



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

National Epilepsy Day

National Epilepsy Day is celebrated every year in India on **17th November** to raise awareness about the **brain disorder and bust myths surrounding the disease**.

- Epilepsy is a brain disorder that can cause **seizures due to abnormal brain activity** or temporary changes in the brain's electrical functioning.
 - The brain produces **orderly electrical impulses** along nerve cell networks, but in epilepsy, this balance is disrupted thus it impacts consciousness, movements, or sensations.
- According to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), around 50 million people worldwide are affected by epilepsy and **India accounts for nearly 10-20%** of the global burden of epilepsy.
- Epileptic seizures are broadly categorized into **focal and generalized seizures** based on the location of abnormal brain activity.
 - Focal seizures may cause brief emotional changes, involuntary movements, and symptoms like dizziness.
 - Generalized seizures present varied symptoms including staring, muscle jerking, loss of control, twitches, and sudden loss of consciousness.
- Every year the second Monday of February is observed as [International Epilepsy Day](#).

Read more: [International Epilepsy Day](#)

National Press Day

[National Press Day](#), marked on 16th November, holds immense significance in India as it marks the **establishment of the Press Council of India**, functioning as a guardian of journalistic ethics and freedom.

- Unlike other global Press or Media Councils, the **unique authority of the Press Council of India extends even over state instruments**, ensuring the independence of the press.
- The Council, **initiated in 1966**, was recommended by the first **Press Commission in 1956** to uphold professional standards and ethics in journalism through a **statutory body** comprising industry stakeholders.

Read more: [National Press Day](#)

CITES Standing Committee Meeting

Recently, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, announced the outcomes of the **77th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**.

Major Takeaways

- Consequent to amendment of Wild Life Act, placement of the CITES legislation of India in Category 1 of the National Legislation Project of CITES has been confirmed.
- India was under Review of Significant Trade process for Red Sanders since 2004.
- Based on our compliance and reporting, India has been removed from the Review of Significant Trade for Red Sanders.

- **CITES** is an international agreement aimed to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
 - It entered into force in **1975** and **India became the 25th party**, a state that voluntarily agrees to be bound by the Convention, in 1976.

Read more: [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species](#)