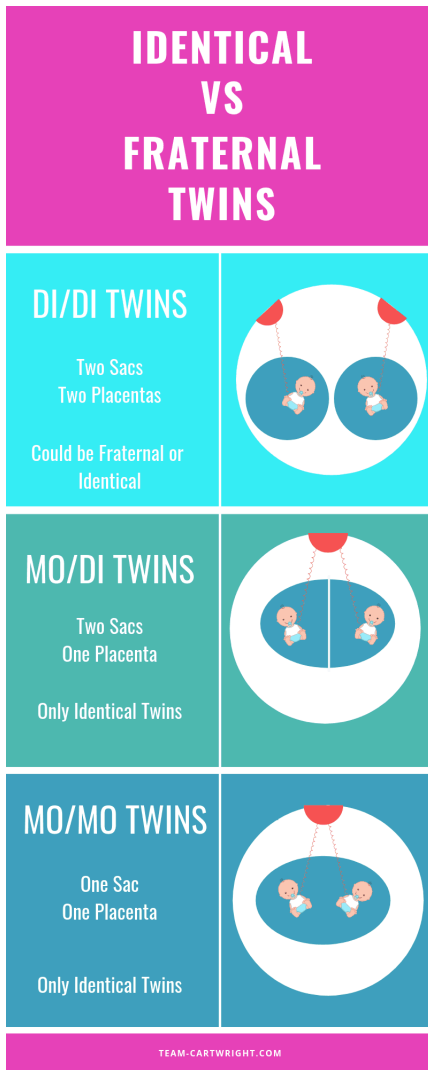




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

MoMo Pregnancy: A Rare Occurrence



In what has been termed a rare occurrence, a **US woman gave birth to two pairs of identical twins within six months of each other**. Such twins, known scientifically as 'MoMo', an abbreviation for **monoamniotic-monochorionic**, are some of the rarest types of twins, making up less than 1% of all births in the United States.

In a MoMo pregnancy, **the twins are known to share the same placenta, amniotic sac and fluid**. But they have different umbilical cords. They share everything except umbilical cords, which can easily become entangled in a single sac. **Unfortunately, there is a high rate of stillbirths associated with MoMo twins.**

Fraternal twins **are the result of two eggs being fertilized, while identical twins are the result of**

one egg being fertilized and split. This means identical twins must be the same gender due to them having the same DNA.

World Wildlife Day



World Wildlife Day has **been celebrated every year on the 3rd of March since 2013.**

The **theme of this year is 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'** which expanded into the conservation of marine life and oceans, and on collaborating with businesses and funding conservation activities.

The **date chosen coincides with the day of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), signed in 1973.**

This day also **marks the 50th anniversary of CITES' establishment.** CITES is an **international agreement between governments.** Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. Currently, **there are 184 parties to the convention, including India.** The **CITES Secretariat is administered by [UNEP \(The United Nations Environment Programme\)](#) and is located in Geneva, Switzerland.** The Conference of the Parties to CITES is the **supreme consensus-based decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its parties.**

In India, **apart from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a statutory body** under the Ministry that is especially meant to combat organised wildlife crime in the country.

Read More: [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#), [World Wildlife Day](#)

SMART-PDS

As per the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, SMART-PDS is an **important technologically driven initiative**, therefore, all states and union territories should make earnest efforts to implement it at the earliest.

SMART-PDS **is a system where smart ration cards are issued to beneficiaries of the public distribution system, and ration is given through fair price shops** on the production of the smart ration card by any member of the beneficiary family.

Major initiatives **are undertaken by the Government of India to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India which includes the [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana \(PMGKAY\)](#) implemented from April 2020 to December 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic in coordination with States & UTs and [One Nation One Ration Card](#) plan implemented to support migrant**

population, promoting millets in the PDS is important for strengthening nutrition security in the country.

Read More: [Public Distribution System \(PDS\) in India](#)

Porter Prize 2023

Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry **has received the Porter Prize 2023**. It recognized the **government's strategy in managing COVID-19**, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders **especially the involvement of [Accredited Social Health Activists \(ASHA\) workers](#)**. The country's contribution to developing and manufacturing vaccines was also lauded. **India delivered more than 2.5 billion doses**.

Porter Prize is **named after award-winning economist Michael E. Porter**. He has brought economic **theory and strategy concepts to bear on many of the most challenging problems faced by corporations, economies and societies**.

India launched the ASHA programme in 2005-06 as part of the [National Rural Health Mission](#). With the launch of the National Urban Health Mission in 2013, **the programme was extended to urban settings as well**. The core of the **ASHA programme has been an intention to build the capacity of community members in taking care of their own health and being partners in health services**.

Read More: [India's Covid Pandemic Management](#)

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