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Periyar

Periyar's 146th birth anniversary celebrated recently in Chennai.

- Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy, also known as "Periyar," is an Indian social activist and politician born on September 17, 1879.
- **His parents** - Venkatappa Nayakar and Chinnathayee.
- He started the ***Self-Respect Movement*** and ***Dravidar Kazhagam***.
- He is known as the ***'Father of the Dravidian movement'*** as well as Pagutharivu Pagalavan.
- **INC** - E.V. Ramasamy joined the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1919, but resigned in 1925 when he felt that the party was only serving the interests of Brahmins.
- He was arrested during the ***non-cooperation movement*** in 1920.
- In 1921, he courted imprisonment for picketing toddy shops in Erode.
- In 1921, during the anti-liquor campaign he cut down 100 trees in his own farm.
- He opposed and questioned the discriminated against non-Brahmins by Brahmins in cultural and religious matters.
- **Vaikom Satyagraha** - He led the famous Vaikom Sathya Graha in 1924, where the people of down trodden community were prohibited to enter into the temple.
- Finally the Travancore government relaxed such segregation and allowed the people to enter into the temple. Hence Periyar was given the title of 'Vaikom Hero'.
- From 1929 to 1932 Ramasamy made a tour of British Malaya, Europe, and Soviet Union which influenced him.

ON FOREIGN SHORES Fifty-two year old Periyar toured the world between 1929 and 1932 to learn about the economic, social and political functioning of different countries




Periyar in Russia with scientists of one of the country's research organisations

IN QUEST OF KNOWLEDGE

- > In 1931 Periyar took a tour of Europe
- > Spoke against superstitions, caste and religion in meetings at Colombo
- > Visited Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Russia, Germany, England, Spain, France, Portugal and Russia
- > Was impressed with Russian governance and believed that socialism could provide equal opportunities to all citizens
- > In June 1932, addressed a gathering of 30,000 workers affiliated to the labour party at Barnsley, England
- > Also visited officers of various communist fronts in Great Britain and met prominent communist leaders
- > Halted at Ceylon and returned to India in November 1932

ROUND THE WORLD: (L-R) Periyar with Athiest association members in Russia; in front of Socrates statue in Athens




MALAY BOUND

- > Visited Malaysia in 1929 to propagate ideologies of the self-respect movement among Indians there
- > Was received by 50,000 Tamils in Penang port
- > Addressed meetings in Ipoh, Johor, Bahru, Malacca, Seremban and Kuala Lumpur
- > Propagated self-respect marriages in all his speeches

- In 1939, E.V. Ramasamy became the head of the Justice Party and in 1944, he changed its name to Dravidar Kazhagam.
- E.V. Ramasamy promoted the principles of rationalism, self-respect, women's rights and eradication of caste.

Tamil Nadu celebrates Periyar's birth anniversary as 'Social Justice Day' since 2021 whereas the World Day of Social Justice is 20th Feb.

• Newspapers & Journals

- Kudi Arasu, Tamil weekly magazine
- Puratchi,
- Pagutharivu,
- Viduthalai,
- Revolt, English magazine.

Reference

[The Indian Express | Periyar's 146th birth anniversary](#)

Cellulitis Disease

There has been an upsurge in number of cellulitis cases in Karimnagar, Telangana.

- **Cellulitis-** It is a common, potentially serious **bacterial skin infection**.
- It is caused by ***Streptococcus and Staphylococcus bacteria***, which live on the skin's surface.

- In some cases, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) can cause cellulitis.
- **Infection** - It typically affects the skin's deeper layers, including the dermis and subcutaneous tissue.
- Cellulitis can occur anywhere on the body, but it most often affects the lower legs.
- The affected skin is swollen and inflamed and is typically painful and warm to the touch.
- **Symptoms**- Redness, swelling, warmth, Pain, Fever and blisters.
- Left untreated, the infection can spread to the lymph nodes and bloodstream and rapidly become life-threatening. It isn't usually spread from person to person.
- **Affected Population**- Common among those working in agriculture, construction, and people prone to cuts, bruises, and other injuries.
- People who are overweight, have a weakened immune system, or have other skin diseases are at higher risk for developing cellulitis.
- **Diagnosis**- Doctors usually diagnose cellulitis through a physical examination of the affected area.
- In severe cases, **blood tests** may be conducted to check for a more widespread infection.
- **Treatment**- The primary treatment is a course of **antibiotics**.
- The disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics, and most people recover fully within 24 hours.

References

1. [Deccan chronicle | Spread of Cellulitis Disease](#)
2. [Hopkins medicine | Cellulitis](#)

Karma Festival or Karma Naach

Festival Karma starts with great pomp in Jharkhand recently.

- The Karma Dance, also known as Karma Naach, is a traditional tribal performance that is conducted to commemorate the harvest festival and to honor the revered Karam tree.
- **Region**- Eastern India, especially in Chota Nagpur plateau, covering states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal celebrated this tribal festival.
- **Central deity** -Karam tree, regarded as a symbol of Karam Devta or Karamsani, the deity representing strength, vigor, and vitality.
- **Dance** - Both males and females actively gather to form a circle, intertwining their arms around each other's waists & dances in a circle around a sacred tree, honored as Karma.
- **Instrument** - Thumki, Chhalla, Payri, and Jhumki instruments.
- **Celebrated by** - Munda, Ho, Oraon, Baiga, Kharia, and Santhal tribes.
- **Celebrated on** - The Ekadashi tithi (the eleventh day) of the lunar fortnight in the month of Bhado/Bhadra, which corresponds to August-September in the Gregorian

calendar.

- **Nature of Celebration** - A week prior to the festival, young women gather clear sand from the river to sow 7 varieties of grains.
- On the festival day, a branch from the Karam tree is planted in a courtyard or 'akhra'.
- In addition they also planted the stems of Chirchitti (chaff flower) and Sindwar (chaste tree) in their rice fields, which, according to Tirkey, served as natural pest deterrents.
- Devotees present jawa (hibiscus) flowers, and the pahan (priest) performs rituals for Karam Raja.
- **Traditional belief** -Once the procession concludes, the karma branch must not touch the ground and should remain elevated between the dancers for the continuation of the performance.
- The festival concludes with the immersion of the Karam branch in a river or pond, where devotees share the jawa among themselves.
- Towards the conclusion of Karam, branches from sal or bhelua trees are often placed in fields, symbolizing the hope that Karam Raja/Devta will safeguard their crops.

Reference

[The Indian Express | Karam Festival](#)

Syntretus perlmani

New Parasitoid Wasp Species, Syntretus perlmani recently discovered by Researchers in Mississippi in Eastern US.

- It is a new species of wasp that lays eggs inside living, adult fruit flies, which then burst from the hosts' abdomens while they're still alive.
 - Female S. perlmani use their needle-like ovipositor organ, the stinger in stinging wasps to stab and deposit an egg within a fruit fly's abdomen.
 - The egg then hatches into a tiny wasp larva, which grows inside the fly for **about 18 days** before leaving its host for dead.
- It is the **1st wasp found to infect adult fruit flies** similar wasp species are known to target flies during their younger, more vulnerable larva and pupa life stages.
- The wasps are **parasitoids rather than parasites** because they always kill their hosts, while parasites usually don't.
- Syntretus perlmani infects the adult stage of fruit flies in the genus Drosophila, including one of the most deeply studied model organisms in biology, **Drosophila melanogaster**.
- **Appearance** - It is distinct from other species in the genus Syntretus by virtue of its small size (body length about 1.5 mm).
- **Distribution** - It can be easily collected from backyard fly baits and has a broad geographic distribution throughout the Eastern U.S.



Reference

[Live Science | Syntretus perlmani](#)

Lenacapavir, Potential Preventive HIV Drug

Patent applications for a drug called lenacapavir have shown to be capable of virtually eliminating new HIV infections through sex opposed in India.

- **Lenacapavir Drug** - It functions as a fusion capsid inhibitor.
- It disrupts the HIV capsid, which is the protein structure that safeguards the genetic material and enzymes essential for the virus's replication.
- This medication is delivered via subcutaneous injection, with a dosing schedule of once every 6 months.
- **Potential of the Drug-** The drug Lenacapavir has gained significant attention for its potential in preventing HIV.
- It is administered through biannual injections as numerous clinical trials have shown it to be more effective than traditional oral preventive treatments, known as pre-exposure (PrEP).
- **PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis-** It involves the administration of antiretroviral medications to reduce the risk of HIV infection in individuals who are considered to be at high risk.
- The primary medication utilized in PrEP is Truvada, which consists of a combination of two antiretroviral agents - Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) and Emtricitabine.
- There are multiple forms of PrEP, including daily oral pills and a long-acting injectable form.
- **UNAIDS Opinion-** Lenacapavir could play a pivotal role in the global effort to eradicate AIDS, provided that it is accessible to all.

HIV/AIDS

- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the immune system, and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is the most advanced stage of HIV infection.
- HIV/AIDS is particularly targeting CD4 cells (T cells) that are essential for combating infections.
- It can spread through sexual contact, illicit injection drug use or sharing needles, contact with infected blood, or from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding.
- There is ***no vaccine*** to prevent HIV infection and no cure for HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS

- It serves as a paradigm for reform within the United Nations and stands as the sole cosponsored Joint Programme in the UN framework.
- It leverages the knowledge and skills of 11 Cosponsors from the United Nations system and uniquely includes civil society representation on its governing board.
- UNAIDS is at the forefront of the international initiative to eliminate AIDS as a public health concern by the year 2030, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reference

[The Hindu | Patent for HIV prevention drug opposed in India](#)

