

Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs 23rd March 2025



- Anti dumping Duty
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- Lapis Lazuli:
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- Form 17C: An Essential Electoral Document
- Fruit Fly Mutants:
-



By saurabh Pandey



THE HINDU

- **cool temperate rainforests thrive on disturbances**

- **Galápagos Yellow Warblers**

Jackfruit: The Doctor of All Fruits.

Mains

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Q. “ Messy urbanisation will impact biodiversity “ Discuss

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By saurabh
pandey sir

India imposes anti-dumping duty on Chinese goods for up to 5 years



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese goods to protect domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country.

These duties were imposed as these products – Soft Ferrite Cores, a certain thickness of vacuum insulated flask, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin – were exported to India from China at below normal prices.

In separate notifications, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Cus-



The duties were imposed as products were exported from China at below normal prices.

toms, Department of Revenue, said that the duty imposed “shall be levied for a period of five years” on imports of Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum insulated flasks,

and Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid. The anti-dumping duty of up to \$873 per tonne was imposed provisionally on aluminium foil for six months.

The government has imposed a duty in the range of \$276 per tonne to \$986 per tonne on imports of the acid (a water treatment chemical) from China and Japan.

On imports of Soft Ferrite Cores (used in electric vehicles, chargers, and telecom devices), up to 35% duty was imposed on CIF (cost, insurance freight) value.

Similarly, on a vacuum-insulated flask, \$1,732 per

tonne anti-dumping duty was levied. The levy, which ranges from \$89 per tonne to \$707 per tonne, on Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin was slapped on the imports from China, Korea RP, Malaysia, Norway, Taiwan and Thailand for five years.

These duties are imposed after recommendations for the same were made by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt due to a surge in cheap imports.

Anti dumping Duty



- **India has imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese goods to protect domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country.**
- **An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value**



Violinist R.K. Shriramkumar has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy for 2025.

- **.Sangita Kalanidhi Award Overview**

Key Highlights

- 🎵 Sangita Kalanidhi Award: The pinnacle of recognition in Carnatic music.
- 🏆 Awarding Body: Conferred by the prestigious Madras Music Academy.
- 🏅 Award Components: Includes a gold medal and a birudu patra (citation).
- 📜 Institutional Significance: The Academy is a cornerstone in the history of fine arts.
- 🏛️ Historical Roots: Originated from the All India Congress Session in December 1927.
- 🎤 Purpose: Honors exceptional contributions to the field of Carnatic music.
- 🌟 Cultural Impact: Plays a vital role in the promotion and preservation of the art form.

Topic → monozygotic



- **Identical twins are known as monozygotic, and non-identical twins are called dizygotic. Monozygotic twins are always of the same biological sex, whereas dizygotic twins can be either of the same or of different sexes**

WHAT IS IT?

Lapis lazuli: earth's best blues

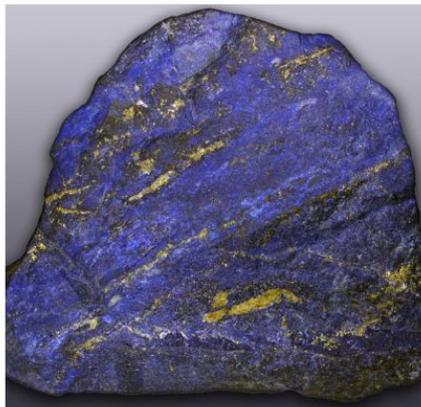


Vasudevan Mukunth

Lapis lazuli is a vividly blue rock, sometimes with streaks of gold, that has been known for millennia for its eye-popping colour and use as a semi-precious gemstone.

It gets its colour from the presence of an unusual mineral called lazurite (25-40%). Its blueness depends on the amount and structure of sulphur in this mineral. The presence of calcite can reduce the blueness while the golden sparkle comes from the presence of pyrites. Some other minerals, like diopside and sodalite, are present in smaller quantities.

Lapis lazuli has been found in many countries so far, including Chile, Russia, and the US, but the highest quality rock comes from Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, where people have been mining it for more than 6,000 years. In ancient times, traders in India imported lapis lazuli from Badakhshan, perhaps as long ago as 1000 BC. Archaeologists have also found ornamental lapis lazuli ornaments in the remains of Indus Civilisation sites including Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. The ancient Egyptians were also known to



A section of lapis lazuli rock with pyrite mined in Afghanistan in January 2008. HANNES GROBE (CC BY-SA 2.5)

use it to make jewellery and to powder it to use as eye shadow.

In the Renaissance period, artistes in Europe ground lapis lazuli down into ultramarine, an expensive pigment they used in their paintings. The rock gets its name from two languages: lapis is the Latin for 'stone' whereas 'lazuli' comes from the Persian word lazward, meaning 'blue.'
mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in

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Lapis Lazuli: A Gem of History and Beauty



Overview

 **Vivid Color:** Known for its striking blue color, often with gold streaks, lapis lazuli is a semi-precious gemstone.

 **Mineral Composition:** The blue hue is due to lazurite (25-40%), with sulfur content affecting its intensity. Calcite can reduce the color's vibrancy, while pyrites add a golden sparkle.

 **Geographical Sources:** Found in countries like Chile, Russia, and the US, the finest lapis lazuli comes from Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, mined for over 6,000 years.

 **Historical Significance:** Traded in ancient India from Badakhshan around 1000 BC, with artifacts found in Indus Civilization sites like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.



 **Cultural Uses:** Used by ancient Egyptians for jewelry and cosmetics; during the Renaissance, it was ground into ultramarine pigment for paintings.

 **Etymology:** The name "lapis lazuli" comes from Latin "lapis" (stone) and Persian "lazuli" (blue).

 **Timeless Appeal:** Valued for thousands of years, showcasing its enduring allure across cultures and eras.

All in jubilation



Hindus devotees throw offerings of chickens and ducks into the sea during the Melasti ceremony on the Arafuru Beach in Indonesia on Sunday. Melasti is a festival held several days before “Nyepi”, the day of silence, when devotees do not take part in any indulgence. AFP

MAPPING



- **The Arafura Sea (or Arafuru Sea)** lies west of the Pacific Ocean, overlying the continental shelf between Australia and Western New Guinea (also called Papua), which is the Indonesian part of the Island of New Guinea.



Mapping →

Ukumari Biopark in Pereira in Colombia

Why is uploading voting data a challenge?

Why does the Election Commission of India find it difficult to disclose absolute numbers of booth-wise votes cast in elections? What do the Opposition and activists want? What are the two parts of Form 17C? What are some of the discrepancies that have been pointed out?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

In May 2024, in the middle of the Lok Sabha elections, the Supreme Court of India considered a petition by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), seeking the publication of the first part of Form 17C, which includes booth-wise voter turnout data, on the Election Commission of India's (EC) website, within 48 hours of polling.

What was the EC's stand?

The EC flatly refused, saying that it was only legally mandated to share this form with polling agents representing electoral candidates, and not with the general public or the media. A year later, after Opposition outrage at alleged discrepancies in voter turnout and vote counts in multiple Assembly elections, the EC has told the top court it is prepared to meet with the ADR and fellow petitioner, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, signalling that the new Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is "ready and willing" to hear their demand.

What is Form 17C?

The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 mandates that a two-part form, recording voter turnout and vote count, is filled for every polling station; in the 2024 parliamentary poll, there were more than 10.5 lakh polling stations across the country. Part 1 of Form 17C is the Account of Votes Recorded, and is filled in by the presiding officer of each polling station, with a true copy to be furnished to every polling agent present at the close of the poll. It includes the identification number of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) used in that polling station, the

"We believe that every vote matters, and should be accounted for"

total number of electors assigned to that polling booth, the number of votes cast as per the EVM, as well as the numbers deciding not to record their votes or who were not allowed to vote, and whether there are any mismatches between these numbers. It also includes the number of tendered ballot papers and paper seals. The presiding officer, as well as every polling agent present are required to sign and validate this form, before it is placed in a sealed cover and transported to the returning officer, along with the EVM, to be held until the day of counting.

On counting day, Part 2 of Form 17C, titled the Result of Counting, is filled in by the returning officer. It includes the names of each candidate and the number of votes recorded in favour of each of them, as seen when the "result" button is pressed on the EVM. The returning officer must also state "whether the total number of votes shown above tallies with the total number of votes shown against item 5 of Part 1 [which is the number of votes cast as per the EVM on the day of polling] or any discrepancy noticed between the two totals." Part 2 is signed by the returning officer, the counting supervisor, and each candidate or their counting agents.

Why do Opposition parties want this data to be published online immediately?

In July 2024, after the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections, ADR conducted an analysis of voter data issued by the EC and arrived at the shocking conclusion that the number of votes polled tallied exactly with the number of votes counted in only five parliamentary constituencies across the country. In the remaining 538 constituencies, there were discrepancies seen; in 362 seats, the number of votes counted was cumulatively 5.5 lakh fewer than votes polled, while in 176 seats, there was a total of 35,000 extra votes counted in comparison to the votes polled.

This is a minuscule fraction of the 64.64 crore votes polled across the country, and the EC dismissed them as occasional manual errors made by presiding officers or a failure to remove the votes cast when the mock poll was conducted. The majority of these discrepancies were lower than the winning margin in constituencies. "The margin of victory does not matter because winning or losing is not the important point. We believe that every vote matters, and should be accounted for," says ADR founder and trustee Jagdeep Chhokar. The booth-wise information available in Form 17C will allow discrepancies to be pinpointed and accountability to be fixed, so that corrective action can be taken at the booth level, says Mr. Chhokar. Aggregating this data will show if there

is any pattern of discrepancies in an election.

Opposition parties have raised a hue and cry about the significant differences in voter turnout as released provisionally through the EC's mobile app or its press statements on the day of polling, and the final turnout figures declared days later; in the first phase of the parliamentary election, the final voter turnout was published 11 days late, and was up to 5% higher than initially announced. The EC's published voter turnout data is also in percentage terms, not in absolute figures as recorded in Form 17C. The demand for Form 17C to be published immediately is meant to spotlight and prevent such discrepancies, though the EC says the issue of hard copies of Form 17C to polling agents on the day of the election ensures transparency. "In theory, Form 17C is supposed to be given to polling agents. In practice, every party and every candidate does not have the wherewithal to hire a polling agent for each polling station. What the EC's rule book says does not actually happen. Form 17C can be incorrect and there may be no polling agents, or only polling agents for the ruling party, or polling agents can be bought," says Mr. Chhokar. "It is not just political parties that have a right to this information, but also the voter."

What difficulties does the EC face?

The EC told the court that "indiscriminate disclosure" of the data could create chaos, warning that images of Form 17C published online could be morphed and lead to "widespread discomfort". It noted that postal ballots are not included in Form 17C. The poll body also argued that it was not obligated to hand over the form to anyone but polling agents.

Former election officials also point to practical difficulties on the ground, admitting that some errors are inevitable. "There are about one crore poll workers involved in conducting a national election in India. Many are not well educated, and they are under extreme stress with all kinds of pressure being put on them at the polling station so they may commit blunders," explained former Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat. He said that the copies of Form 17C are sent overnight to the returning officer HQ and the next day, the election observer camps out and verifies the data recorded in Part 1 with the presiding officer's diary and other documents as well as video recordings at the polling station. He then "rectifies" the data on Form 17C with "corroborating evidence", a process that may take several days. It is not clear if polling agents are then asked to sign off on such "rectified" data. Mr. Rawat notes that political parties can collect Form 17Cs from their polling agents and publish them if they wish. "Mistakes will lead to disciplinary action against poll workers who are under stress and do not deserve it and [polling agents] will take flak from them next time. That's why they want to put the ball in the EC's court," he said.



Change in rules: Gyanesh Kumar takes charge as Chief Election Commissioner in New Delhi on February 19, 2024.





Form 17C: An Essential Electoral Document

Overview of Form 17C

 **Form 17C Overview:** A two-part form mandated by the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, used to record voter turnout and vote count at polling stations.

Polling Stations

 **Polling Stations:** Over 10.5 lakh polling stations were established for the 2024 parliamentary elections in India.

Details of Form 17C

 **Part 1 Details:** Known as the Account of Votes Recorded, it is filled by the presiding officer and includes EVM identification, total electors, votes cast, and discrepancies.

 **Signatures Required:** The presiding officer and polling agents must sign Part 1 before it is sealed and sent to the returning officer.

 **Part 2 Details:** Titled Result of Counting, this part is completed by the returning officer on counting day, detailing candidate names and vote counts.

Discrepancy and Transport

 **Discrepancy Check: Part 2 must confirm whether the total votes match those recorded in Part 1, noting any discrepancies.**

 **Transport of Forms: Both parts of Form 17C, along with the EVM, are securely transported to the returning officer for counting day.**

Summary: Form 17C is a crucial electoral document used to ensure accurate recording and counting of votes during elections in India.

Topic → Fruit Fly Mutants: Sleep, Memory, and Lifespan

Key Findings

-  Fruit fly mutants show significant sleep deficits but perform exceptionally well in olfactory learning and memory tasks.
-  The paradox of enhanced memory despite sleep loss is linked to the protein kinase A (PKA) signaling pathway.
-  Elevated PKA signaling is responsible for the sleep deficits observed in the mutants.
-  This increased PKA signaling correlates with a shorter lifespan for the mutants.
-  While it enhances memory, elevated PKA signaling results in reduced sleep levels.
-  The study suggests a trade-off between memory performance and sleep quality/lifespan in these mutants.
-  The research underscores the complex relationship between sleep, memory, and lifespan in fruit flies

Topic → cool temperate rainforests thrive on disturbances,

 Cool temperate rainforests were previously thought to be fragile ecosystems vulnerable to disturbances.

 New research indicates that these forests actually rely on disturbances for their survival.

 The species *N. moorei* showed increased growth and successful recruitment after higher disturbance intensities.

 60% of the 30 species studied demonstrated the ability to resprout after disturbances.

 This research highlights the resilience of cool temperate rainforests against environmental changes.



 Disturbances like fires or logging may play a crucial role in maintaining the health of these ecosystems.

 The findings challenge traditional views on forest management and conservation strategies.

R

Study Overview

 **Species Studied:** Focus on Galápagos yellow warblers, native songbirds of the Galápagos Islands.

 **Impact of Traffic Noise:** Exposure to traffic noise increases aggression in birds near roads.

Experimental Details

 **Setup:** Simulated intruder scenarios using bird songs and recorded traffic noise at 38 locations.

 **Location:** Conducted on Floreana and Santa Cruz islands, with sites categorized by proximity to roads (20 within 50 meters, 18 over 100 meters).

Behavioral Observations

 **Measurements:** Assessed aggression through song patterns and physical behaviors like approaching speakers and repeated flights.

 **Findings:** Birds near roads showed increased aggression during noise trials, while those further away exhibited decreased aggression in quieter conditions.

Ecological Implications

 **Impact:** Urbanization and traffic noise significantly affect wildlife behavior and interactions



Topic → Jackfruit: The Doctor of All Fruits

Introduction to Jackfruit

Versatile fruit known as 'kathal' in Hindi.
Integral to Southern and Northeastern Indian cuisine.
Offers unique characteristics and benefits

The Jackfruit Tree

Large and robust tree.
Fruit grows directly from the trunk and limbs.
Largest recorded jackfruit: 42 kg



Jackfruit in Traditional Medicine

Used in Ayurveda and Unani.

Believed to boost immunity and aid digestion.

Leaves, seeds, and bark have medicinal properties.

Jackfruit: A Superfood

Nutrient-rich: Vitamins A, C, B, potassium, magnesium.

Supports heart health and immunity.

Comparison: Outshines apples and mangoes in nutrition.

Sustainable Uses of Jackfruit



Bark: Used for dyeing robes.

Wood: Durable, termite-resistant, ideal for furniture.

Embodies sustainability and utility

Conclusion

Jackfruit is a treasure trove of health benefits and cultural significance.

Offers culinary versatility and sustainability.

A delicious way to boost health.

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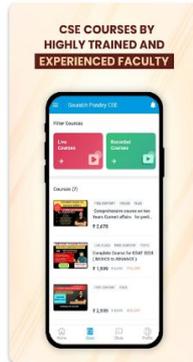
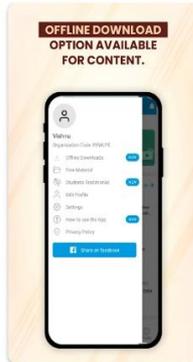
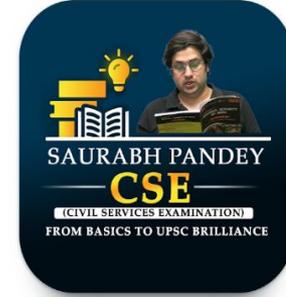
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