



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Ensuring Accountability and Safety in AI Development

During the **first [United Nations Security Council](#) meeting on [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)**, concerns were raised regarding the **safety and responsible development of AI**.

AI leverages computers and machines to mimic the **problem-solving and decision-making capabilities of the human mind**. Therefore, the international community emphasized the need to develop methods to test AI systems for **capabilities, misuses, and safety flaws to avoid chaotic or unpredictable behavior**.

UN Secretary-General stressed the importance of **adopting standards and best practices** at the UN to address issues such as **bias, discrimination, and authoritarian surveillance that can be amplified by AI**. The development of AI should be consistent with **democratic values and human rights** to ensure **human-centric and trustworthy AI systems**.

Read more: [United Nations Security Council](#) , [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)

International Moon Day 2023

International Moon Day, observed on July 20, commemorates the **historic [Apollo 11 mission's landing on the Moon in 1969](#)**. Astronauts **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin** made history by **stepping onto the lunar surface** at the site named **Tranquility Base**, while **Michael Collins piloted the Columbia Command Module in lunar orbit**. The **[United Nations General Assembly](#)** declared it as an international day to be observed in its resolution 76/76 on "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" in 2021.

Read more: [Apollo 11 mission](#)

Mangal Pandey Birth Anniversary

Mangal Pandey, born on **July 19, 1827**, in Nagwa village, Uttar Pradesh, played a pivotal role in the **First Indian War of Independence**. On March 29, 1857, at the Barrackpore military cantonment near Calcutta, **he defiantly rebelled against British officers by refusing to use the controversial Enfield rifle cartridges greased with animal fat**.

This courageous act served as a **catalyst**, inspiring countless others to rise against British colonial rule, ultimately leading to the widespread **[Indian Rebellion of 1857](#)**. His arrest and subsequent execution on April 8, 1857, by British authorities only further fueled public outrage and united various communities in opposition to British rule.

Read more: [Indian Rebellion of 1857](#)

Gomti River: Controversy Over Perennial Status and Protection

The **Gomti River**, a significant tributary of the **[Ganga River](#)**, has become the center of a contentious

issue surrounding its perennial status and protection.

The Irrigation department of the Uttar Pradesh government in September 2020 declared the Gomti as a "**non-perennial river**," drawing criticism from water experts and river rights activists. Moreover, the Gomti plays a vital role in replenishing the **Ganga during monsoons**, making it indispensable to the region's ecosystem.

The river's dire need for protection is further highlighted by a report from the [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#), ranking the Gomti as the fifth most polluted river in the country as of 2022.

Read more: [Ganga River, Central Pollution Control Board](#)

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