



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Armageddon Reedtail

//



Recently in Kerala's [Western Ghats](#), researchers from MIT-World Peace University have found a new damselfly species, naming it '**Armageddon Reedtail**' (*protosticta armageddonia*).

- The species, 'Armageddon reedtail', was named to highlight the **global decline of insects due to habitat loss and climate change**, referencing the term "Ecological Armageddon."
 - It is distinguishable by its **dark brown to black body** and **vibrant greenish-blue eyes**, with half of its eight abdominal segments marked by delicate pale blue markings.
 - It thrives exclusively in **primary montane streams** under **dense canopy cover**.
- **Damselflies** are in the **suborder Zygoptera (pair wings)**. They are similar to dragonflies, but are smaller and have slimmer bodies.
- Damselflies are found mainly near shallow, freshwater habitats and are graceful fliers with slender bodies and long, filmy, net-veined wings.

SAMPRIITI- XI Exercise 2023



The **11th edition of the annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI**, commenced on 3rd October 2023, in Umroi, Meghalaya. This exercise, organized alternately by **India and Bangladesh**, highlights the strong bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries.

- SAMPRITI-XI is a 14-day exercise that aims to enhance interoperability between the two armies, share tactical drills, and promote best practices.
- The exercise will include a **Command Post Exercise (CPX)** and a **Field Training Exercise (FTX)**, focusing on Sub-Conventional Operations as per Chapter VII of the [United Nations Charter](#), it gives the UN Security Council the power to maintain peace.
 - The CPX will emphasize **decision-making after thorough deliberations**.
 - The FTX will validate grassroots-level operations through joint tactical drills for **counter-terrorist operations**, including hostage rescue, crowd control measures, and the use of helicopters.
- The two nations also conduct **Naval [Exercise Bongosagar](#)**.

Read more: [India-Bangladesh Relations](#)

World Animal Day

World Animal Day is observed on **4th October**, serving as a global commemoration focused on the promotion of [animal welfare](#) and the protection of their rights.

- It serves as a powerful reminder of our responsibility to protect and care for the diverse species that share our planet.
- The theme for World Animal Day 2023 is "**Big or small, we love them all**," emphasizing the importance of compassion for animals of all sizes.
- Its origins trace back to the visionary **Heinrich Zimmermann**, who initiated the event in **1925** and saw its recognition during a **1931 Congress of the International Animal Protection Congress** in Florence, Italy.

Read more: [People Rights Vs Animal Welfare](#)

Saudi Arabia Cuts Oil Premium for India

Saudi Arabia, the world's second-largest [oil producer](#), has reduced the **premium charged on its oil exports** to India in response to evolving global energy dynamics.

- The **Asian premium**, an additional fee imposed by the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** on Asian nations beyond the market-based selling price, has been a subject of concern for India. India has consistently advocated for the elimination of this premium and has even proposed the introduction of an 'Asian discount' instead.
 - Notably, Saudi Arabia has recently reduced the premium to **USD 3.5 per barrel from around USD 10 in 2022**.
- This adjustment underscores the competitive dynamics in the oil market, where nations,

including **India and China**, the **world's second and third largest crude oil importers**, have increased imports from Russia due to **substantial discounts** offered following the Ukraine conflict.

Read more: [India's Oil Dependence](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/rapid-fire-current-affairs-236>

