



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### World Multiple Sclerosis Day

The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, Government of India, observed **World [Multiple Sclerosis \(MS\) Day](#) on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023**, joining the global MS community in raising **awareness and fostering connections**. With the **theme of 'connections' for the 2020-2023** period, the MS Connections campaign aimed to build community connections, self-connections, and connections to quality care.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects the **central nervous system, including the brain and spinal cord**. It is characterized by inflammation and damage to the protective covering of **nerve fibers**, disrupting the **normal flow of electrical impulses**. This results in a wide range of symptoms, **including fatigue, difficulty with coordination and balance, muscle weakness, and problems with vision and cognition**. The **exact cause of MS is still unknown**, but it is believed to involve a **combination of genetic and environmental factors**. MS is a lifelong condition with varying degrees of severity and progression. While there is **no cure for MS**, there are treatments available to manage symptoms, slow down the progression of the disease.

Read more: [Multiple Sclerosis](#)

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### Green Hue in Venice's Grand Canal



**Venice's iconic Grand Canal** recently took on a **vibrant green hue**, perplexing both residents and officials. After conducting test samples of the water, authorities confirmed that the **color was caused by fluorescein**, a chemical commonly used to **detect leaks in underwater construction**. The president of the Veneto region emphasized the need for strong responses to protect the city and its historical treasures. Although **fluorescein has low levels of toxicity**, tests have **not indicated any harm to the canal's ecosystem**. Depending on the concentration of fluorescein, it may take a few more days for the canal to **return to its normal color** as the chemical dissolves.

The Grand Canal is the main waterway of Venice, Italy, that showcases the city's rich architectural and

cultural heritage. It is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike, who can enjoy its scenic views and historic landmarks by various modes of transport. The **Grand Canal is the largest and most famous canal in Venice**. It is nearly four kilometers long and **separates one half of Venice from the other**.

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## UAE Withdraws from Maritime Coalition amid Rising Tensions in Gulf Waters



The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its **withdrawal from the US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**, a coalition responsible for **securing crucial and volatile Gulf waters** that play a significant role in global oil trade.

Established in 2001, the **CMF started as a partnership between 12 nations and has since expanded to include 38 partner nations**, including the UAE. While the UAE has put its participation on hold, it **remains a partner nation**.

Recent incidents, such as **Iran's seizure of tankers and a drone attack on an Israeli-owned vessel**, have intensified tensions in the region. The UAE, as a major oil exporter, emphasises its commitment to peaceful dialogue, diplomatic engagement, and the responsible safeguarding of navigation in its seas.

**Read more:** [Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#)

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## World Milk Day Celebrations and Summer Meet

The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, in partnership with the **Agriculture Production Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir**, is gearing up to celebrate **World Milk Day on June 1, 2023**. The occasion will be marked by a **Summer Meet for the animal husbandry and dairying sector**, taking place from **June 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> at SKICC in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**.

This event aims to raise awareness about the **nutritional value and advantages of milk, while also acknowledging the significant contributions of dairy farmers, processors, and consumers**. The event will review the progress of ongoing schemes, discuss outcomes, and identify mid-course corrections as necessary.

As part of the event, "**Feeding the Future: Five Days of Action for Feed and Fodder and Training of A-HELP for 2023-24**" campaign will be launched. This initiative aims to address the critical aspects of **feed and fodder management for livestock while providing training through the A-HELP program**.

In 2001, World Milk Day was established by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations** to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector. **India is**

**the highest milk producer in the world contributing 23% of global milk production** in the year 2021-22. The top five major milk-producing states are **Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.**

**Read more:** [Animal husbandry](#)

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