



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

43% Increase in Measles Deaths From 2021-2022

According to a new assessment by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and the **United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, the number of [measles](#) deaths worldwide increased by **43 % from 2021-2022**, due to falling vaccination rates.

- Low-income countries — where the risk of measles-related deaths is highest — have the **lowest vaccination rate of 66%**, indicating no recovery at all from the backslide during the pandemic.
- Measles, a highly contagious viral disease, spreads through respiratory droplets transmitted by the breath, sneeze or cough of an infected person.
- Measles is caused by a single-stranded, enveloped [RNA virus](#) with 1 serotype. It is classified as a member of the genus **Morbillivirus** in the Paramyxoviridae family. **Humans are the only natural hosts of measles virus.**

Read More: [Universal Immunization Programme, Mission Indradhanush](#)

Governor Can't Withhold Re-passed Bills

Government of Tamil Nadu complained to the [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) that [Governor](#) is holding back Bills indefinitely, defeating the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu to the benefits of crucial laws passed by the House.

- The SC took note of the Tamil Nadu government's argument that the Constitution does not provide Governor "discretion" to withhold the Bills "re-passed" by the [State Legislative Assembly](#).
- SC held that the first provision of [Article 200](#) states: "if the Bill is passed again by the House or Houses with or without amendment and presented to the Governor for assent, **the Governor shall not withhold assent therefrom**".
- The court also acknowledged the State's submission that the Governor, having withheld assent and sent back the Bills once, **cannot refer the reiterated Bills** to the [President](#).
- It was also observed by SC that **withholding the Bill also implies sending it back to the Legislature for reconsideration** as returning the Bills back to the House was a necessary corollary to the withdrawal of assent.

Read More: [Article 356, Rajmanner Committee](#)

Israel Declares Lashkar-e-Taiba as Terror Organisation

Ahead of the 15th anniversary of the [26/11 Mumbai attacks](#), Israel declared the Pakistan-based terror outfit **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** as a terror outfit, the move is in sync with Israel's attempts to support a global war on terror.

- The announcement has come in the backdrop of Israel's continued military operation in [Gaza Strip](#) that was launched immediately after the attack by [Hamas](#) on Israeli targets.
- Israel's move comes at a time when it has **asked India to proscribe Hamas as a terrorist outfit**.
- Israel usually lists terrorist organizations that operate against it within or around its borders,

similar to India's practice of listing groups recognized globally by the [UNSC](#) or the US State Department.

- USA, UK, [European Union](#), Canada, Australia, Japan are among the countries and groupings that have designated Hamas as a terror outfit.

Read More: [Six-Day War of 1967, UNSC 1267 Committee](#)

Kolkali Art of Kerala

Kolkali, a folk art of [Malabar region of Kerala](#), is being performed in remembrance of **St. Thomas'** (one of the disciples of **Jesus Christ**) arrival in India who landed in **Muziris (Cranganore)** on the Kerala coast in **52 AD**.

- With a history of about 200 years, Kolkali art is said to have drawn elements from [Kalaripayattu](#), a martial art practised in **Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.
- In Kolkali, each of the performers **holds a stick and moves in circle, striking the sticks and keeping rhythm** to the accompanying music.
- As the music gradually rises in pitch, **the pace increases till the performance reaches its climax**. The circle expands and contracts as the dance progresses.
- Kolkali is widespread among the [Dravidians](#). It has exerted a great influence in the folk dance forms of Bengal, Gujarat, Punjab, and Maharashtra. **In Tamil Nadu, this art form is referred to as Kolattam and in Andhra Pradesh, as Kolamu.**



Read More: [Martial Art Forms in India](#)

Online Coaching Platform: SATHEE

The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** and **IIT-Kanpur** have launched **SATHEE**, an innovative online platform aimed at transforming entrance exam preparation in India.

- This collaborative initiative breaks the mold of traditional coaching centers by offering **free, accessible coaching, leveling the playing field for aspirants** from all backgrounds.
- Aligned with [National Education Policy](#), SATHEE leverages **AI to personalize learning experiences** and provides a 45-day comprehensive crash course, preparing students for exams like JEE and NEET.

Read more: [National Education Policy](#)

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