

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 31, 2023

### STATE

- **First State With Hallmarking Centers In Every District**
- ✓ Kerala, the southern state of India, has achieved a remarkable milestone by inaugurating a hallmarking centre in Idukki.
- ✓ This achievement has solidified Kerala's position as the first state in India to establish hallmarking centres in all of its 14 districts.



- ✓ The Bureau of Indian Standards mandated the practice of hallmarking with the primary goal of protecting consumers.
- ✓ Hallmarking serves as a vital tool in ensuring the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in jewelry, artifacts, bullion, and coins.

### INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and Bangladesh - Three Development Projects**
- ✓ The projects are the Akhaura-Agartala cross-border rail link, the Khulna-Mongla port rail line, and unit II of the Maitree super thermal power plant.



- ✓ The projects are implemented with Indian assistance to boost connectivity and energy security in the region.
- ✓ The projects will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on November 1, 2023 in a virtual ceremony.
- ✓ The projects are part of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and its efforts to strengthen its ties with Bangladesh.

## AWARDS

- **Lionel Messi Wins Eighth Ballon D'Or 2023**
- ✓ Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati have been honored as the 2023 Ballon d'Or recipients. Messi secures his eighth Ballon d'Or, setting a new record, thanks to his pivotal role in leading Argentina to their first World Cup victory since 1986.



- ✓ This remarkable achievement places Messi three Ballons d'Or ahead of his rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who last won the award in 2017.
- ✓ Messi has now been a top-three finalist for this prestigious accolade a total of 14 times, with five instances as the runner-up.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Candolleomyces albosquamosus**

- ✓ Researchers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) in Kerala, India, have identified a new species of mushroom, named *Candolleomyces albosquamosus*, found on the JNTBGRI campus in the Western Ghats.

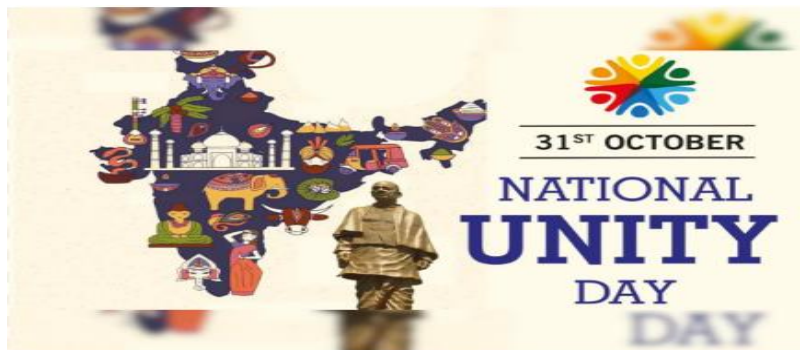


- ✓ The new species belongs to the genus **Candolleomyces**, a small genus with only **35** recognized species globally.
- ✓ **Candolleomyces albosquamosus** is characterized by its delicate appearance and **honey-yellow cap**.
- ✓ The mushroom has a bell-shaped cap with white woolly scale-like structures, giving it a unique appearance.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **National Unity Day – October 31**

- ✓ The Government of India declared Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31 as National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
- ✓ He was also known as "Iron Man of India."



- ✓ National Unity Day, celebrated on October 31, is a momentous occasion that pays homage to the indomitable spirit of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his unparalleled contributions to India's unity and integrity.

