



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Anopheles Stephensi: Deadly Malaria Species

A deadly **malaria vector from Asia has been detected in Kenya**. Kenya is **now the sixth and latest country in Africa to report an invasion of the deadly malaria species**.

Anopheles Stephensi **originated in Southeast Asia, West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula. The species has been expanding its geographic range over the last decade**, with detections in Africa first reported in Djibouti (2012), Ethiopia and Sudan (2016), Somalia (2019), and Nigeria (2020). It **also poses a significant threat** because, unlike other main malaria-causing mosquito vectors that primarily **breed in rural areas, Anopheles Stephensi is highly adaptive and can thrive in urban environments**.

Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne **blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites**. It is predominantly **found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia**. It is preventable as well as curable.

In India, **malaria elimination efforts were initiated in 2015** and were intensified **after the launch of the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) in 2016** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Read More: [Initiatives to Curb Malaria](#)

Kanak Rele

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Recently, the Classical dance legend **Kanak Rele and the Mohiniyattam** (classical dance form from the state of Kerala) exponent, who **was awarded the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram of the Government of Kerala passed away.**

In 1973, Dr. Rele **established the Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya and Nalanda Dance Research Centre** offering undergraduate, post-graduate and Ph.D degrees affiliated to the Bombay University. In 1977, she earned her Ph.D in dance, **the first in India.** Her doctoral thesis was titled, **'Mohini Attam: All aspects and Spheres of Influence'**. She was **awarded with various awards like Padma Shri (1989), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1994), M. S. Subbulakshmi Award, Kalidas Samman (2006).** Later in 2013, **she was conferred the Padma Bhushan.**

Read More: [Indian Classical Dances](#)

26th Meeting of WMCC



For the first time since the **India-China border stand-off began in 2020**, India visited Beijing for the 26th meeting of the **Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC)**. This was the **first in-person WMCC meeting since the 14th meeting held in July 2019.**

The WMCC **was established in 2012 as an institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination for management of India - China border areas**, as well as to exchange views on strengthening communication and cooperation, **including between the border security personnel of the two sides.**

The two **sides reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in the Western Sector of India-China border areas and **discussed proposals for disengagement in the remaining areas** in an open and constructive manner, which **would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC in Western Sector and create conditions for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations.**

Read More: [India-China Relations](#)

Minimum age for Admission

The Union ministry of education **has directed all states and Union territories to fix the minimum age for admission in Class 1 as six years** in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**

The foundational stage, according to NEP-2020, **consists of five years of learning opportunities for all children** (between 3 to 8 years) that **includes three years of preschool education followed by Classes 1 and 2.** NEP 2020 **promotes seamless learning and development of children from pre-**

school to class 2.

It has also **advised states to initiate the process of designing and running a two-year diploma in preschool education (DPSE)** course in their respective jurisdiction. The course is expected to **be designed by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)** and run or implemented **through District Institute of Education and Training (DIETs) under supervision and hold of SCERTs.**

Read More: [National Education Policy 2020](#)

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