

Current Affairs - 19 August 2024

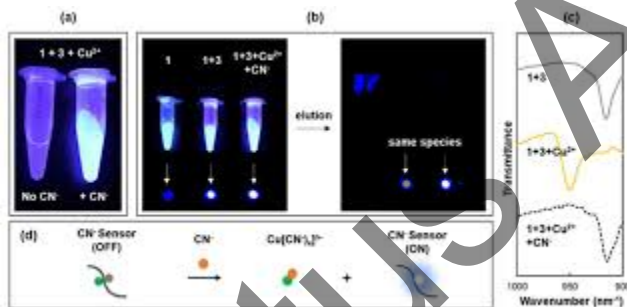
National

1. ****IndiaAI Mission:****



The Indian government is advancing the IndiaAI Mission by finalizing a plan to purchase 1,000 graphics processing units (GPUs) to support start-ups, researchers, and public projects, aiming to strengthen AI computing capabilities.

2. ****Advanced Cyanide Sensor:****



A research team at the Central University of Kerala, led by Dr. Ravi Kumar Kanaparthi, developed an advanced cyanide sensor, crucial for improving the safety of drinking water and food, especially in cyanide-prone areas.

3. ****Union Cabinet Approves Metro Projects:****



The Union Cabinet approved three new Metro projects in India, including Bengaluru Metro Phase-3, Thane Integral Ring Metro, and an extension of the Pune Metro, with a total estimated cost of ₹30,765.5 crore.

International

4. **Croatia Reintroduces Military Service:**



Croatia announced plans to reintroduce two months of compulsory military service starting January 1, 2025, in response to rising tensions in Europe, particularly due to Russia's actions in Ukraine and increasing military activities in the Balkans.

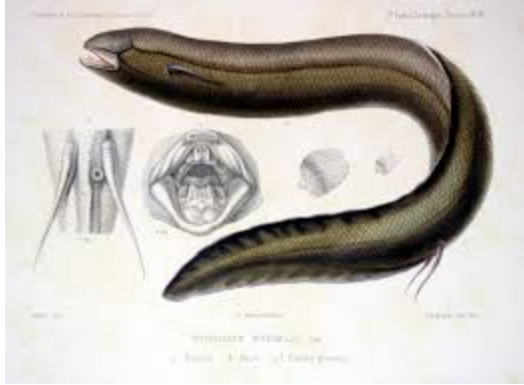
5. **Exercise Mitra Shakti 10th Edition:**



The 10th edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti, a joint military training exercise between India and Sri Lanka, is being held from August 12 to 25, 2024, at the Army Training School in Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka. This year's exercise includes the participation of military dogs.

Science & Tech

6. **South American Lungfish - *Lepidosiren paradoxa*:**



The South American lungfish, *Lepidosiren paradoxa*, known for being a living fossil, possesses the largest genome of any animal, approximately 30 times the size of the human genome.

7. ****Discovery of *Gastrodia indica*:**



A new orchid species, *Gastrodia indica*, was discovered in Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim, India, by botanist Madhusudan Khanal. This orchid is unique for not opening its flowers, a rare trait among orchids.