



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

ICMR Debunks Link Between Covid-19 Vaccines and Sudden Deaths

A recent study by the [Indian Council of Medical Research \(ICMR\)](#) dispels concerns about [Covid-19 vaccines causing sudden deaths](#).

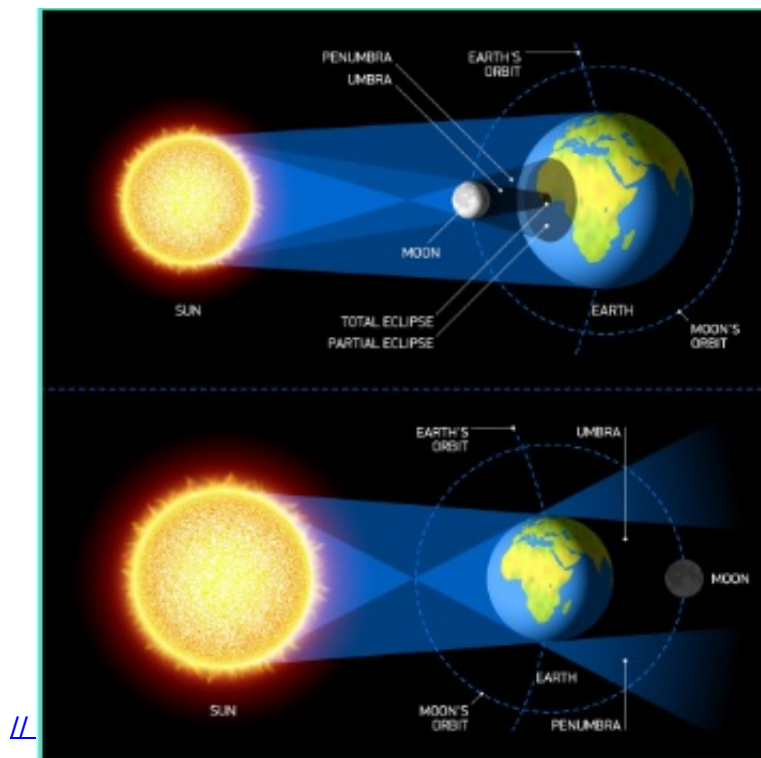
- The study suggests that **vaccination lowers the risk of sudden deaths**, especially in seemingly healthy individuals discharged within 24 hours.
 - Most sudden deaths are **attributed to heart conditions**, including irregular heartbeat, obstructed blood flow, and reduced heart muscle functionality.
 - Family history of sudden death, smoking, binge drinking, and vigorous exercise are identified as other risk factors for sudden deaths.
- The study highlights potential mechanisms through which **Covid-19 might impact heart health**, including damage to heart muscles and blood vessels.
 - **Severe Covid-19 cases** requiring hospitalization are **linked to an increased risk of sudden deaths**, with those experiencing severe illness four times more likely to face such outcomes.

Read more: [Post-Hospitalization Mortality in Covid-19 Patients](#)

Eclipses

[Eclipses](#) are astronomical phenomena that occur when **the sun, the moon, and the earth lie in a straight line**. However, eclipses **do not happen on every new moon and full moon day**.

- The moon's orbit around the earth is **tilted by about 5 degrees** to the earth's orbit around the sun.
 - This means that the moon is usually too high or too low to **cast a shadow on the Earth (solar eclipse)** or to **enter the Earth's shadow (lunar eclipse)**.
- Eclipses only occur when the moon crosses the ecliptic plane, which is the plane of the earth's orbit around the sun, **at the same time as it is new or full**.
 - The line of intersection of the planes is called the **line of nodes**. For an eclipse to occur, the moon has to be near one of the nodes.
 - This does not happen on all new moon and full moon days.
- Eclipses happen in pairs, with one solar and one lunar eclipse occurring in two weeks, which is called an **eclipse season**.
 - There are usually two eclipse seasons in a year, at varying times, depending on the alignment of the nodes and the sun.



Read more: [Types of Eclipses](#)

VAJRA PRAHAR 2023: Indo-US Special Forces Unite

The **14th edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise, "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023,"** kicked off at Umroi Cantonment, Meghalaya. The first edition was conducted in the year **2010 in India.**

- The US contingent, comprising personnel from the **1st Special Forces Group**, joins forces with **India's Eastern Command-led Special Forces contingent.**
- This exercise, fostering collaboration between the Indian and US armies, focuses on sharing **tactical strategies, mission planning, and operational tactics.**

Read more: [Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR](#)

Thailand's Cabinet Approves Marriage Equality Bill

Recently, **Thailand's Cabinet greenlit an amendment to the Civil and Commercial Code**, paving the way for **same-sex marriage** rights in the country.

- The change in language within the code, replacing **"men and women" with "individuals" and "husband and wife" with "marriage partners,"** aims to grant equal rights to same-sex couples.
- It would guarantee the right to form a family in a relationship between same-sex couples, adding that the next step will be an amendment to the pension fund law to recognize same-sex couples as well.

Read more: [Same Sex Marriage: Struggle for Equality](#)

Uttar Pradesh Imposes Ban on Halal Certification

The recent ban imposed by **Uttar Pradesh Food Safety and Drug Administration Commission** on the **production, storage, distribution, and sale of Halal certified food products** within the state under **Section 30 (2) (d) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** and powers under the **Section 30 (2) (a) of the same Act.**

- The order contends that **halal certification creates confusion regarding the quality of food items**, labeling various products such as dairy goods, bakery items, edible oils, and more.
- Section 30 (2) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006:
 - (a): Restricting for the sake of public health, the **production, storage, circulation, or vending of any food item**, within the entire State or specific regions thereof, for a duration not surpassing one year, as delineated in the order announced and published in the Official Gazette.
 - (d) ensure an **efficient and uniform implementation of the standards and other requirements** as specified and also ensure a high standard of objectivity, accountability, practicability, transparency and credibility.

Read more: [Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006](#)

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