

Hey Reader!

Do you sometimes wonder how humans spend their whole lifetimes uncovering the intriguing mysteries the world has to offer us? And each time a discovery comes, we are equally fascinated, even though we wouldn't have expected to be any more surprised after that. ☐

In this week's **Curiopeedia Newsletter #5**, we bring you some more interesting facts and tidbits about what's being talked about in the news since the last week!

## Curiopeedia ☐

### 1. Heard about the legendary city of Ayodhya?

**Ayodhya** is a city in **UP, India** which is identified as the birthplace of Lord Rama. The name is a derivation of the Sanskrit verb 'yudh' (war), and 'a' is the negative prefix, changing the meaning to "not to be fought". It is one of the 7 holy pilgrimage sites, as attested by the **Atharvaveda**, one of the 4 Vedas.

In present day, a ceremony for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was held on 5th August, 2020.

- A **40 kg** silver brick was laid as the foundation stone by **PM Narendra Modi**.
- It is expected to be the world's **3rd largest Hindu temple**, after the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia and the Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu.
- Ayodhya has also had a [history of dispute between Hindu and Muslim communities since 1528](#), over the former's Ram Mandir and the latter's Babri Masjid. Only in 2019, did SC resolve the issue by allotting land for construction of both a temple and a mosque.



### 2. What's a mammon's horn?

When **elephant ancestor**, mammoth's tusks were discovered in washed-out river banks of **Siberia in 17th century**, they were called "mammon's horn". Some local people even claimed to have seen a living woolly mammoth whose tusks twist like a corkscrew. Wondering if they can be resurrected? While that's a tall order currently, [scientists have managed to revive another life form: microbes!](#)

- The dormant microbes survived in the **South Pacific seabed**, in sediments poor in nutrients, but having enough oxygen to allow them to breathe.
- As per the study co-author Steven D'Hondt, after **incubation** by scientists, the microbes began to eat and multiply.
- This depicts how some of Earth's simplest living structures don't have the concept of a lifespan and how using **DNA and RNA gene profiling**, bigger creatures may "come back to life" in the future.



### 3. Tried the black and white challenge yet?



A **B&W photo challenge** is a recent social media trend which has started from Turkey. This campaign is associated with [raising awareness about femicide there as black and white photos](#) of murdered women are usually shown in the country's media. Then there were reports of a **new law** passed on **29th July** by the **Turkish Legislation**:

- This law lets the government store user data found on their social media accounts like **Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube**, in the nation's internal servers itself.
- The dire consequences of disobeying the law would be slowing the bandwidth of the sites and making them mostly inaccessible. For example, the fine after **48 hours** would be **\$700,000+**.
- This has raised concerns about the country falling under greater governmental control, as social media was one of the few places for free public debate in Turkey.



### 4. Do you know about these Indian cities having trams?

The **tram network in Kolkata, West Bengal** is the only operating tram network in India and the oldest operating electric tram in Asia, running since **1902**. Back in the day Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kerala and Kanpur also had bustling tram networks. By the way, did you know electric vehicles have been in existence longer than the **General Motors EV1** of the late 1990s and **today's Tesla Inc.**?

- Scotland's Robert Anderson built the first motorized carriage in the **mid-1830s**.
- Electric battery cars became popular for taxi services in the early **1900s**.
- In the **2000s**, the emergence of **MOS** (metal-oxide-semiconductor) technology and lithium-ion battery led to the development of modern age electric road vehicles with less power losses.
- Throughout the EV emergence, there was a [constant pressure exerted by the oil industry](#), who were afraid of losing their monopoly on transportation fuel over the coming decades.



### 5. Watched the YouTuber who gets himself stung by animals?

**Coyote Peterson** is a YouTube personality, wildlife educator, and host on Animal Planet. He is best known for his content, which includes animals stinging and biting him while he deals with the likes of the world's largest slug and a bird-eating tarantula. Recently U.S researchers at the Washington State Department of Agriculture [trapped one of the world's biggest predatory wasps, murder hornets](#) for the first time.

- They prey on **honey bees**, swooping down and grabbing them out of the air.
- Several dozen Asian giant hornets can together kill a whole hive and use them as protein nourishment for their young.
- Meanwhile, the **bees naturally follow an algorithm** to form the complicated architecture of beeswax cells in the hive. The structure helps the queen bee navigate her home more easily in case of hornet attacks plus improves airflow too! (A win-win.)



Coyote being bitten by a Tarantula Hawk.(Can't imagine doing this anytime soon eh?)



## Here's your Chance to be Featured ☐

We are super excited to share with you a new section wherein one of you awesome people would get a chance to be a trivia ninja! You just have to [answer the question below and send the reply on this same email id](#). We will tell you if you have got it right or not. The **fastest reply would be featured in the next newsletter!**

**Name a country whose name starts with the letter A but does not finish with an A.**

If you are a travel enthusiast, don't forget to check out our [SuperQuiz on Geography](#), happening this Sunday at 12 noon on our Instagram stories. It will be up for 24 hours. [Turn on Sunday Quiz reminder!](#)

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## ☐ This Week's Quotable Quote

**The 'Earth' without 'art' is just 'eh'.**

- Demetri Martin, Comedian and Cartoonist

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