the foundation of the **Pulitzer Prize** as an incentive for excellence in Journalism, art, and culture.
- The Prize winners are selected by the **Pulitzer Prize Board**.
- The first Prize was provided in **1917**.

## FLiRT 2024: New group of Covid variants spreads in US

- **FLiRT**, a group of **new Covid-19 variants** from the **Omicron JN.1 lineage**, is rapidly spreading in **the United States**, causing concern about a summer infection wave.
- With new mutations, **KP.2 and KP 1.1 variants** are deemed to be more contagious than past **Omicron variants**, however, specialists say the side-effects stay pretty much similar.
- **The KP.2** has taken over the **JN.1 variant in the country**, however, cases of hospitalisations have not surged, according to media reports.
- **KP.1.1, one more FLiRT variant**, has been observed in the **US**, but is not very prevalent compared to KP.2.
- The nickname 'FLiRT' depends on the technical names for their mutations, as per the Infectious Disease Society of America.
- **FLiRT** refers to a group of new **SARS-CoV-2 variants** that have emerged from the **Omicron JN.1 lineage** and are **rapidly spreading across the U.S.**
- The most prominent **FLiRT variant is KP.2**, which has become the dominant strain in the U.S and accounting for around 25% of new COVID-19 cases as of April 2024.



**About United States of America:**

**Capital:** Washington, D.C.

**Currency:** Dollar

**President:** Joe Biden

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## Iga Switek and Andrey Rublev wins the Madrid Open Tennis Singles Title

- **The Madrid Open Tennis** was held in the Spanish capital city of **Madrid from 22 April to 5 May 2024.**
- The Madrid Open was a **1000-event**, which means that the winners of the men's and women's titles will receive 1000 ranking points.

### **Women's Single Title:**

- **World no.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland** won the singles title of the **WTA 1000 Madrid Open title**. In the final, she defeated **Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus** 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7) to win **her first Madrid Open title**. Last year, she lost in the final to Aryna Sabalenka.
- The Madrid Open title was the **20th title of her career** and the **ninth WTA 1000-level** tournament.

### **Women's Doubles title:**

- **The Spanish duo of Sara Sorribes and Cristina Bucsa** defeated the pair of **Barbora Krejcikova (Czech Republic) and Laura Siegemund (Germany)** in a straight set 6-0, 6-2 to win their first WTA 1000 event.



- It was the first time in Madrid's open history that a Spaniard duo won the title of women's doubles.

### **Men's Single Title:**

- **Andrey Rublev of Russia** won the **singles title** of the **ATP Madrid Open Masters 1000**, beating Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, to win his second ATP Masters title.
- The 26-year-old **Russian Andrey Rublev** won his first Masters title last year. He won the **ATP Monte Carlo Masters Open Masters 1000 title** last year.

### **Men's Doubles Title:**

- **Jordan Thompson (Australia) and Sebastian Korda (United States)** defeated **Adam Pavlesak (Czech Republic) and Ariel Behra (Uruguay)** 6-3, 7-6 in the final.
- It was the duo's first Masters 1000 doubles title.

## Three Indian Naval ships Delhi, Shakti and Kiltan reach Singapore

- **Three Indian Naval Ships Delhi, Shakti and Kiltan** have arrived in **Singapore** as part of the operational deployment of the **Navy's Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea**, underscoring the strong linkages between both navies.
- China claims most of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.
- The three Indian naval ships were welcomed by personnel of the Singapore Navy and the High Commissioner of India in Singapore.
- The visit is poised to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two maritime nations through a series of engagements and activities.

**The Indian ambassador to Singapore- Shilpak Ambule.**

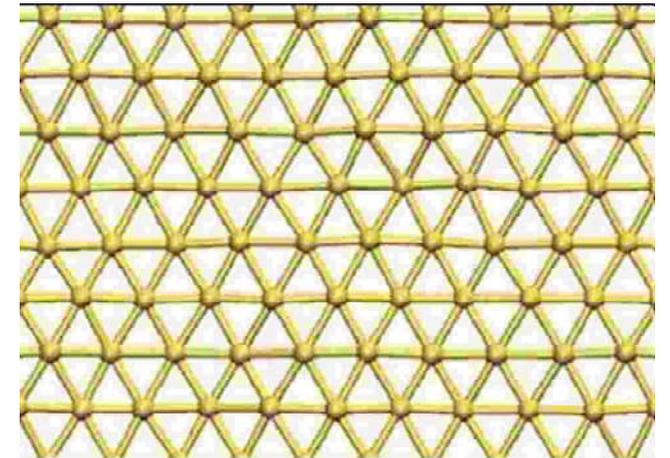


## Goldene: Swedish Scientists create first freestanding 2D Gold Sheet

- **Goldene**, a **one-atom-thick sheet of gold**, represents a remarkable advancement in material science achieved by researchers at **Sweden's Linköping University**.
- This development has ushered in a new era of possibilities, positioning gold as the inaugural metal to be fashioned into freestanding **two-dimensional (2D) sheets**, unlocking a plethora of potential applications.

### The Quest for 2D Metals:

- While the creation of **two-dimensional materials** like graphene has been well-documented since 2004, synthesizing metallic counterparts posed significant challenges due to the propensity of metals to aggregate into nanoparticles.
- Goldene, distinguished as the **first freestanding 2D metal**, marks a milestone achievement in overcoming this obstacle, presenting a novel avenue for exploring the properties and applications of ultra-thin metallic structures.
- The fabrication of goldene involved a sophisticated process wherein an **atomic monolayer of silicon** was interposed between **layers of titanium carbide**.
- Deposition of gold atoms onto this substrate led to diffusion and replacement of silicon atoms, resulting in the formation of a monolayer of gold atoms encapsulated within the material.



- Subsequent removal of the titanium carbide layers using Murakami's reagent, a traditional Japanese chemical technique, yielded free-standing, one-atom-thick gold sheets.
- According to Hultman's estimates, these sheets of goldene are roughly 100 nanometres thick (a nanometre is a billionth of a metre), approximately 400 times thinner than the thinnest commercially available gold leaf.
- The distinctive atomic arrangement of goldene, with each gold atom bonded to only six neighbors, endows it with unique properties conducive to various catalytic process.

## British Driver Lando Norris won the title of 'Miami Grand Prix 2024'

- **The 24-year-old British Formula 1(F1) driver Lando Norris** won his maiden F1 title by defeating **Red Bull's Max Verstappen** in the **Miami Grand Prix** held at the **Miami International Autodrome in Miami, Florida, in the United States of America.**
- **Lando Norris**, who is currently with **McLaren's team**, made his debut in the F1 circuit at the **Australian Grand Prix in 2019**. In his **110th Grand Prix at Miami**, he finally won his **first F1 race title.**

### **About Formula One Championship or F1:**

- The **Formula One motor car racing** is organised by **The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)**. The FIA was set up in **1904**.

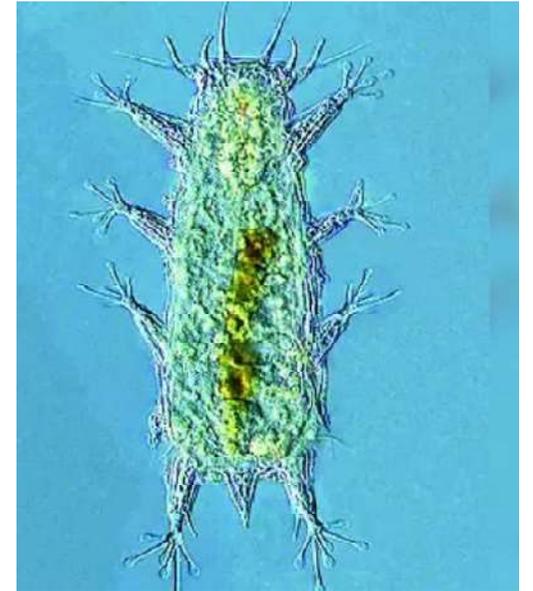
**Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom

**President and Chief Executive Officer:** Stefano Domenicali



## Tamil Nadu's new Tardigrade species named after Chandrayaan-3 mission

- **Researchers from the Department of Marine Biology, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) have discovered a new species of marine tardigrade, colloquially known as water bears - a phylum of eight-legged segmented micro-animals.**
- **This microscopic creature has been named as *Batillipes chandrayaani*, a homage to the Chandrayaan-3, the first-ever successful lunar south pole landing mission launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2023.**
- **This newly described species was found in the intertidal beach sediments of Mandapam coast, Tamil Nadu.**
- **The present species is similar in size to other tardigrades, measuring around 0.15 millimeters (mm) in length and 0.04 mm in width characterised by four pairs of legs.**
- **This novel species was discovered by Vishnudattan N.K, research scholar and senior Prof Dr S Bijoy Nandan, Department of Marine Biology as a part of an extensive marine biodiversity survey conducted along the Tamil Nadu coast.**
- **This is for the third time a marine tardigrade is described from the Indian waters and also the second time from the east coast.**



- Earlier, the same research team had discovered a marine tardigrade from the south west coast (*Stygarctus keralensis*) in 2021 and south east coast (*Batillipes kalami*) in 2023.
- The new species belong to the **phylum Tardigrada**, which comprises more than 1300 described species. Among them only 17 % are marine species.
- '**Batillipes chandrayaani**' is the **39<sup>th</sup> species** under the **genus Batillipes**.

### **About Tamil Nadu:**

**Capital:** Chennai

**Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin

**Governor:** R. N. Ravi