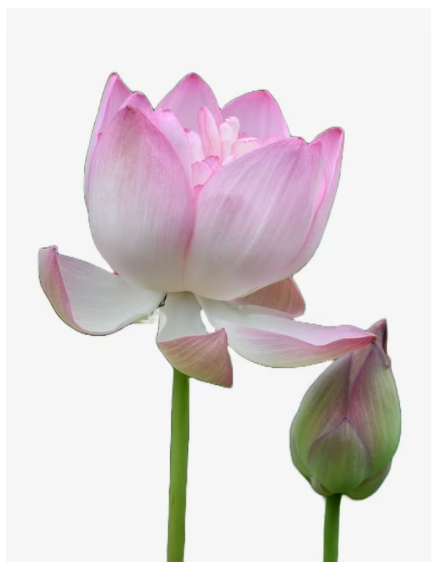




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Namoh 108 Lotus Variety



- Recently, the Union Minister of Science & Technology, unveiled the innovative '**Namoh 108' lotus variety**, developed by the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research -National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow**.
- Having been discovered in **Manipur several years ago**, this lotus variety boasts 108 petals, leading to its designation as '**NBRI Namoh 108**,' a name derived from both its **petal count and its religious significance**.
 - Blossoms from **March to December, rich in nutrients**.
- The flower's genome was sequenced, making it the **only Indian lotus variety with a sequenced genome**.
- The flower's characteristics were **modified to facilitate cultivation outside Manipur**.

Chess World Cup 2023

- Grandmaster **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** wins over World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana in the tie-breaker round of the **World Cup 2023, chess** tournament at Baku, Azerbaijan.
 - The World Cup 2023 is organised by the **International Chess Federation (FIDE), the governing body of chess in the world**.
 - **It's constituted as a non-governmental institution**.
 - FIDE currently has its **headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland), but it was initially founded in 1924 in Paris under the motto "Gens Una Sumus" (Latin for "We are one Family")**.
- Praggnanandhaa, the **youngest Indian grandmaster and the youngest international master** is among the most promising talents in the world of chess.
 - He achieved significant victories such as **winning the World Youth Chess Championship (under-18) in 2019** and **emerging victorious in the Asian Continental Chess Championship (open) in 2021**.

Read more: [The Rising Popularity of Chess in India](#)

Ecuador Rejects Amazon Oil Drilling



Ecuadorians have spoken out **against the [oil drilling](#) of a protected Amazon area housing uncontacted tribes** and remarkable biodiversity.

- Over 90% of ballots rejected oil exploration in the area located within the renowned **Yasuni National Park, a global [biodiversity hotspot](#)**.
- This area is the habitat of the **isolated Tagaeri and Tarmenani tribes**, and its significance led to its designation as a **UNESCO world [biosphere reserve](#) in 1989**.

Read more: [Biodiversity hotspot](#)

Student-Led Water Parliament Spurs Water Conservation

In just one year, **Shyam Sadan School in Rajasthan's Jodhpur district** has witnessed a **transformative shift in water practices** .

- The school's "**Jal Sansad**" (**water parliament**) was established in mid-2022, engaging students in a range of water conservation activities. Students conduct audits to track water usage, organize awareness campaigns, and maintain digital records.
- **Rainwater harvesting irrigates the school's nutrition garden**, showcasing innovative integration of water-saving practices.

Read more: [Catch the Rain: National Water Mission](#)