



28 June, 2024

Private Papers of public figures

Context: The Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML) will no longer allow future donors of Private Papers from eminent personalities to impose indefinite declassification conditions.

➤ Acquisition of Nehru's Papers at PMML

- The transfer of Nehru's Private Papers was overseen by the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund (JNMF) on behalf of Indira Gandhi, Nehru's legal heir, until her assassination in 1984.
- PMML received significant collections of Nehru's Papers post-1946 from Sonia Gandhi, further enriching its archival holdings.
- These papers include correspondence, speeches, official documents, and personal memorabilia, providing insights into Nehru's leadership and the shaping of modern India.

➤ Other Leaders' Papers at PMML

- PMML's collection includes diverse figures such as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bhikaji Cama, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and others who have made substantial contributions across various fields.
- The acquisition of papers from figures like Shanta Kumar, Sundarlal Bahuguna, and Yashpal underscores the breadth and depth of PMML's archival resources.
- These papers are crucial for scholarly research, offering perspectives on India's socio-political evolution and key historical events.

➤ Private Papers vs. Personal Papers

- Private Papers held at PMML encompass a wide range of materials, including letters, diaries, manuscripts, and unpublished writings that shed light on the lives and times of notable personalities.
- The distinction between Private Papers and personal correspondence lies in ownership and custodianship, influencing access and declassification processes.
- Personal Papers not included in Private Collections are typically held privately by individuals or families, with access granted based on mutual agreements or institutional policies.

➤ Conditions Imposed by Donors

- Donors often stipulate conditions regarding the timing and extent of public access to Private Collections, reflecting concerns over privacy, security, or historical sensitivity.
- PMML's recent policy limits embargo periods to a maximum of ten years for new acquisitions, aiming to balance preservation with scholarly access.
- The institution aims to proactively open older Private Papers, such as those of G D Mavalankar and Nayantara Sahgal, to researchers after decades in custody.

➤ Other Organizations Acquiring Private Papers

- The National Archives of India plays a complementary role in acquiring and preserving Private Papers, focusing on ensuring public access in accordance with donors' agreements.
- Its holdings include papers from eminent figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel,

and others, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of India's historical narrative.

➤ Declassification Processes Internationally

- Internationally, institutions such as the Library of Congress and National Archives of the United States follow structured declassification protocols for Personal Papers and government records.
- In India, the Public Records Rules of 1997 guide the declassification of official records, while Private Papers remain subject to donor agreements and institutional policies regarding access.
- Efforts to digitize and make archives accessible online enhance global scholarly engagement with historical documents and cultural heritage.

China's 'Five Principles' of foreign policy

Context: China will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, a foreign policy concept agreed with India in 1954, on Friday, June 28.

➤ Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel)

- **Origin and Adoption:** Proposed by China in 1954 and known as Panchsheel in India, these principles were introduced by Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai during bilateral talks with India on Tibet.
- **Principles:** They include mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence.
- **Purpose:** Aimed at fostering trust and cooperation between nations, particularly between India and China, they were integral to Prime Minister Nehru's vision of international relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.



➤ Historical Significance

- **Bandung Conference:** The principles gained international recognition at the Bandung Conference in 1955, where they were incorporated into the 10-point declaration by Asian and African nations.
- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):** Panchsheel principles became foundational to the Non-Aligned Movement, emphasizing collective security and non-alignment with Cold War power blocs.

Face to Face Centres



28 June, 2024

➤ Contemporary Context

- **Impact on India-China Relations:** Despite being originally designed to promote peaceful coexistence, the principles were strained following the 1962 India-China War, leading to criticism of Nehru's handling of the relationship.
- **Current Chinese Foreign Policy:** China's modern foreign policy under President Xi Jinping has seen assertive actions, such as territorial claims in the South China Sea and diplomatic challenges to US dominance.
- **India-China Relations Today:** Tensions persist between India and China, notably with ongoing border disputes in Ladakh since 2020, despite diplomatic efforts to resolve them.
- **Legacy and Criticism:** While the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence initially symbolized hopes for peaceful international relations, their practical application has faced challenges over the decades.
- **Global Impact:** The principles continue to influence discussions on international diplomacy and cooperation, reflecting evolving geopolitical dynamics.

Body Roundness Index

Context: The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was conceived by American researchers in 2013 as a response to criticisms of the Body Mass Index (BMI).

➤ Body Mass Index (BMI) Overview

- BMI is a widely-used measure to estimate body fat levels based on weight and height calculations.
- Despite its simplicity, BMI has limitations, especially for children, athletes, and ethnic minorities, as it doesn't account for muscle mass or body fat distribution accurately.
- It was developed using 19th-century European data and is criticized for its inability to provide nuanced health assessments.

➤ Introduction of Body Roundness Index (BRI)

- BRI, introduced in 2013 by U.S. researchers, addresses BMI's shortcomings by focusing on waist circumference in relation to height.
- It offers a numerical value indicating body fat distribution and health risks, ranging typically from one to 20.
- Studies suggest BRI may better predict risks associated with obesity-related diseases and overall mortality compared to BMI.

➤ Comparative Effectiveness: BRI vs. BMI

- BRI considers abdominal fat distribution, which BMI overlooks, making it potentially more accurate in health risk assessments.
- Unlike BMI, BRI requires only a tape measure and a mathematical equation, making it similarly accessible but prone to measurement errors, especially when manually taken.

➤ Limitations and Considerations

- BRI lacks extensive data backing like BMI, making its reliability and effectiveness compared to established methods uncertain.
- It's a composite measure like BMI, combining multiple factors into a single index, which can complicate interpretations and lead to misclassifications.
- Accuracy of BRI may vary based on factors like ethnicity, age, and sex, impacting its effectiveness in different populations.

➤ Future Directions

- While BRI represents an advancement over BMI by focusing on body shape and fat distribution, it's not immune to limitations, especially in individuals with atypical body compositions.
- More research is needed to validate BRI's superiority over BMI and establish its role in clinical assessments.
- Exploring digital alternatives like 3D body surface imaging may provide more comprehensive health assessments in the future, accommodating diverse body shapes and sizes

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Reserve Bank of India



Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to put in place a revised framework for currency swap arrangement for SAARC countries for 2024 to 2027.

About Reserve Bank of India:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the **central banking institution of India**, which is **responsible for regulating the monetary and financial system** of the country.
- It was **established on April 1, 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.**
- It is **governed by a central board of directors appointed by the Government of India, including a Governor and four Deputy Governors.**
- **The first Governor of the RBI was the Australian Sir Osborne Arkell Smith. Sir C D Deshmukh was the first Indian to become Governor.**
- Its primary functions include **formulating and implementing monetary policy, issuing currency, regulating the financial system, managing foreign exchange** and playing a developmental role.
- It regulates and **oversees the payment and settlement systems** and works towards consumer protection.
- Key instruments used by the RBI include the **repo rate, reverse repo rate, cash reserve ratio (CRR), and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).**
- It was **initially headquartered in Kolkata** but was permanently moved to **Mumbai in 1937.**

Face to Face Centres



28 June, 2024

ALMA Telescope



Recently, the astronomers using the ALMA telescope gained new insights into planet formation around binary star systems.

About the ALMA Telescope:

- Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is a **state-of-the-art astronomical observatory** that was officially inaugurated on **March 13, 2013**
- It is an astronomical interferometer of **66 high-precision antennas**, working at **millimeter and submillimeter wavelengths**.
- It is situated in the **Atacama Desert of northern Chile**, specifically on the **Chajnantor plateau**, at an altitude of about 5,000 meters (16,400 feet).
- It is **designed to observe the universe** in millimeter and submillimeter wavelengths, which allows it to study cold and distant objects like **molecular clouds, star-forming regions, protoplanetary disks**, planetary systems and **distant galaxies**.
- The array comprises **54 12-meter antennas** and **12 7-meter antennas** that can be moved into different configurations, with baselines ranging from **150 meters to 16 kilometers**, providing high spatial resolution.
- ALMA is a **global partnership** among Europe, the United States, Canada, East Asia, and the Republic of Chile.
- The construction and operations are coordinated by the European Southern Observatory (ESO), the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ).

ISO 9001:2015 Certification



Recently, the Woman Police Station in Itanagar has been awarded with ISO 9001:2015 certification for its commitment to dealing humanely and effectively with crimes against women and children.

About the ISO 9001:2015 Certification:

- The ISO 9001:2015 certification is an **international standard** that signifies the implementation of a comprehensive quality management system.
- It is a **globally recognized standard** for quality management systems (QMS) that helps organizations meet customer needs.
- It was **first introduced in 1987 by the International Organization of Standardization (ISO)**, a **non-governmental organization** that includes standards bodies from over **160 countries**.
- The standard's latest version, ISO 9001:2015, focuses on **risk-based thinking** and includes a **procedural approach to help businesses implement best practices** for monitoring, controlling and reducing system errors.
- It is an **integrated standard** that encompasses all processes, resources and values and is more flexible than previous versions, allowing companies to define their own objectives.

Pench Tiger Reserve



Recently, the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has launched an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early detection of forest fires.

About Pench Tiger Reserve:

- Pench Tiger Reserve is located in the **southern part of Madhya Pradesh** and **extends into Maharashtra**.
- It is on the **southern slopes of the Satpura Range** and is **named after the Pench River**, which divides the reserve in half.
- It was established as a **wildlife sanctuary in 1977** and later declared a tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1992.
- The reserve is **also India's first Dark Sky Park**, which aims to protect the night sky from light pollution.
- Flora:** Pench Tiger Reserve boasts diverse flora including **teak** and **mixed forests**, vital for supporting a variety of plant species crucial to the ecosystem's balance.
- Fauna:** The reserve is known for its rich fauna including **Bengal tigers, leopards, Chital, Indian bison (gaur) and Sambar**.

Mainland Serow



Recently, a lone mainland serow has been recorded at 96 metres above the mean sea level at the Raimona National Park in western Assam.

About the Mainland Serow:

- The mainland Serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis* thar) is a **mammal** that looks like a cross between a goat and an antelope, **belongs to the family Bovidae**.
- It is a **medium-sized mammal** with a robust build, **short legs**, a **shaggy coat** and short, **backward-curving horns** present in both males and females.
- Its habitat is across the border in the **Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan**.
- It is also **found in the Himalayan region, Southeast Asia and parts of China**, preferring forested mountainous areas and **rocky terrains**.
- It is crepuscular, primarily **active during dawn and dusk** and is herbivorous, **feeding on leaves, shoots and grasses**.
- It is **classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List**, with threats including deforestation, poaching, and habitat fragmentation.

Face to Face Centres





28 June, 2024

Personality in News

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda



Recently, the Prime Minister of India paid tributes to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda on his birth anniversary.

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda (27 June 1510-1569):

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, belonged to the Morasu Vokkaliga community was born in Yelahanka near Bangalore, Karnataka.

Contributions:

- Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, also known as Kempegowda I, was a **ruler and founder of Bangalore** (present-day Bengaluru) in the **early 16th century**.
- He was a **governor under the Vijayanagara Empire in early-modern India**.
- He is **credited with establishing Bangalore** as a prominent city by constructing a **mud fort in 1537**, around which the modern city developed.
- He organized Bangalore into a structured township with **forts, temples** (like Gavi Gangadhareshwara), **tanks** (such as Dharmambudhi and Kempambudhi) and **well-defined markets and residential areas**.
- He encouraged cultural activities and literary pursuits, contributing significantly to **Kannada literature**, including writing the **Yakshagana play "Gangagaurivilasa" in Telugu**.

Honours:

- Several landmarks in Bangalore, such as **Kempegowda International Airport** and various **statues and memorials**, honor his memory and legacy.

Ethical Values: Integrity, Courage, Accountability, Leadership, etc.

Place in News

Bolivia

Recently, the Bolivian armed forces pulled back from the presidential palace in La Paz and a general was arrested after President Luis Arce slammed a "coup" attempt against the government and called for international support.

Bolivia:

Capital: The constitutional capital is **Sucre**, while the seat of government and executive capital is **La Paz**.

Location: Bolivia, officially known as the Plurinational State of Bolivia, is a **landlocked country** located in western-central **South America**.

Political Boundaries: Bolivia shares its borders with **Brazil** (East & North), **Peru** (West), **Argentina** (South), **Paraguay** (Southeast) and **Chile** (Southwest).

Geographical Features:

- The highest point in Bolivia is **Nevado Sajama**, located in the western part of the country.
- The major rivers in Bolivia include the **Mamoré, Beni and Pilcomayo**.
- Bolivia is rich in natural resources, including **tin, silver, and lithium** (Salar de Uyuni has one of the largest lithium reserves).



POINTS TO PONDER

- Which recent proposal did the Indian Air Force (IAF) make to the central government? – **To purchase 10 TAPAS drones**
- In which recent joint military exercise did the Indian Air Force collaborate with the Egyptian Air Force? – **Exercise HOPEX 2024**
- Which organization released a report on World Drug Day (International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking)? – **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**
- Recently, which organization was granted "Mini RATNA" status (Category-1)? – **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)**
- NSIL (India) recently signed an agreement with which company to launch its second Optimus spacecraft? – **Space Machines (Australia)**

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