## 2025 EDITION e-BOOK

# CURRENT AFFAIRS YEARBOOK

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Current Affairs + Static Coverage

January to December 2024

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### Important Days

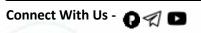
#### **JANUARY**

| Date                        | DAY  | THEME/REMARK   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan         | 66 <sup>th</sup> DRDO Foundation Day                           | Chairman DRDO: Dr Samir V Kamat<br>DRDO Founded: 1958  |
| 4 Jan                       | World Braille Day  | Marks the birthday of Louis Braille, creator of braille language - a way for blind people to read.  Observed since 2019  |
| 9 Jan                       | Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or<br>NRI Day                         | <ul> <li>to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India</li> <li>since 2003</li> <li>it marks Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915.</li> </ul>  |
| 10 Jan                      | World Hindi Day<br>विश्व हिंदी दिवस                            | <ul> <li>Theme - 'Hindi – Bridging Traditional Knowledge and<br/>Artificial Intelligence.'</li> <li>On 10<sup>th</sup> January 1975, the first-ever World Hindi Conference<br/>took place in Maharashtra's Nagpur</li> <li>celebrated since 2006.</li> <li>Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh adopted it.</li> </ul> |
| 11 Jan                      | Death anniversary of Lal<br>Bahadur Shastri                    | He passed away on this day in 1966 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan   |
| 11-17<br>Jan                | National Road Safety Week                                      | Theme - "Be a Road Safety Hero".  The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) organizes the event to promote road safety practices.  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup><br>January | National Youth Day   | Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda Gol officially declared it as National Youth Day in 1984, and since 1985, it has been celebrated across the country.  |
| 10th-<br>18th Jan           | Startup India Innovation<br>Week                               | Organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup><br>January | 76th Army Day 2024   | <ul> <li>Army Day parade takes place in Lucknow</li> <li>On January 15, 1949, Gen KM Cariappa took charge of the Indian Army and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Independent India</li> <li>Indian Army will observe 2024 as the 'Year of Technology Absorption</li> </ul>  |
| 16 Jan                      | National Startup Day   | Objective – To promote and encourage upcoming businesses in the country. On January 15, 2022, PM Modi first announced the adoption of the day.   |
| 19 Jan                      | 19th National Disaster<br>Response Force (NDRF)<br>Raising Day | National Disaster Response Force was formed in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs Director General of NDRF - Atul Karwal (महानिदेशक)   |
| 21 Jan                      | Tripura, Manipur, and<br>Meghalaya Foundation Day              | On 21 January 1972, the states of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Re-organisation) Act, of 1971.  |
| 23rd Jan                    | Parakram Diwas (Valor Day)                                     | 127th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose  |

| 24 Jan   | International Day of Education   | Theme 2024 - "Learning for lasting peace."  National Education Day in India – 11th Nov   |
|----------|--|--|
| 24 Jan   | Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day   | Theme 2024 - 'Uttar Pradesh: Rich Spiritual and Cultural Heritage'   |
| 24 Jan   | National Girl Child Day  | <ul> <li>Initiated by Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008</li> <li>as part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign</li> </ul>   |
| 25 Jan   | National Tourism Day   | Theme 2024 is 'Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories'. The Indian government first celebrated National Tourism Day in 1948   |
| 25 Jan   | Himachal Pradesh Statehood<br>Day  | It was on this day in 1971 that Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.   |
| 25 Jan   | 14th National Voters Day   | <ul> <li>celebrated since 2011</li> <li>To mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950.</li> <li>2024 Theme - 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure</li> </ul>                   |
| 26 Jan   | 75th Republic Day  | 2024 Twin Themes - 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra ki<br>Matruka'<br>Chief Guest - French President Emmanuel Macron  |
| 26 Jan   | International Customs Day<br>2024  | Theme 2024 - "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose"  |
| 26 Jan   | International Day of Clean<br>Energy 2024                                    | Declared in 2023 by the UN General Assembly Theme 2024: 'Clean Energy for People and Planet'   |
| 27 Jan   | International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust | <ul> <li>It is an annual observance to remember and honour the 6 million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of Nazism during World War II.</li> <li>United Nations General Assembly designated in Nov 2005.</li> </ul> |
| 28 Jan   | Birth Anniversary of Lala<br>Lajpat Rai                                      | <ul> <li>Celebrated on 28<sup>th</sup> of January every year- he born on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1865</li> <li>Also called 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'.</li> </ul>   |
| 28 Jan   | K.M. Cariappa Jayanti  | Field Marshal KM Cariappa was the first Indian Army commander-in-chief and was popularly known as the "Kipper".  |
| 28 Jan   | World Leprosy Day  | <ul> <li>Celebrated on last Sunday of January.</li> <li>Theme – Beat Leprosy.</li> <li>Aim - to eradicate the stigma associated with leprosy and to promote the dignity of people affected by the disease</li> </ul>             |
| 29 Jan   | Indian Newspaper Day   | On January 29, 1780, 'James Augus Hickey' an Irishman - launched India and Asia's first printed newspaper, the English weekly 'Hicky's Bengal Gazette', also known as the Original Calcutta General Advertiser.                  |
| 30th Jan | Martyrs Day or Shaheed<br>Diwas  | to commemorate the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi on 30th January, 1948. Tribute paid to Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi at Raj Ghat in Delhi.   |
| 31 Jan   | International Zebra Day  | Zebras are mostly found on the African continent   |

#### **FEBRUARY**

| DATE   | DAY   | THEME/ REMARK  |
|--------|---|--|
| 1 Feb  | 48 <sup>th</sup> Indian Coast Guard Day/<br>48वां भारतीय तटरक्षक दिवस   | The interim Indian Coast guard was established on 1 February 1977 to prevent sea-borne smuggling of goods which were hampering India's domestic economy.   |
| 2 Feb  | World Wetlands Day /<br>विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस                           | The 2024 theme "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing" it marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on this date in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.  |
| 2 Feb  | Rheumatoid Arthritis<br>Awareness day                                   | An inflammatory disease that affects the joints  |
| 4 Feb  | International Day of Human<br>Fraternity                                | raising awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance.  |
| 4 Feb  | World Cancer Day  | Theme 2024 - "Together, we challenge those in power"  Blue and Orange are the official colour for world cancer day 2023.   |
| 6 Feb  | International Day of Zero<br>Tolerance for Female Genital<br>Mutilation | 2024 Theme: Her Voice. Her Future observed to spread awareness and educate people about the consequences and problems that females face due to genital mutilation.   |
| 6 Feb  | Safer Internet Day  | Theme 2024 - "Together for a Better Internet" global call to action for everyone to create a safer and better internet for all, especially for children and young people   |
| 9 Feb  | Baba Amte's Death<br>Anniversary  | an Indian social activist, lawyer, and environmentalist.   |
| 11 Feb | International Day of Women and Girls in Science                         | Theme - Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability" subtheme is "Think Science Think Peace"   |
| 11 Feb | Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya death anniversary                            | an RSS functionary, was among the founding members of the Bharatiya<br>Jana Sangh  |
| 11 Feb | World Unani day   | to commemorate the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, an eminent Indian Unani physician and social reformer. In 2017, the AYUSH Ministry decided to celebrate his birth anniversary as Unani Day.              |
| 12 Feb | 200th birth anniversary of<br>Maharshi Dayananda<br>Saraswati           | earlier named Mool Shankar Tiwari<br>founder of the Arya Samaj   |
| 12 Feb | National Productivity Day   | This day is a part of the National Productivity Week celebrations, which is observed from 12 February to 18 February in India.  Theme 2024- Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth. |
| 13 Feb | World Radio Day   | Theme 2024 - "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating".   |
| 13 Feb | National Women's Day  | Sarojini Naidu's Birth Anniversary  nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila'  First Indian woman President of Indian National Congress in 1925  First woman Governor in India (Uttar Pradesh in 1947)    |
| 17 Feb | World Pangolin Day  | Third Saturday of February each year. Across the world, there are 8 species of pangolins. 'Critically Endangered' -International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.                                 |
| 19 Feb | Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj<br>Jayanti                                  | Founder of the Great Maratha empire Born on 19th February in 1630 in the hill fort of Shivneri, located near Pune in Maharashtra   |



| 20 Feb                 | Mizoram & Arunachal  | Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India   |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 20100                  | Pradesh Statehood Day  | Mizoram became the 23rd state of India after the 53rd Amendment to   |
| A. Commission          |  | the Indian Constitution in 1986.   |
| 20 Feb                 | World Day of Social Justice                                      | Theme 2024 - "Global Coalition for Social Justice: Bridging Gaps,<br>Building Alliances"   |
| 21 Feb                 | International Mother<br>Language Day                             | Theme - "Multilingual education is a pillar of intergenerational learning".  |
| 22 Feb                 | World Scout Day  | Birthday of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting Theme - "Scouts for a Better World."  |
| 23 Feb                 | World Peace and<br>Understanding Day                             | Commemorating the founding of the first Rotary Club in Chicago in 1905.  |
| 24 Feb                 | 647th Birth Anniversary of<br>Sant Guru Ravidas                  | celebrated on Magh Purnima, the full moon day in the month of Magh according to the Hindu lunar calendar   |
| 10550                  |  | 14th century saint and reformer of the Bhakti movement in North India.   |
| 24 Feb                 | Central Excise Day   | Celebrated to commemorate the legislation of the Central Excise and Salt Act on 24 February 1944.  |
| 25 Feb                 | Defence Security Corps 77th Raising Day                          | The Corps was raised on this day in 1947 as 'Defence Department Constabulary'.   |
| 26 Feb                 | Vinayak Damodar Savarkar<br>'Veer Savarkar' death<br>anniversary | <ul> <li>a freedom fighter, politician, lawyer and a writer.</li> <li>He was the President of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.</li> <li>The airport at Port Blair has been named Veer Savarkar International Airport.</li> </ul> |
| Feb 26<br>to Mar<br>01 | Financial Literacy Week<br>2024/वित्तीय साक्षरता सप्ताह<br>2024  | <ul> <li>Theme - "Make a Right Start: Become Financially Smart"</li> <li>Starting in 2016, RBI has consistently allocated each year to the observance of <u>Financial Literacy Week (FLW)</u>.</li> </ul>                          |
| 27 Feb                 | World NGO Day  | Theme - "Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"  |
| 27 Feb                 | National Protein Day   | The theme of World Protein Day 2024 is "Solve With Protein". to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include this macronutrient in their diet   |
| 28 Feb                 | National Science Day   | Theme 2024- Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.                                  |
| 29 Feb                 | Morarji Desai birth<br>anniversary                               | Shri Desai was India's prime minister from March 24, 1977, till July 28, 1979.   |

#### **MARCH**

| DATE  | DAY                     | THEME/ REMARK  |
|-------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 Mar | Zero Discrimination Day | Theme 2024 - "To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights." Established by UNAIDS to advance equality and fairness for everyone regardless of gender, age, sexuality, ethnicity or HIV status. |
| 1 Mar | World Civil Defence Day | Theme 2024 is "Honor Heroes and Promote Safety Skills"   |
| 3 Mar | World Wildlife Day      | Theme 2024- "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation"  First proposed by Thailand to the UN General Assembly in 2013.  |
| 3 Mar | World Hearing Day 2024  | Theme for 2024 - "Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all."   |
| 4 Mar | National Safety Day     | Theme 2024 is "Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence" Observed to celebrate the foundation of the National Safety Council in 1972. and to enhance the safety awareness among people.               |

| 5 Mar        | International Day for Disarmament and Non- Proliferation Awareness 2024 | <ul> <li>UNGA established it in 2021</li> <li>United Nations Disarmament Week' is celebrated every year from 24 to 30 Oct.</li> </ul>  |
|--------------|---|--|
| 8 Mar        | International Women's Day   | Theme: Invest in women: Accelerate progress  During International Women's Year in 1975, the UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day.  |
| 9- 23<br>Mar | Poshan Pakhwada   | Theme 2024: Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi Poshan Pakhwada is celebrated for a span of 15 days in the month of March annually.  |
| 10 Mar       | International Day of Women<br>Judges                                    | Campaign theme - "Women in Justice, women for justice" to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary   |
| 10 Mar       | CISF Raising Day<br>(Central Industrial Security<br>Force)              | On this day, in 1969, the CISF was set up. It is one of seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs  The objective of the CISF is - Better protection and security of industrial undertakings in both government and private sectors |
| 14 Mar       | Pi Day OR International Day of Mathematics                              | The day is written in the month and date (MM/DD) format to represent the value of Pi which is 3.14.  The first Pi Day was celebrated in 1988, by physicist Larry Shaw.   |
| 14 Mar       | International Day of Action for Rivers                                  | Theme is "Water for All".  The first International Day of Action for Rivers was observed in March 1997.  |
| 15 Mar       | World Consumer Rights Day   | Theme - "Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers" First observed on March 15, 1983   |
| 16 Mar       | National Immunisation/<br>Vaccination Day                               | The first dose of the Oral Polio Vaccine was administered in 1995 on this date, under WHO's Global Polio Eradication Initiative which had begun in 1988.   |
| 18 Mar       | Ordnance Factories Day<br>(India)                                       | The production of India's oldest Ordnance Factory, which is at Cossipore of Kolkata, was started on the 18th of March, 1802. The day is celebrated by displaying the rifles, guns, artillery, ammunition etc in exhibitions all over India.                          |
| 18 Mar       | Global Recycling Day  | The theme - as #RecyclingHeroes.   |
| 20 Mar       | World Sparrow Day   | Theme 2024 - "Sparrows: "I Love Sparrows" and "We Love Sparrows".  |
| 20 Mar       | International Day of Happiness  | THEME: "Reconnecting for Happiness: Building Resilient Communities".   |
| 21 Mar       | World Down Syndrome Day   | Theme - End The Stereotypes World Down Syndrome Day was first observed in 2006   |
| 21 Mar       | International Day of Forests  | Theme is 'Forests and innovation: New solutions for a better world'.   |
| 21 Mar       | International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination          | Parella Asses  |
| 21 Mar       | International Day of Nowruz   | Iranian New Year, celebrated by Zorastrians. Nowruz, meaning "new day", marking the first day of spring. Observed on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox  |
| 22 Mar       | World Water Day   | Theme - Leveraging Water for Peace. UN observes every year since 1993  |
| 22 Mar       | Bihar foundation day  | On this day, the state of Bihar was carved out from the Bengal presidency in 1912.   |
| 23 Mar       | World Meteorological Day  | Theme 2024 - "At the Frontline of Climate Action."  Commemorates the establishment of the World Meteorological  Organization (WMO), on March 23, 1950.   |
| 23 Mar       | Shaheed Diwas   | to honour the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Shivram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar in 1931.  |
| 24 Mar       | World Tuberculosis Day  | Theme 2024 - 'Yes! We can end TB!' On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis.   |

| 25 Mar | International Day of         | Marked each year on the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a |
|--------|------------------------------|---|
| -0     | Solidarity with Detained and | former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and     |
| 0)     | Missing Staff Members        | Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in         |
|        |                              | 1985.   |
| 27 Mar | World Theatre Day            | Since 1962, World Theatre Day is celebrated globally emphasizing the    |
|        | 1050                         | significance of the theatrical arts.                                    |
| 30 Mar | Rajasthan Day                | The State was formed on 30th March 1949 when Rajputana – name as        |
|        |                              | adopted by British Crown was merged into the Dominion of India          |
| 30 Mar | International Day of Zero    | Observed for the first time in 2023 and jointly facilitated by UNEP and |
|        | Waste                        | UN-Habitat, aims to raise awareness of the importance of zero waste     |

#### **APRIL**

| DATE   | DAY   | THEME/ REMARK  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April                          | Odisha Foundation Day   | <ul><li>Also known as Utkal Divas and Vishuva Milan</li><li>On this day in the year 1936, Odisha became an independent state.</li></ul>  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup><br>April      | Prevention of Blindness<br>Week   | The observance of the week was started in 1960 by the Government of India for increasing the awareness towards the blind people.         |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar<br>to 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr | 'National Maritime Week   | Theme - 'Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'.  National Maritime Day celebrated on 5 April                               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> April                          | World Autism Awareness Day  | Theme 2024 – Moving from Surviving to Thriving: Autistic individuals share regional perspectives   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> April                          | Army Medical Corps<br>celebrates 260th Raising<br>Day                   | the Corps motto of 'Sarve Santu Niramaya' meaning 'let all be free from disease'.  The Army Medical Corps is a specialist corps          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> April                          | International Day of Mine<br>Awareness and Assistance<br>in Mine Action | Theme: 'Protecting Lives, Building Peace.'   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> April                          | International Day of Sport for Development                              | Theme 2024 is "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies".   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> April                          | World Health Day  | Theme - World Health Day 'My health, my right'   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April                          | CRPF's 59 <sup>th</sup> Bravery Day<br>2024                             | As a tribute to the brave men of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Valour Day is celebrated.                                      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> April                         | - World Homeopathy Day  | The theme 2024 is "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family.   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> April                         | National Safe Motherhood<br>Day (NSMD)                                  | The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi.                                 |
| 11th April                                     | Mahatma Jyotirao Phule birth anniversary                                | Close  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> April                         | World Parkinson's Day   | The date marks the birthday of Dr. James Parkinson, was the first person to discover the first case of Parkinson's Disease               |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April                         | International Day of<br>Human Space Flight                              | 2024 theme is "Encouraging Scientific Curiosity".  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> April                         | Jallianwala Bagh Massacre<br>Day  | Brigadier General Reginald Dyer ordered his 50 Gurkha and Baluchi riflemen troops to fire at a crowd at Jallianwala Bagh on Baisakhi day |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April                         | BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF<br>DR B.R. AMBEDKAR                                | This day is also known as Equality Day,  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April                         | World Quantum Day 2024  | Quantum mechanics is the science of atoms and particles—the building blocks of the world.  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> April                         | World Art Day   | Theme 2024 - A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community through Art   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> April                         | Himachal Day  | It was on this day in 1948 that Himachal Pradesh was created as a province from the integration of 30 erstwhile princely states          |

| 17 <sup>th</sup> April  | World Haemophilia Day                      | Theme - "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders".  |
|---|--|--|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> April  | World Heritage Day 2024                    | The theme : 'Discover and Experience Diversity'.   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> April  | - National Civil Service Day               | On 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 1947, the first batch of civil servants of the country were addressed by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel,   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> April  | World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) | The first World Creativity and Innovation Day was celebrated on April 21, 2018.  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> April  | Mahavir Jayanti                            | also known as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak<br>celebrated on Chaitra Shukla Tryodashi (13 <sup>th</sup> day of waxing moon in the<br>Chaitra month of Hindu calendar)                             |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> April  | International Mother<br>Earth Day          | 2024 theme: "Planet vs. Plastics."   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April  | World Book and Copyright Day               | UNESCO names Strasbourg (France) as World Book Capital for 2024  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April  | World Table Tennis Day                     | The theme of "Diversity and Inclusion."  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> April  | National Panchayati Raj<br>Day             | <ul> <li>The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010.</li> <li>The day marks the enactment of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 on 24th April, 1993.</li> </ul> |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup><br>April                   | World Immunization Week 2024               | <ul> <li>The theme - "Humanly Possible: Immunization for All."</li> <li>16 March - National Vaccination Day in India</li> </ul>  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April  | World Malaria Day                          | Theme: "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world"   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April  | World Penguin Day                          | dedicated to Adélie Penguin, a species of penguins who start their annua migration north toward Antarctica around 25 April every year.   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> April  | World Intellectual<br>Property Day         | Theme 2024: 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity'.  |
| The last<br>Saturday<br>of April.<br>(27 <sup>th</sup> April) | World Veterinary Day                       | The theme 2024 - 'Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers'.   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> April  | World Day For Safety And<br>Health At Work | Theme - Climate change and safety and health at work.  |

#### MAY

| DATE                          | DAY                                 | THEME/ REMARK  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> May           | International Labour Day or May Day | Also known as 'Kamgar Divas', 'Kamgar Din', and 'Antrarashtriya Shramik Divas'.            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> May           | Maharashtra Day and<br>Gujarat Day  | On 1st May 1960, the bilingual state of Bombay was divided into two separate states        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> May           | World Tuna Day                      | 760.   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> May           | World Press Freedom Day             | Theme 2024 - "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis". |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> May           | International Leopard Day 2024      | Officially established during the 1st Global Leopard Conference, held in March 2023        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> May           | Coal Miners' Day                    |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> May           | International Firefighter's Day     | " ( / ( / ( / ( / ( / ( / ( / ( / ( / (  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> May<br>2024   | 65th Raising Day Of BRO             | BRO was conceived and raised in 7 May, 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru                     |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> May<br>(first | World Asthma Day                    | Theme - "Asthma Education Empowers".   |

| Tuesday<br>of May)                                  |   | 700°  |
|---|---|---|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> May                                 | World Athletics Day   | 29/2  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> May                                 | World Red Cross and Red<br>Crescent Day   | The theme - "I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward."  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> May                                 | World Thalassaemia Day  | Theme is: "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All"   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup><br>May             | Time of Remembrance<br>and Reconciliation for<br>Those Who Lost Their<br>Lives During the Second<br>World War | Parent Santana  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> May                                | World Lupus Day   | Ch. Ma  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> May                                | National Technology Day   | Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee designated May 11 as National Technology Day in India to commemorate the historic Pokhran nuclear tests conducted by the Indian Army in Rajasthan in 1998. |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May                                | International Nurses Day 2024   | 0000  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May                                | International Day of Plant<br>Health  | Theme - 'Plant Health, Safe Trade, Digital Technology   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> May<br>and 12 <sup>th</sup><br>Oct | World Migratory Bird Day  | celebrated every year on Second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in Oct Theme - 'Protect Insects, Protect Birds.'  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> May                                | International Day of Families   | 2024 Theme: Families and Climate Change   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> May                                | National Dengue Day   | Theme 2024 - Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow.  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> May                                | International Day of Light  | The theme: Light in Our Lives   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May                                | World Hypertension Day  | The theme : 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.'  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May                                | World Telecommunication<br>and Information Society<br>Day (WTISD)   | ( Para Para   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> May                                | Sikkim Statehood Day  | On May 16, 1975, Sikkim officially became the 22nd state of the country, was formed by the 36th Amendment of the Constitution of India in 1975.   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May<br>(Third<br>Friday in<br>May) | National Endangered<br>Species Day  | The theme: National Endangered Species Day is - Celebrate Saving Species.   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> May                                | International Museum Day  | The theme - "Museums for Education and Research"  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> May                                | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Celebrated International Women in Maritime Day                      | Theme - " Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety"  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May                                | World Bee Day   | Theme - "Bee engaged with Youth".   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May                                | World Metrology Day   | Theme for World Metrology Day 2024 is Sustainability. This year marks the official recognition by UNESCO of 20 May each year as a UNESCO International Day.   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May                                | World Autoimmune<br>Arthritis Day   | Co.   |

| 21 <sup>st</sup> Ma | National Anti-Terrorism Day                                   | commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the 6th PM of India   |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Ma |   | This year - Honouring women around the world, from crop to cup   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Ma | World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development | Toese's  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Ma | International Day for<br>Biological Diversity                 | The Theme of Biodiversity Day 2024: "Be part of the Plan"  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ma | y World Turtle Day  | 7 A(c)   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Ma | Commonwealth Day in India                                     | Commonwealth Day (formerly Empire Day) is commemorated on second Monday of March.(Monday, 11 March 2024.) India and a few other countries celebrate it on 24th May. The theme - 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth'. |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Ma | International Day of the<br>Markhor                           | The UN General Assembly celebrate it for the first time in 2024.   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Ma | World Thyroid Awareness Day                                   | Theme 2024- Thyroid Diseases are NCDs  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Ma | Africa Day  | Africa Day is observed to commemorate the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was established on May 25, 1963.  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Ma | y World Hunger Day  | Theme – Thriving Mothers. Thriving world.  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Ma |   | This year theme: "Fit for the Future: Building Better Together."   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Ma | Goa Statehood Day   | Goa was declared a state separate from Daman and Diu in 1987.  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Ma | y Hindi Journalism Day  | Udant Martand was the first Hindi newspaper to be published in India.  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Ma | y World No-Tobacco Day  | Theme: Protecting children from tobacco industry interference  |

#### JUNE

| DATE                  | DAY                   | THEME/ REMARK   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June  | World Milk Day        | In 2001, World Milk Day was established by the FAO (Food and              |
|                       | 60.                   | Agriculture Organisation) of the United Nations to recognize the          |
|                       |                       | importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June  | Global Day of Parents | Designated by the General Assembly in 2012                                |
|                       |                       | 2024 Theme: The Promise of Playful Parenting                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | Telangana Formation   | this year marks a decade since India's youngest state was carved out of   |
|                       | Day                   | Andhra Pradesh in 2014.   |
|                       | 1 1                   | Under the Congress-led UPA government, the Andhra Pradesh                 |
|                       | \ " /                 | Reorganisation Act of 2014 was passed for a separate Telangana state      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | International Sex     | In 1975, on June 2, around 100 sex workers gathered at Saint-Nizier       |
|                       | Worker's Day          | Church in Lyon, France to start a conversation regarding the exploiting   |
|                       | 200                   | working and living conditions   |
|                       | 85.                   | The theme is same as the previous year - 'Access to Justice'.             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> -June | World Bicycle Day     | Announced by United Nations General Assembly in April 2018.               |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June  | International Day of  | to lay emphasis on the rights of children and protect children around the |
|                       | Innocent Children     | world from incidents of violence, sexual abuse and terror.                |
|                       | Victims of Aggression | UN General Assembly established this day in 1982, following the impact    |
|                       |                       | of the Lebanon War  |
|                       | 1 1                   | To protect Palestinian and Lebanese children from Israeli aggression      |
|                       |                       |   |

| 5 June                | World Environment<br>Day                        | <ul> <li>Theme: Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience</li> <li>Global Host: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</li> <li>Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and held annually since 1973</li> <li>Land restoration is a key pillar of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)</li> </ul> |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 7 June                | World Food Safety Day                           | Theme is "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected." Observed since 2019. World Food Safety Day was established in December 2018 by the United Nations General Assembly, following a joint proposal by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> June  | World Oceans Day                                | The theme 2024 is 'Awaken New Depths'.  There is also an action theme for WOD 2024, which is 'Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate'.  To raise awareness about the necessity of protecting the ocean and the sustainable development goals that can be achieved through it.  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> June  | World Brain Tumour<br>Day                       | Theme 2024 is 'Brain Health and Prevention'. first observed in the year 2000  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> June | International Day of<br>Play                    | The first-ever International Day of Play, to be observed on 11 June 2024 Theme 2024 - Play Makes A Better World Recognized & Declared by The United Nations   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> June | World Day Against<br>Child Labour               | The theme 2024: 'Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour.' The International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002, as part of its ongoing efforts to eliminate child labour.  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> June | International Albinism<br>Awareness Day         | This year's theme is: "10 years of IAAD: A decade of collective progress." Albinism is a non-contagious, rare and genetically inherited health condition present at birth, which results in the lack of melanin in the skin, eyes and hair.   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June | World Blood Donor Day                           | The theme - 20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors. In 2005, The World Health Assembly announced June 14 to be observed as World Blood Donor Day every year.  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> June | World Wind Day                                  | Global Wind Day is an annual event since 2007 to promote wind energy as a clean and renewable source of power.  It was started by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) and later joined by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).  |
| Out Class             |   | India has a target of achieving 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy by 2030, of which 140 GW is slated to come from wind power Minister of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE): Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> June | World Elder Abuse<br>Awareness Day              | 2024 Theme: Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies Established by the United Nations in 2011   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> June | World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought | The theme 2024 -'United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future'  During the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, desertification, loss of biodiversity and climate change were recognised as the greatest challenges to sustainable development.  |
| dromo                 | 55500   | In 1994, UNGA established the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) In 2007, the UN General Assembly declared the decade of 2010 to 2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the fight against Desertification.  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> June | Autistic Pride Day 2024                         | The theme - "Taking the Mask Off"  Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated in 2005  |

| 1,105  |  | to promote acceptance from society and self-acceptance amongst autistic people  |
|--|--|---|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> June                          | World Sickle Cell<br>Awareness Day                       | Theme for World Sickle Cell Day 2024: Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally. United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on December 22, 2008 recognising sickle cell disease as a public health hazard and "one of the world's main genetic illnesses. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission was announced as part of the Union Budget 2023 to eliminate sickle cell disease (SCD) in India before 2047.  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> June  21 <sup>st</sup> June   | World Refugee Day  - World Hydrography                   | 2024 theme: "For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed". World Health Organization (WHO) joins UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and partners in observing World Refugee Day 2024. The first ever World Refugee Day was celebrated on 20 June 2001 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. The theme 2024 - "Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety,   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> June                          | Day  International Yoga Day                              | Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities".  10 <sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day theme - 'Yoga for Self and Society'. PM Narendra Modi suggested celebrating the International Day of Yoga in September 2014 at his 69th session speech to the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The celebrations at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar this year led by PM Narendra Modi. United Nation observes the International Yoga Day on 21st June because it is the longest day (Summer Solstice in Northern Hemisphere) for the Sun's journey from east to west giving its maximum energy for life on the |
| Olgan  | 12   | Earth   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> June<br>23 <sup>rd</sup> June | - World Rainforest Day United Nations Public Service Day | <ul> <li>The theme 'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective'.</li> <li>On 20 December 2002, UN General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day</li> <li>United Nations established the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) programme in 2003, which was reviewed in 2016 to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</li> <li>The 2024 UN Public Service Forum and Awards Ceremony will take place in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 24 to 26 June 2024,</li> </ul>   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> June                          | International Olympic Day                                | Theme 2024 - 'Let's Move and Celebrate', Celebrated since 1948, commemorates the revival of the Olympic Games in Paris on June 23, 1894. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was officially formed on the same day.   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June                          | International Day of<br>Women in Diplomacy               | Theme 2024 - Women's Leadership in Multilateral Diplomacy At the United Nations General Assembly's 76th Session, the General Assembly by consensus declared the 24th of June each year to be the International Day of Women in Diplomacy. to honor and recognize remarkable women in the fields of diplomacy and decision-making across the globe.  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June                          | World Vitiligo Day                                       | The theme - "United by the skin". first observed on June 25, 2011. Vitiligo, a chronic skin disorder, characterised by the loss of skin colour in patches.  |

| 26 <sup>th</sup> June | International Day in       | UN General Assembly, on June 26, 1997, declared this date as the   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
|                       | Support of Victims of      | International Day in Support of Victims of Torture   |
|                       | Torture                    | and or the state of the state o |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> June | International Day          | THEME: "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention"   |
|                       | against Drug Abuse and     | As per the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), around  |
|                       | Illicit Trafficking (World | 269 million people worldwide used drugs in 2018, and the numbers have  |
|                       | Drug Day)                  | continued to rise.   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June | Micro, Small and           | 2024 Theme: leveraging the power and resilience of Micro-, Small and   |
|                       | Medium-sized               | Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to accelerate sustainable   |
|                       | Enterprises Day            | development and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises.   |
|                       | - X                        | the United Nations General Assembly designated 27 June as "Micro,  |
|                       |                            | Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day"   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> June | 30 June - Hul Diwas        | Santhal Hul of 1855 was was a revolt against imperialism led by four   |
| - Hul                 |                            | brothers, Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu, along with sisters   |
| Diwas                 |                            | Phulo and Jhano.   |

#### **JULY**

| DATE                      | DAY                             | THEME/ REMARK  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July      | National Doctor's Day           | Officially designated in 1991 to honour the birth and death anniversary of Dr<br>Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician, freedom fighter, and former<br>Chief Minister of West Bengal.   |
| 0,000                     |                                 | Dr Roy was instrumental in establishing several esteemed medical institutions, including the Indian Medical Association and the Medical Council of India and was also honoured with the Bharat Ratna in 1961 in recognition of his contributions to the medical field.  Theme 2024 is "Healing Hands, Caring Hearts                                |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July      | National Postal Worker<br>Day   | In 1997, a postal carrier in the Seattle area started National Postal Worker Day to respect the efforts of his employees. Now celebrated globally  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July      | Chartered Accountants Day       | To mark the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).  ICAI was established on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1949, for regulating the profession of Chartered Accountancy in the country.  |
| (au) Cla                  | 50° (Q                          | It is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament It functions under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. Headquarters: New Delhi It is the second largest professional body of chartered accountants in the world. (CIMA, London is the largest)  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July<br>- | GST Day                         | <ul> <li>to mark the anniversary of the implementation of GST in India in 2017.</li> <li>an indirect and comprehensive tax in India, is levied on the supply of goods and services in India (with the exceptions of petroleum, alcoholic beverages, and stamp duty)</li> <li>Facts about GST:</li> </ul>   |
|                           | )0 <sup>65</sup> 0 <sup>5</sup> | <ul> <li>France was the first nation to implement the GST system.</li> <li>Canadian GST system serves as the foundation for GST system in India.</li> <li>Atal Bihari Vajpayee is often known as the father of GST.</li> <li>Assam was the first state in India to pass the GST bill.</li> <li>Arun Jaitley was the first GST chairman.</li> </ul> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July      | World Sports<br>Journalists Day | The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS).  AIPS Founded on July 2, 1924; during the Summer Olympics held in Paris.  |

| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July       | World UFO Day  | to spread awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| - C/V                      |  | To commemorate the supposed UFO crash incident in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947.   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> July       | International Plastic<br>Bag Free Day                              |  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July       | (first Saturday of July) –<br>International Day of<br>Cooperatives | Celebrated since 1923 by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Theme - "Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All." 6 July 2024 - 3rd Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation (formed in 2021). Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah will address "Sahkar Se Samriddhi" conference on the occasion of 102nd 'International Day of Cooperatives' in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 6th July 2024 Will launch scheme for 50% assistance on the purchase of nano-fertilizer by   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July       | World Zoonoses Day   | <ul> <li>the farmers under AGR-2 Scheme of the Government for the FY 2024-25.</li> <li>On July 6, 1885, Louis Pasteur, a French scientist, successfully administered the first vaccine for zoonotic disease.</li> </ul>  |
|                            |  | <ul> <li>The theme - 'Preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases' and revolves around managing threats for future infections.</li> <li>Zoonotic diseases are illnesses that can be transmitted between animals and humans.</li> </ul>  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> July       | World Kiswahili<br>Language Day                                    | <ul> <li>The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its 41st session held in Paris, France, in 2021 proclaimed July 7 of each year as World Kiswahili Language Day,</li> <li>First African language to be recognized in such a manner by the UN</li> <li>Theme "Kiswahili: Education and Culture of Peace".</li> </ul>   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> July      | Global Energy<br>Independence Day                                  | The day offers opportunities to learn more about renewable forms of energy, such as solar, wind, and geothermal.   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup><br>July   | National Fish Farmers<br>Day                                       | The National Fish Farmer's Day (NFFD) is celebrated to honour and commemorate the contribution of Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. K. H. Alikunhi, in the Indian fisheries sector who had guided induced breeding and reproduction in Indian Major Carps by Hypophysation technique, on this day in 1957, which eventually lead to a revolution in Inland Aquaculture.  'Fisheries Summer Meet 2024' at IDA Scrudder Trade Centre in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on 12th July 2024 under Chairmanship of Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh. |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> July<br>- | World Population Day   | To raise awareness about the issues that the world faces due to overpopulation.  The UN Developing Programme (UNDP) established World Population Day on July 11, 1987, when the population of the world reached 5 billion; it was a landmark moment for the global population.  Theme: To Leave No One Behind, Count Everyone  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> July      | Paper Bag Day  | In 1852, Francis Wolle, a schoolteacher, invented the first machine to mass-produce paper bags. In 1999, San Francisco took a significant step by becoming the first city to ban plastic bags in grocery stores and pharmacies.  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup><br>July   | Malala Day   | Observed every year on 12 July to honor the birthday of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani education activist and Nobel laureate and to support world education.  In December 2014, Malala became the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.   |

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|-----------------------|--|--|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> July | World Youth Skills Day   | <ul> <li>The World Youth Skill Day is an annual event designated by the United Nations General Assembly in Nov 2014, with the first observance taking place on July 15, 2015.</li> <li>The day aims to promote awareness and understanding of the importance of youth skills development in response to the challenges of unemployment and underemployment faced by young people globally.</li> <li>Theme is "Youth Skills for Peace and Development."</li> </ul>  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> July | - World Day for<br>International Justice   | <ul> <li>Also known as the Day of International Criminal Justice,</li> <li>Observed since 2010</li> <li>It marks the importance of fighting against impunity and bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.</li> <li>On the 17th of July, 1998, the Rome Statute was adopted, thus providing a platform for the formation of the International Criminal Court.</li> <li>HQ: Hague, Netherlands.</li> <li>Unlike the International Court of Justice, which hears disputes between states, the ICC handles prosecutions of individuals.</li> <li>India has neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</li> </ul>   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> July | International Nelson<br>Mandela Day  | <ul> <li>Designated by UN in 2009.</li> <li>Theme, "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality"</li> <li>It's an international call to action, urging individuals and communities worldwide to dedicate 67 minutes to serving others.</li> <li>It represents the 67 years Nelson Mandela dedicated to public service in South Africa</li> <li>1993: Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with South African President F.W. de Klerk.</li> <li>1994: Elected President of South Africa.</li> </ul>   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> July | International Chess<br>Day   | <ul> <li>Observed since 1966 to mark the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.</li> <li>On July 20, 2024, the International Chess Day, FIDE celebrates its centenary anniversary.</li> </ul>  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> July | Moon Day   | <ul> <li>to commemorate the first human landing on the moon by the Apollo 11 mission in 1969.</li> <li>The 2024 theme is "Illuminating the Shadows."</li> <li>On December 9 2021, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution stating that July 20 will be observed every year as International Moon Day.</li> </ul>  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> July | Pi Approximation Day   | Pi Approximation Day is celebrated on July 22nd because the fraction 22/7 is a common approximation of the mathematical constant pi $(\pi)$ , which is accurate to two decimal places.   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> July | National Flag Day  | <ul> <li>To commemorate the historic day when the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the present-day tricolour flag as the official National Flag of the country.</li> <li>1906: The first Indian National Flag is attributed to Pingali Venkayya, a freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh, who designed it in 1906.</li> <li>It featured a horizontal tricolour of red, yellow, and green with a white crescent and star in the centre.</li> <li>1917: By 1917, the flag was modified to include saffron at the top, white in the middle, and green at the bottom, with the crescent and star moved</li> </ul>   |
| chem                  | 10500  | to the top left corner.  Introduction of the Ashoka Chakra in National Flag  1921: In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi proposed a new design that included a spinning wheel (charkha) to symbolize progress.  This design also had the tricolour of saffron, white, and green.   |

| National Mango Day or<br>Mango Day<br>National Broadcasting<br>Day | Adoption as the National Flag     1947: On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the current form of the National Flag.  India's broadcasting journey began in June 1923 with the Radio Club of   |
|--|--|
| Mango Day<br>National Broadcasting                                 |  |
|  |  |
|  | Bombay's first transmission.  The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was established on July 23, 1927, marking the birth of organized radio broadcasting in the country. This date is now celebrated as National Broadcasting Day.  All India Radio (AIR) emerged in 1936, evolving from the Indian State Broadcasting Service. Post-independence, AIR expanded rapidly, adopting the name "Akashvani" in 1956. The Vividh Bharati Service was then launched in   |
|  | 1957 with popular film music as its main component.  Today, AIR operates 591 stations, reaching 98% of India's population and broadcasting in 23 languages and 146 dialects.   |
| National Income Tax<br>Day 2024                                    | <ul> <li>India celebrates the Income Tax Day, or Aaykar Divas, every year on July 24</li> <li>On this day, Income tax was first levied as a duty in India by James Wilson in 1860.</li> </ul>  |
| World Embryologist<br>Day or World IVF Day                         | <ul> <li>On this in 1978, the first baby was born through the process of IVF.</li> <li>Louise Joy Brown was the first baby to be born through In vitro fertilisation.</li> <li>Embryologists are medical professionals who study and examine sperm, eggs and embryos.</li> <li>It was the comprehensive Income Tax Act of 1992 that truly established a structured tax administration in the country.</li> <li>The department celebrated this day for the first time in 2010 marking 150 years of the introduction of Income tax in India.</li> <li>The Central Board of Revenue was constituted in 1924.</li> </ul> |
|  | • The Central Board of Revenue was divided in 1963 and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) was established under the Central Board of Revenue Act, of 1963.   |
| Kargil Vijay Diwas   | <ul> <li>Annually celebrated on July 26, this year, Kargil Vijay Diwas in 2024 will be observed July 26, marking the 25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War.</li> <li>It is observed to pay tribute to the bravery of Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country during the Kargil War of 1999.</li> <li>Additionally, it also commemorates the country's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999 and marks the successful culmination of Operation</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul> <li>Vijay.</li> <li>It was fought between India and Pakistan at the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir.</li> <li>Surprise Attack:</li> <li>The Kargil War was an unexpected intrusion by Pakistani forces into Indian territory.</li> <li>They occupied key vantage points in the Kargil region, leading to intense military engagements.</li> <li>Codename Operation Vijay: The Indian Army fought bravely</li> </ul>   |
| Ka   | argil Vijay Diwas  |

| iom do                   |   | <ul> <li>under 'Operation Vijay' by evicting the Pakistani troops in the 1999 Kargil War.</li> <li>The Kargil War was the first war to be broadcast live on TV channels in India.</li> </ul>  |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> July    | World Hepatitis Day                         | <ul> <li>Raises awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer.</li> <li>Theme: It's time for action</li> <li>There are 5 main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D, and E.</li> <li>Together, hepatitis B and C are the most common infections and result in 1.3 million deaths and 2.2 million new infections per year.</li> </ul>   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup><br>July | World Nature<br>Conservation Day            | The theme for 2024 is "Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup><br>July | International Tiger Day                     | <ul> <li>raises global awareness about tiger conservation and the threats faced by these endangered animals.</li> <li>First established in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit</li> <li>World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has reported a drastic decline in tiger populations - approximately 100,000 tigers roamed the wild a century ago, while current estimates suggest there are only about 4,000 remaining today, and this number continues to decrease.</li> </ul> |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> July    | World ORS Day                               | <ul> <li>To emphasise the essential role Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), plays in combating dehydration caused by diarrhoea, the second leading cause of death among children under the age of five.</li> <li>Theme is 'Create Awareness about the Magic Mixture'.</li> <li>The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends an ORS solution with a total osmolarity of 245 mmol per litre to effectively manage dehydration from diarrhoea and other causes.</li> </ul> |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> July    | International Day of<br>Friendship          | The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> July    | World Day against<br>Trafficking in Persons | THEME 2024: "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"  1 in 3 victims of human trafficking globally is a child   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> July    | World Ranger Day                            | to commemorate Rangers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty. Theme - is '30 by 30' based on the 2022 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) at least 30 per cent of the planet is effectively conserved and managed by  |

#### **AUGUST**

| DATE                  | DAY                   | THEME/ REMARK  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug   | World Wide Web Day    | This day commemorates the birth of the World Wide Web and serves as a        |
|                       | / //                  | reminder of the transformative impact it has had on our lives.               |
|                       |                       | Tim Berners-Lee was employed for the European Organization for Nuclear       |
|                       |                       | Research (CERN) in Switzerland in 1989, he developed the World Wide Web.     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug   | World Lung Cancer Day | Theme is "Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access to Cancer Care".      |
|                       | 300                   | The first day was observed in 2012   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug   | Muslim Women's        | Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across India to celebrate the          |
|                       | Rights Day            | enactment of the law against triple talaq.                                   |
|                       |                       | The central government enacted the law on Aug 1, 2019, that has made the     |
|                       | -/0.                  | practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.                         |
|                       | / /                   | The Union ministry of minority affairs observes the day.                     |
| 1st – 7 <sup>th</sup> | World Breastfeeding   | Theme for 2024 is Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all.            |
| Aug                   | Week                  | The campaign will celebrate breastfeeding mothers in all their diversity,    |
|                       |                       | throughout their breastfeeding journeys, while showcasing the ways families, |

|  | 5500                            | societies, communities and health workers can have the back of every breastfeeding mother.  |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug                                | Organ Donation Day              | Observed since 2010 in the country.  Earlier, it used to be observed every year on 27 Nov.  In 2022, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation decided to observe the Indian Organ Donation Day on 3 Aug every year.  Thus, from 2023 onwards, it is observed on 3rd Aug.   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug<br>(First<br>Sunday<br>of Aug) | Friendship Day                  | It is different from the International Day of Friendship observed worldwide on July 30. International Friendship Day originated in the US in 1935. Gradually Friendship Day gained popularity and various countries including India also celebrate this day.  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug                                | International Traffic Light Day | commemorating the installation of the first electric traffic signal system in 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio, designed by American policeman Lester Wire.  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug                                | Hiroshima Day                   | Hiroshima Day observes the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945 The bombing resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people, and its aftermath had long-lasting effects on the survivors and the city itself. On Aug 6, 1945 the bomb nicknamed "Little Boy," exploded approximately 600 meters above Hiroshima. On Aug 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, "Fat Man," on Nagasaki. Hiroshima Day observes the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945 The bombing resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people, and its aftermath had long-lasting effects on the survivors and the city itself. On Aug 6, 1945 the bomb nicknamed "Little Boy," exploded approximately 600 meters above Hiroshima. On Aug 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, "Fat Man," on Nagasaki. |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug                                | National Handloom<br>Day        | observed annually since 2015.  This date marks the anniversary of the Swadeshi Movement's formal launch in Kolkata in 1905.   |
| A CAR  | eage ( Porter                   | The 10th National Handloom Day celebrated, 7th Aug 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.  Vice President of India - the Chief Guest on the occasion.  During the function, Sant Kabir Awards and National Handloom Awards will be conferred to handloom weavers for their outstanding contribution in handloom sector.  The Award Catalogue and Coffee Table Book- "Parampara- Sustainability in Handloom Traditions of India" released by the Hon'ble Vice President of India.   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug -                              | National Javelin Day            | The Athletics Federation of India, the governing body for athletics in the country, designated this date to honour Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal win in the javelin throw at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.  First observed in 2022  Athletics Federation of India President: Adille J Sumariwalla  Athletics Federation of India Founded In 1946  Athletics Federation of India Headquarters Location: New Delhi   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug                                | Quit India Movement<br>Day      | Quit India Movement was a massive anti-colonial struggle in India, launched on Aug 8, 1942, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi,   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug                                | Nagasaki Day                    | The second nuclear weapon, appropriately named 'Fat Man,' was dropped on the city Nagasaki on Aug 9, 1945.  |

| 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug  | International Day of<br>the World's Indigenous<br>Peoples        | . (By UNGA 1944). Theme -Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact.  |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug  | National Book Lover's<br>Day -                                   | Encourages people to celebrate reading and literature   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug | World Biofuel Day &  | The day honours Rudolf Diesel, the individual who invented the diesel engine in 1892.  The theme - "Sustainable Biofuels: Reducing Waste, Feeding Energy.   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug | World Lion Day   | World Lion Day -It is celebrated to raise awareness about lions (Panthera Leo ).  Two Subspecies – African, Asiatic   |
| 12 <sup>TH</sup> Aug | International Youth Day  | In 1965, the UN General Assembly approved the declaration of promoting peace, mutual respect, and understanding between people, amongst the youth.  The United Nations declared 12 Aug the International Youth Day in 1999, first celebrated on 2000  Theme - 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.'  |
| 12 <sup>™</sup> Aug  | World Elephant Day   | On Aug 12, 2012, the inaugural World Elephant Day was launched to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants.  Project Elephant was launched in 1992 by the Government of India.  The Indian elephant (Elephas maximus indicus) is classified as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List  As of 2024, the elephant population in India is around 15,000 individuals throughout Asia. |
| 13th Aug             | International Left-<br>Handers Day & World<br>Organ Donation Day | To raise awareness for the everyday challenges of being left handed in a world designed for right handers.  To raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to make people aware of the misconceptions of organ donation.  The slogan for World Organ Donation Day - "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!"   |
| 14th Aug<br>-        | Partition Horrors<br>Remembrance Day in<br>India                 | Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced to observe this day in 2021. The Partition of India in 1947 was a pivotal moment in South Asian history, leading to the division of British India into two independent countries: India and Pakistan.  |
| 14th Aug             | Malayalam New Year   | Vishu is a cultural festival celebrating the Malayali New Year in Kerala.  Vishu falls on the first day of the month of Medam in the Malayalam Calendar.  The day also marks the onset of the harvest season.   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug | Independence Day in<br>India                                     | India's Independence Day, observed annually on Aug 15th, marks the day in 1947 when the country gained freedom from British rule Theme for Indian Independence Day Celebrations 2024 is "Viksit Bharat,"  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug | Day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary                         | Catholics and many other Christians celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God.   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug | Indonesian<br>Independence Day                                   | The country declared independence from the Dutch in 1945 with Jakarta as its seat of government and administrative centre. Capital: Jakarta (outgoing) Nusantara (incoming) Currency: Indonesian rupiah   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug | Gabon Independence<br>Day  | To commemorate the country's independence from France in 1960.  Capital: Libreville  Currency: Central African CFA franc (XAF)  |

| 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug | World Photography Day   | Theme 2024 - "An Entire Day"   |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug | World Humanitarian<br>Day   | Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 and was first celebrated in 2009.   |
|                      |   | 2024 Campaign: #ActForHumanity   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug | Sanskrit Diwas  | The first World Sanskrit Day was celebrated in 1969. World Sanskrit Day or Vishwa Sanskrit Diwas is celebrated on Purnima Tithi (Full moon) of Shravana month every year. It serves as a tribute to the birth anniversary of Paṇini, a distinguished Sanskrit scholar and grammarian. Sanskrit is among the 22 official languages included in the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution. It is also included among 6 Classical languages besides Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, |
|                      | 5   | Malayalam, and Odia.<br>Raksha Bandhan, Narali Purnima, Hayagriva Jayanti, Gayatri Jayanti, Shravani   |
| A 9                  |   | Upkarma will also be celebrated on this day.   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug | Indian Akshay Urja Day  | The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt. of India declared the 20th Aug, the birthday of Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as "National Renewable Energy Day".  The first Indian Akshay Urja Day was observed in 2004  The objective of this programme is to generate mass awareness and popularisation of need, benefits and uses of renewable energy devices and systems in all sphere of life.   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug | Sadbhavana Diwas  | In 1992, a year after Rajiv Gandhi's death, Congress instituted the Rajiv  |
| 010956               |   | Gandhi Sadbhavana Diwas,. Rajiv Gandhi was born on 20 Aug 1944. He held office from 1984-1989. In 1986, he launched a National Policy on Education to reform and enhance higher education institutions throughout India. In 1986, he established the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya System, a centralized  |
|                      |   | government school, to improve the rural segment of society by offering free schooling from the sixth to the twelfth grades.  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug | World Mosquito Day  | On Aug 20, 1897, a British doctor, Sir Ronald Ross, found the malaria parasite in the stomach of a female Anopheles mosquito, providing the first evidence that mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.  To commemorate this moment in history, World Mosquito Day (WMD) was founded.  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug | International Day of<br>Remembrance and<br>Tribute to the Victims<br>of Terrorism           | Established by UNGA in 2017 The theme "Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators"  |
| 22th Aug             | International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief | In 2019, the U.N. General Assembly instituted  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug | International Day for<br>the Remembrance of<br>the Slave Trade and its<br>Abolition         | It was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (23 Aug 1998) and Gorée Island in Senegal (23 Aug 1999).  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug | European Day of<br>Remembrance for<br>Victims of Stalinism<br>and Nazism                    | On 2 April 2009, the European Parliament decided to observe this day. With the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 23 Aug 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union had divided Europe into spheres of interest.  |

| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug               | National Space Day      | India became the fourth country to land on the moon and the first to reach its southern polar region on Aug 23, 2023.            |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                                    |                         | To honour this landmark achievement, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced Aug 23 as "National Space Day".         |
|                                    |                         | India is celebrating its maiden National Space Day Under the theme "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga." |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> | World Water Week        | Organised by The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)  |
| Aug                                | 2024                    | held every year since 1991.  |
|                                    | All Control             | Theme - Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug               | Women's Equality Day    | In 2019, the U.N. General Assembly instituted  |
| 29th Aug                           | National Sports Day     | to honor Major Dhyan Chand, a legendary hockey player. Established in 2012   |
|                                    | 5                       | Major Dhyan Chand, known as "The Wizard of Hockey," was born on Aug 29, 1905 in Uttar Pradesh                                    |
|                                    |                         | Starting his career in 1926, Major Dhyan Chand played until 1948,  |
|                                    | / -                     | representing India in 185 games and scoring 400 goals.   |
| (                                  |                         | He was instrumental in India's three consecutive Olympic gold medal victories in 1928, 1932, and 1936                            |
| 29th Aug                           | International Day       | In 2009, the 64 <sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29   |
|                                    | Against Nuclear Tests   | Aug the International Day against Nuclear Tests  |
|                                    | "alton"                 | The resolution was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan First observed in 2010  |
| 29th Aug                           | Telugu Language Day     | Celebrated in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.  |
|                                    |                         | The day was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Gidugu Venkata   |
|                                    | 5)                      | Ramamurthy, a Telugu poet, freedom fighter, and social reformer who was a  |
| 1965                               |                         | strong advocate for the Telugu language and culture.   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug               | National Small Industry | Different from World MSME Day - every year on June 27.   |
| Da                                 | Day                     | National Small Industry Day launched on the 30th of Aug, 2000. First observed in 2001  |
|                                    |                         | 30.1 per cent share of gross value added by MSMEs in India's GDP and a 45.79 per cent share in all India exports.                |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug               | International Day of    | The International Convention, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20   |
|                                    | the Victims of Enforced | December 2006.   |
|                                    | Disappearances          | First observed in 2011.  |

#### **SEPTEMBER**

| DATE                                     | DAY                        | THEME/ REMARK   |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup><br>Sept | National Nutrition<br>Week | It aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition for health and well-being. first observed in India in 1982   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept                     | World Coconut Day          | coconuts worldwide. Theme - "Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value" The day also marks the founding of the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) first celebrated on Sept 2nd, 2009 |
| 3rd Sept                                 | Skyscraper Day             | The day honours and appreciates the high-rising architectural marvels on the occasion of Louis H. Sullivan's birth anniversary, also known as the 'Father of Skyscrapers'.  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept                     | Teachers' Day (India)      | Marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan A renowned scholar and philosopher, born on Sept 5, 1888, in Thiruttani, present-day Tamil Nadu.   |

| -                     | 16                                      |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
|                       | Section 1                               | First vice president of India from 1952 to 1962                                |
|                       |   | The second President of India from 1962 to 1967                                |
|                       |   | Bharat Ratna in 1954.  |
|                       | 7                                       | He was the first individual to be awarded the Sahitya Akademi fellowship, the  |
|                       |   | highest distinction in 1968.   |
|                       | \ | The first Teachers' Day was observed in 1962                                   |
| 5th Sept              | International Day of                    | to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of         |
|                       | Charity                                 | Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979                           |
|                       | 1400                                    | Mother Teresa died on Sept 5th 1997  |
|                       | 200                                     | In 1928 came to India, where she devoted herself to helping the destitute.     |
|                       | - X                                     | In 1948 she became an Indian citizen and founded the order of Missionaries     |
|                       |   | of Charity in Kolkota (Calcutta) in 1950                                       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | International Day of                    | Theme: Invest in #CleanAirNow  |
|                       | Clean Air for Blue Skies                | On Nov 26, 2019, the Second Committee of the 74th session of the United        |
|                       |   | Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 7 Sept as       |
|                       |   | the "International Day of Clean Air for blue skies"                            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Brazilian Independence                  | Brazil Independence Day is a national holiday that is observed in Brazil every |
|                       | Day                                     | year on Sept 7.  |
|                       | V 🥦 / .                                 | Independence from the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil, and the Algarves     |
|                       | 10.                                     | back on Sept 7, 1822   |
|                       | 61                                      | Capital: Brasília  |
|                       | 140                                     | Currency: Real (R\$) (BRL)   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept- | Parshuyan Parv                          | Paryushan Parv is a significant festival in Jainism, observed by both          |
| , sept                | T dishayan i ai v                       | Digambara and Shwetambar communities.  |
|                       |   | It is a time for deep reflection, repentance, and redemption for Jains.        |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | World Physiotherapy                     | celebrated since 1996, commemorating the date of the World Physiotherapy       |
| o sept                |   | foundation in 1951.  |
|                       | Day                                     |  |
|                       |   | Theme is "low back pain (LBP) and the role of physiotherapy in its             |
| Oth Carat             | International Literature                | management and prevention"   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | International Literacy                  | established by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural             |
|                       | Day                                     | Organisation (UNESCO) on Oct 26, 1966  |
|                       | 1. GW.                                  | Theme 2024 is 'Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual           |
|                       | 46                                      | understanding and peace'   |
| 4 Oth Cook            | 144 - 1-1 C - 1-1-1                     | The first celebrated in 1967.  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept | World Suicide                           | established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention in |
|                       | Prevention Day (WSPD)                   | association with the World Health Organization (WHO).                          |
|                       |   | The triennial theme for 2024-2026 is - "Changing the Narrative on Suicide"     |
| th                    |   | with the call to action "Start the Conversation"                               |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept | National Forest                         | National Forest Martyrs Day is observed annually in India to honor the         |
|                       | Martyrs Day                             | sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives in defense of the country's |
|                       |   | forests and wildlife.  |
|                       |   | This date was chosen by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate        |
|                       | 1000                                    | Change in 2013   |
|                       | 160                                     | The day's origins can be traced back to the Khejarli Massacre in 1730, when    |
|                       | \$ S.                                   | Marwar Maharaja Abhai Singh of Rajasthan ordered the cutting down of trees     |
|                       |   | in the Khejarli village for timber to build a new palace. The Bishnoi          |
|                       | -05                                     | community, led by Amrita Devi Bishnoi, opposed the decision and sacrificed     |
| 7                     | 185                                     | their lives.   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Digvijay Diwas                          | Digvijay Diwas is observed annually to honor Swami Vivekananda's               |
|                       |   | groundbreaking speech delivered at the Parliament of the World's Religions ir  |
|                       |   | Chicago in 1893.   |
|                       | / /                                     | Digvijay Diwas celebration was an initiative taken by PM Narendra Modi in      |
|                       |   | 2010.  |

| 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept | UN Day for South-<br>South Cooperation   | Theme "A better tomorrow through South-South Cooperation."                                       |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept | World First Aid Day  | Second Saturday of every Sept  |
| 30.6                  | 1 (2)  | Theme - "First Aid and Sports Ready, Set, Respond".  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept |  | This day marks the anniversary of the Constituent Assembly of India's                            |
| Hindi                 |  | decision to adopt Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, as the official                       |
| Diwas                 | San Star   | language of the Republic of India on Sept 14, 1949.  |
|                       | 40   | The first Hindi Diwas was celebrated in 1953.  |
|                       | 740,   | Constitution of India does not give any language the status of national                          |
|                       | 300  | language, Hindi in Devanagari script is the official language of the central                     |
|                       | X-   | government and the Union as per Article 343.   |
|                       |  | World Hindi Day is observed on January 10 to commemorate the first World                         |
|                       |  | Hindi Conference held in January 1975 at Nagpur, Maharashtra. The first                          |
|                       |  | World Hindi Day was celebrated in 2006.  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Engineer's Day   | Celebrated in India to mark the birth anniversary of M Visvesvaraya, India's                     |
| _                     | /  | pioneering civil engineer  |
|                       |  | Declared by Government of India in 1968  |
|                       |  | Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya  |
|                       | V 100 / 100  | Born on Sept 15, 1861, in Karnataka Visvesvaraya graduated with a degree in                      |
|                       | 10.  | civil engineering from the College of Engineering, Pune.   |
|                       | -67  | He is best known for his work on major irrigation and water supply projects,                     |
|                       | 400  | including the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore and the Khadakvasla Dam in                       |
|                       | 000  | Pune.  |
|                       | 7 -  | Honors and Recognition: His pioneering work earned him numerous                                  |
|                       |  | accolades, including the prestigious Bharat Ratna in 1955.                                       |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept | International Day of   | Established by the UN General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments                          |
| CXO.                  | Democracy  | to strengthen and consolidate democracy.   |
|                       | / / /  | First observed in 2008   |
|                       |  | THEME: Ensuring effective governance of AI at all levels   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept | World Ozone Day  | Theme - Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action  |
| - '                   | 1 /2   | commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal Protocol on                               |
|                       |  | Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.  |
|                       | 7000   | Proclaimed in 1994 by the United Nations General Assembly  |
|                       | 20010  | What is the Montreal Protocol?   |
|                       | A.c.   | It is an international treaty that aimed to phase out the production and                         |
|                       |  | consumption of ozone-depleting substances, primarily chlorofluorocarbons                         |
|                       | 000  | (CFCs)   |
|                       |  | These substances were commonly used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and                      |
|                       |  | aerosol propellants.   |
|                       |  |  |
|                       | / //   | Kigali Agreement:  |
|                       |  | It is an amendment to the Montreal Protocol.   |
|                       | The state of the s | It was adopted on Oct 15, 2016, in Kigali, Rwanda, as an extension of the                        |
|                       | 7,00   | Montreal Protocol.   |
|                       | 2000   | the Kigali Amendment addresses the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons                              |
|                       | A.z.   | (HFCs), which are used as replacements for those ozone-depleting                                 |
|                       | 000  | substances.  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept | World Patient Safety   | Theme - improving diagnosis for patient safety   |
| 17 Sept               | VGC  |  |
|                       | Day  | The slogan "Get it right, make it safe!"  World Health Organization established this day in 2019 |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Praja Palana Day (Day  | On that day in 1948, the then-princely Hyderabad state merged with the                           |
| 17 Sept               |  |  |
|                       | of People's  | Indian Union, following Operation Polo   |

| nom Ole                                      | Governance. )<br>Telangana             | Hyderabad did not get independence for 13 months of the Independence of India and was under Nizam's Rule (Nizam of Hyderabad state, Mir Osman Ali Shah). In 2023, the then government decided to celebrate Sept 17 as Nationa Integration Day.  The Union government, on the other hand, decided to celebrate it as  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | Hyderabad Liberation Day.  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept                        | Water Week 2024                        | Conceptualized and organized first in 2012 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti Theme - "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management".  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept                        | World Bamboo Day                       | Declared in 2009 Theme - "Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design"  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept                        | International Equal Pay<br>Day         | Represents the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value.  Achieving equal pay is an important milestone for human rights and gender equality.  The United Nations marked the first International Day for Equal Pay on 18  Sept 2020   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept                        | World Cleanup Day                      | THEME: Arctic Cities and Marine Litter On 8 December 2023, the United Nations General Assembly, in its seventy- eighth session, unanimously adopted resolution which proclaims 20 Sept as World Cleanup Day The inaugural World Cleanup Day The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) facilitates the observance of the Day.   |
| 21st Sept                                    | International Day of Peace (UN)        | Established in 1981 by United Nations Theme: Cultivating a Culture of Peace  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept                        | World Alzheimer's Day                  | Every year, the entire Sept month is designated as "Alzheimer's Month.  Theme is "Time to act on dementia, Time to act on Alzheimer's".  Introduced on 21st Sept 1994 in Edinburgh, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept<br>(Third<br>Saturday) | International Red<br>Panda Day         | Launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010 aiming to shed light on the critical conservation needs of the red panda It is primarily an herbivore species. Distribution: It lives in the mountainous forests of Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and Nepal. Almost 50% of their habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.  Conservation status IUCN Red list: Endangered CITES: Appendix I The Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept                        | World Rhino Day                        | World Rhino Day is a day of awareness for all five rhino species and the work being done to save them.  Since 2011, World Rhino Day has been celebrated internationally The Greater One-horned Rhinoceros: (or "Indian rhino") is the largest of the rhino species Vulnerable  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept<br>(Fourth<br>Sunday)  | World Rivers Day                       | Theme is "Waterways of Life." World Rivers Day was first celebrated in 2005, initiated by the International River Network.   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept                        | International Day of<br>Sign Languages | Theme "Sign up for Sign Language Rights"  First celebrated by UN General Assembly in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf.  The International Week of the Deaf was first celebrated in Sept 1958   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept                        | National Service<br>Scheme (NSS) Day   | Celebrates the launch of the NSS program.  |

| 1                        | 560°  | The NSS was launched on Sept 24, 1969, during the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
|                          |   | The NSS motto is "Not Me But You"  NSS is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India, Ministry of Youth  Affairs & Sports.  |
|                          | Olog  | It provides an opportunity to the student youth of the 11th & 12th Class of schools and student youth of colleges and University level of India to take part in various Government led community service activities & programmes.   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | Antyodaya Diwas   | to commemorate birth anniversary of one of India's most renowned political thinkers and social reformers, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. first celebrated on Sept 25, 2014.  He was the leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1953 to 1968.  He launched the weekly 'Panchjanya' and the daily 'Swadesh'.   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | World Pharmacists Day   | organized by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), a WHO partner.  To recognize and celebrate the crucial role that pharmacists play in building healthier communities everywhere  Theme: "Pharmacists: Meeting global health needs"   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | World Contraception Day   | theme - "A choice for all. Freedom to plan, power to choose." started in the year 2007  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | World Environmental<br>Health Day                                   | Theme: Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities Through Disaster Risk Reduction And Climate Change Mitigation And Adaptation Declared by the Council of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) in 2011   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | International Day for<br>Total Elimination of<br>Nuclear Weapon     | The UN General Assembly declared the Day Observed annually since 2014. Achieving global nuclear disarmament is the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations. It was the subject of the General Assembly's first resolution in 1946  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | - World Tourism Day   | since 1980 by UNWTO.  Adoption of the UN Tourism Statutes on 27 Sept 1970.  UN Tourism statutes include the International Code for the Protection of Tourists (ICPT) and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET)  Theme 2024: "Tourism and Peace":   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | Google Birth<br>Anniversary   | Google celebrated its birthday on Sept 4 for seven years before moving it to Sept 27 to mark the day it indexed a record number of search pages Google was founded on Sept 4, 1998 by Larry Page and Sergey Brin in a garage in Menlo Park, California.   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup><br>Sept | World Rabies Day  | marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.  Since 2007 Theme is: "Breaking Rabies Boundaries".  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup><br>Sept | International Day for<br>Universal Access to<br>Information (IDUAI) | Proclaimed by the UNESCO General Conference in 2015 UN General Assembly proclaimed this day in Oct 2019. Signifies access to information, and its foundational role in fostering transparent governance, achieving development goals, and building inclusive knowledge societies. The theme of the 2024 Global Conference on Universal Access to Information - "Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in the Public |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | World Heart Day   | Sector".  Hosted by the government of Ghana and UNESCO on 1-2 Oct 2024  Theme "Use Heart for Action   |
| JCP1                     |   |   |

| 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept | International   | The theme "Translation, an art worth protecting: Moral and Material rights |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| -/6                   | Translation Day | for Indigenous Languages"  |

#### **OCTOBER**

| DATE                              | DAY               | THEME/ REMARK  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct               | International Day | 2024 Theme: Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and        |
|                                   | of the Older      | Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide                                      |
|                                   | Persons           | designated by United Nations General Assembly On 14 December 1990                |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct               | International     | In March 2014, the Member States of the International Coffee Organization        |
|                                   | Coffee Day        | agreed to organize International Coffee Day on 1 Oct                             |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct               | World Vegetarian  | founded in 1977 by the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) and was          |
|                                   | Day               | endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978.                          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct               | International Day | coinciding with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi (Gandhi Jayanti)                  |
|                                   | of Non-Violence   | established by the United Nations General Assembly on June 15, 2007              |
|                                   |                   | India celebrates the 155th birth anniversary of Bapu in 2024                     |
|                                   |                   | Birth: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 1869 in Porbandar (Gujarat)                           |
| 2nd - 8th                         | National Wildlife | The theme, "Wildlife Conservation Through Coexistence."                          |
| Oct                               | Week              | The theme) Whalle conservation in ough coexistence.                              |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct               | World Animal      | marked since 1925  |
| 4 000                             | Welfare Day       | first celebrated on 24th March 1925 in Germany.                                  |
|                                   | Wellare Day       | It was started by Heinrich Zimmermann  |
|                                   | 16.00             | THEME: "The world is their home too!"  |
|                                   |                   | At a Congress of the International Animal Protection Congress in Florence, Italy |
|                                   |                   |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> | Mandal Conner     | in May 1931, his proposal to recognize Oct 4 as World Animal Day                 |
|                                   | World Space       | Theme 2024 - "Space & Climate Change."   |
| Oct                               | Week              | To recognize two important dates :   |
|                                   |                   | Soviet Union's launching first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, on Oct. 4, |
|                                   |                   | 1957;  |
| .1                                |                   | Signing of Outer Space Treaty on Oct.10, 1967.                                   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct               | World Teachers'   | Established in 1994 by UNESCO to commemorate the signing of the                  |
|                                   | Day               | "Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers" in 1966.                      |
|                                   | 6,0,              | Theme 2024 - 'Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for          |
|                                   |                   | Education.'  |
|                                   | 55                | In 1997, a second key document was adopted: the "UNESCO Recommendation           |
|                                   |                   | Concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel"                    |
|                                   | / /               | The UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development was created in 2008 to           |
|                                   |                   | support the improvement of teaching and learning quality.                        |
|                                   | 1 70              | Three innovative programmes from Bangladesh, Brazil and Togo are the             |
|                                   |                   | laureates of the 2024 UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development.               |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct               | World Cerebral    | The 2024 theme - '#UniquelyCP'   |
|                                   | Palsy Day         |  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct               | World Cotton Day  | The WTO hosted the first World Cotton Day on 7 Oct 2019                          |
|                                   | 600               | Recognized by United Nations General Assembly in 2021                            |
|                                   |                   | Theme: Cotton for Good   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct               | World Habitat     | Designated by the United Nations in 1985   |
| (First                            | Day               | Theme: Engaging youth to create a better urban future                            |
| Monday of                         | 1 / 2             | The Global Observance of World Habitat Day held in the City of Querétaro,        |
| Oct)                              | //                | Mexico on 7 Oct 2024.  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct               | World Postal Day  | declared by the 1969 Universal Postal Congress in Tokyo as a means to mark the   |
|                                   | 121121 2000 201   | anniversary of the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) creation in 1874.              |

| $\equiv$ |                                   | 45  |  |
|----------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 5        | 1,055                             | 2   | To mark the 150th anniversary of the UPU, the theme for 2024 is: "150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations".  |
| 10       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | World Mental<br>Health Day                          | Established on Oct 10,1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health.  Theme - 'It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace'.  |
| 10       | Oct                               | National post day                                   | National Postal Day was officially established in India in 2014 Theme, "Connecting India: The Role of Postal Services in Nation Building". The National Postal Week 2024 is being celebrated from Oct 9 to Oct 15 The introduction of the Post Office Act in 1854 under Lord Dalhousie laid the foundation for a structured postal system.   |
| ĺ.       |                                   | 6000  | India's post offices use a 6-digit PIN Code system that was implemented there in 1972.   |
| (Se      | th Oct<br>econd<br>ursday<br>Oct) | World Sight Day                                     | raise awareness of vision impairment and blindness, and promote eye and vision care. Theme: "Children, love your eyes"   |
| 11       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | International Day<br>of the Girl Child              | Theme - 'Girls' vision for the future'. In 1995 at the World Conference on Women in Beijing, countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration to specifically call out girls' rights. On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution to declare Oct 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child   |
| 12       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | World Migratory<br>Bird Day 2024                    | World Migratory Bird Day is celebrating on 11 May and 12 Oct, reflecting the cyclical nature of seasonal bird migrations in different hemispheres.  Theme: Protect Insects to Protect Birds  World Migratory Bird Day was initiated in 2006 by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in collaboration with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). |
| 13       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | International Day<br>for Disaster Risk<br>Reduction | The day aims to raise awareness and promote a culture of disaster reduction and risk awareness around the world.  Theme 2024 - Empowering the next generation for a resilient future.  This theme highlights the role of education in protecting and empowering youth for a disaster-free future.  |
| 13       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | Breast Cancer<br>Awareness Day                      | The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) in 2021 Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2024 Theme: "No-one should face breast cancer alone"   |
| 14       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | World Standards<br>Day                              | 2024 Theme: Shared vision for a better world: Spotlight on SDG9 SDG 9 focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. International standards bring technological, economic and societal benefits. They help to harmonize specifications of products and services, making industry more efficient and breaking down barriers to international trade.                      |
| 15       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | Global<br>Handwashing<br>Day                        | J.C. ( <b>T</b> )  |
| 15       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | World White<br>Cane Day                             | The National Federation of the Blind celebrates For blind people, the white cane is an essential tool that gives us the ability to achieve a full and independent life.  |
| 15       | <sup>th</sup> Oct                 | World Students'<br>Day                              | to honor the birthday of Dr. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and renowned scientist.  Designated in 2010.   |
| 16       | th Oct                            | World Food Day                                      | 2024 Theme: Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future   |

| 1 -                  | 33  | World Food Day was established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 0/05                 |   | Organization in 1979 to commemorate its founding in 1945.   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct | World<br>Anaesthesia Day                                  | commemorates the birth of anaesthesia on 16 Oct 1846.  When doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital demonstrated the use of ether for the first time on a patient.  Theme 2024: Workforce Well-Being  Anesthesia is a medical procedure that uses medicines to prevent pain and loss of awareness during procedures like surgery, dental work, and diagnostic tests.  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct | World Spine Day   | recognized as the largest public health initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the global burden of spinal pain and disability.  "Support Your Spine" campaign.  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct | International Day<br>for the<br>Eradication of<br>Poverty | 2024 Theme: Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment Acting together for just, peaceful and inclusive societies declared on 22 December 1992 by the UN General Assembly   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct | World Statistics Day                                      | First observed in 2010 by the United Nations Statistical Commission celebrated every five years.  Third World Statistics Day was celebrated around the globe on 20 Oct 2020 with the theme "Connecting the world with data we can trust".   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct | National Police<br>Commemoration<br>Day                   | to remember the policemen who died in an ambush by Chinese troops in Ladakh, in 1959.  The day is dedicated to paying tribute to the bravery and service of police personnel who protect the nation the DGsP/IGsP Conference held in 1962 decided to observe Oct 21 every year as Police Commemoration Day.  PM Modi dedicated National Police Memorial, New Delhi to the nation on Police Commemoration Day-2018 |
| 21st Oct             | World Iodine<br>Deficiency Day                            | also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day Iodine is an essential component of the thyroid hormones, thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), which regulate metabolism and are crucial for fetal and infant development.  Iodine deficiency is the most common cause of goiter, a condition where the thyroid gland grows larger   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct | International<br>Stuttering<br>Awareness Day              | to raise awareness about stammering (also known as stuttering) and promoting understanding and support for individuals who stammer. observed since 1998   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct | World Polio Day<br>2024                                   | The theme - 'The Power of Listening.'  established by Rotary International  24 <sup>th</sup> Oct - the birth date of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis.  The WHO South-East Asia Region was certified free of wild polioviruses on 27 March 2014.  India was declared polio-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2014,                                      |
|                      | eses.   | with the last wild poliovirus case reported in 2011.  Polio is a viral infectious disease that can cause irreversible paralysis and even death by affecting the nervous system.  It predominantly affects children under five.  Wild Poliovirus strains: There are three distinct strains of wild poliovirus:  Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1)  Wild Poliovirus Type 2 (WPV2)  Wild Poliovirus Type 3 (WPV3)        |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct | United Nations<br>Day                                     | The United Nations was officially established on Oct 24, 1945   |

| Close                                      |  | after the UN Charter was ratified by a majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, China, and France  |
|--|--|---|
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | World<br>Development<br>Information Day                  | In 1972, the General Assembly established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them. The Assembly decided that the date for the Day should coincide with United Nations Day, 24 Oct   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup><br>Oct | Disarmament<br>Week 2024:                                | Disarmament Week, starting annually on Oct 24, coincides with the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.  It was first called for in the Final Document of the UN General Assembly's 1978 Special Session on Disarmament and reinforced in 1995   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup><br>Oct | Global Media and<br>Information<br>Literacy Week<br>2024 | Commemorated annually since 2011. brought together stakeholders from around the world to share ideas and explore innovative ways to promote Media and Information Literacy for all. a global conference will be hosted by UNESCO and the Hashemite Kingdom in Amman, Jordan on 30-31 Oct. Theme is "The New Digital Frontiers of Information: Media and Information Literacy for Public Interest Information".      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | World Day for<br>Audiovisual<br>Heritage                 | The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) is a commemoration of the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images, in 1980 by the 21st UN General Conference.  Established by UNESCO in 2005  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | International<br>Animation Day                           | ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation) created the International Animation Day (IAD) in 2002 honoring the birth of animation, recognized as the first public performance of projected moving images: Emile Reynaud's Theatre Optique in Paris, on the 28th Oct 1892.  |
| 29th Oct,                                  | Ayurveda Day   | This year the 9th Ayurveda day falls on 29th Oct, 2024.  Theme - "Ayurveda innovation for Global Health".  Lord Dhanvantari - God of Ayurveda and medicine.  He emerged during the Samudra Manthan, or churning of the ocean, which is a crucial event in Hindu mythology.  Dhanvantari Jayanti, which falls on Dhanteras, two days before Diwali.  Government of India officially declared Ayurveda Day in 2016    |
| 29 Oct                                     | World Stroke Day   | to emphasize the serious nature and high rates of stroke. established in 2004 at World Stroke Congress in Vancouver, Canada In 2006, World Stroke Organization was created Theme is "#GreaterThanStroke active challenge"   |
| 29 Oct                                     | World Psoriasis<br>Day                                   | To raise awareness with regards to psoriatic disease and advocate for the individual rights of those who are affected with psoriasis.  Psoriasis is a chronic, noncontagious autoimmune disease that causes abnormal, scaly, and inflamed patches of skin  As per the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) report, 25% of people with psoriasis show signs of depression, and 50% have anxiety |
|  | P. Carre   | disorder.  The first World Psoriasis Day was celebrated in 2004, but the World Health Organization (WHO) officially designated Oct 29 as the day in 2014  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | International Day<br>of Care and<br>Support              | The theme - "Transforming Care Systems: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of Beijing+30".  Investing in care can fuel economies, while reducing women's poverty and potentially creating 300 million jobs by 2035.   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | World Savings<br>Day 2024                                | World Savings Day was first observed in 1924, during the International Savings Bank Congress.   |

| 31 Oct | National Unity | Every year in India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birthday is celebrated as National |
|--------|----------------|--|
| -10    | Day /Rashtriya | Unity Day on 31 Oct.   |
| 100    | Ekta Diwas     | It is also called National Unity Day .   |
| (O)    | / 🦱 \          | It was celebrated for the first time in the year 2014.                             |
|        |                | On this day, various events like 'Run For Unity' are organised to spread           |
|        |                | awareness about Sardar Patel's contribution to national integrity and unity .      |
|        |                | In the year 2018, on the occasion of 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, the  |
|        |                | Government of India unveiled the Statue of Unity in Gujarat in honour of Sardar    |
|        | 1401           | Vallabhbhai Patel.   |

#### **NOVEMBER**

| DATE                 | DAY  | THEME/ REMARK  |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov  | International Day to<br>End Impunity for<br>Crimes Against<br>Journalists                      | Baieyan ( ) Tagas bain   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov  | World Jellyfish Day  | To raise awareness about the importance of jellyfish and their role in the ocean, Since 2014. Jellyfish play an important role in the marine food web, serving as a primary food source for sea turtles.   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | World Tsunami<br>Awareness Day   | Designated by UN General Assembly Assembly in December 2015 THEME: "Empowering the next generation with the lessons of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami – 20 years on World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan The word "tsunami" comprises the Japanese words "tsu" (meaning harbor) and "nami" (meaning wave).   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov- | International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict | On 5 Nov 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6 Nov of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | National Cancer<br>Awareness Day   | observed in India every year since 2014 to create public awareness about early detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer.  The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently stated that cancer cases and deaths in India are expected to surge between 2022 and 2045.   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | Infant Protection Day  | The day aims to safeguard newborns from health risks and other physical or psychological disorders   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | World Radiography<br>Day   | To increase public awareness with respect to the vital role of diagnostic imaging, radiation therapy and radiographer play in healthcare management.  Since 2007  Theme 2024: "Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen".  |
| 9th Nov              | National Legal<br>Services Day   | to commemorate the commencement of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on 9th Nov, 1995. to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. The 9th of Nov is celebrated annually by all Legal Services Authorities in accordance with the call made by Chief Justice A.S. Anand in the First Annual Meet of NALSA on September 12, 1998, in New Delhi |
| 100                  | 1 8  | About National Legal Service Authority (NALSA)   |

| om Close             |   | <ul> <li>NALSA is a statutory body of India established on 9 Nov 1995 under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987</li> <li>The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief.</li> <li>NALSA is housed at Supreme Court of India</li> </ul>   |
|----------------------|---|---|
|                      | Patripun Olas                                       | <ul> <li>Constitutional Provisions:</li> <li>Article 39A provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society and ensures justice for all.</li> <li>Articles 14 and 22(1) of the Constitution also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before the law and a legal system that promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity for all.</li> </ul>  |
| 9th Nov              | World Freedom Day                                   | honors the historic events of Nov 9, 1989, when the Berlin Wall, which separated East and West Berlin (Germany), was breached and ultimately led to its demolition.  This symbolic moment marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new era of freedom and unity  The Berlin Wall was constructed in August 1961.   |
| 10th Nov             | World Science Day<br>for Peace and<br>Development   | 2024 Theme: Youth at the forefront proclamation by UNESCO in 2001 first celebrated worldwide in 2002  |
| 10th Nov             | World Public<br>Transport Day                       | a spotlight on the importance of sustainable, accessible and efficient transportation systems for all.  First observed in the early 2000s   |
| 10th Nov             | World Immunization Day                              | aims to raise awareness about the vital role vaccines play in preventing infectious diseases and protecting public health.  The Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is one of India's most comprehensive public health initiatives, aiming to provide life-saving vaccines to millions of newborns and pregnant women each year.  Initially launched in 1978 as the Expanded Programme on Immunization, it was rebranded as the UIP in 1985  |
|                      | porcham o   | Since 2005, under the National Rural Health Mission, the UIP has become a central component of India's public health efforts, focusing on ensuring that vaccines reach every child  World Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of April  National Immunization Day, also known as National Vaccination Day, is celebrated in India on March 16 of every year.  The first dose of the Oral Polio Vaccine was administered in 1995 on this date, under WHO's Global Polio Eradication Initiative which had begun in |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Armistice Day<br>(Remembrance<br>Day/Veterans' Day) | 1988.  On Nov 11, 1918, fighting in World War I ended as the Allies and Germany signed an armistice in northern France.  Originally known as Armistice Day, the holiday was later expanded in 1954 to honor all veterans, not just those who served in World War I.   |
| 11th Nov             | National Education<br>Day                           | This day honours the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India.  National Education Day declared in September 2008  Theme: "Learning for Lasting Peace"  Born on Nov 11, 1888, Azad was a freedom fighter, educationist, scholar, and senior leader of the Indian National Congress.  he also established the first Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Kharagpur Maulana Azad was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest                             |

| Ē | 11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> | World Quality Week                        | Organized by the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI)                             |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
|   | Nov                                | 2024                                      | The theme for 2024, "Quality: From Compliance to Performance,"                 |
|   | A                                  |   | The concept of World Quality Week originated in 2010, proposed by              |
|   | 01.                                |   | the American Society for Quality (ASQ),  |
|   | 12th Nov                           | World Pneumonia                           | to spread awareness and educate people to combat Pneumonia disease.            |
|   |                                    | Day                                       | Theme is "Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track"                    |
|   |                                    | - You                                     | first observed in 2009   |
|   |                                    | 10  | Pneumonia is an acute respiratory infection of the lungs. It is also a         |
|   |                                    | 1000                                      | Pneumococcal disease caused by bacteria called Streptococcus pneumoniae        |
|   |                                    | 200                                       | or pneumococcus.   |
|   |                                    | N.  | Cause: It doesn't have one single cause – it can develop from either bacteria, |
|   |                                    |   | viruses or fungi in the air.   |
|   | 000                                |   | Vulnerability: Children whose immune systems are immature (i.e. newborns)      |
|   | -105                               |   | or weakened – such as by undernourishment, or diseases like HIV – are more     |
| l | 9                                  |   | vulnerable to pneumonia.   |
|   |                                    |   | Pneumonia is contagious and can be spread through coughing or sneezing. It     |
|   | 1                                  |   | can also be spread through fluids, like blood during childbirth, or from       |
|   |                                    |   | contaminated surfaces.   |
|   |                                    | 1 / of                                    | Pneumonia caused by bacteria is easily preventable with vaccines.              |
|   | 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov               | World Kindness Day                        | established in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement with the purpose of         |
|   |                                    | -67                                       | promoting kindness around the world.   |
|   | 14th Nov                           | Jawaharlal Nehru                          | World Children's Day - Nov 20  |
| l |                                    | Jayanti / Children's                      | India dedicates Nov 14th to to honor Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime     |
|   | 1                                  | Day                                       | Minister, affectionately known as Chacha Nehru                                 |
|   |                                    | •   | reflecting on Nehru's ideals and prioritizing child rights and education.      |
|   | (0.00                              |   | Birth: 14th Nov 1889 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.                              |
|   | -10-                               | / = N                                     | Death: 27 May, 1964  |
| ŀ |                                    |   | Father's Name: Motilal Nehru   |
|   |                                    |   | Mother's Name: Swarup Rani   |
|   |                                    | \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \     | Jawaharlal Nehru served as India's Prime Minister from 1947 till 1964, a       |
|   |                                    |   | position he held for 16 years and 286 days.                                    |
|   |                                    | 450                                       | Books Written: The Discovery of India, Glimpses of World History, An           |
|   |                                    | 7401                                      | Autobiography, Letters from a Father to His Daughter.                          |
|   |                                    | 2000                                      | Awards and Honours   |
|   |                                    | A   | In 1948, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Mysore,     |
|   | 9                                  | GE.                                       | followed by similar honours from the University of Madras, Columbia            |
|   | 1 20                               | 000                                       | University, and Keio University.   |
|   | 100                                | / / _ >                                   | In 1955 - Bharat Ratna   |
|   | 400                                |   | In 1970 - World Peace Council Prize posthumously.                              |
| h | 14th Nov                           | World Diabetes Day                        | Established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation with support      |
|   |                                    | 1 1                                       | from WHO   |
|   |                                    |   | Theme: "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps"                                      |
|   |                                    |   | World Diabetes Day became an official UN day in 2006.                          |
| F | 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov               | Guru Nanak Dev's                          | birthday of Sikhism's founder, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.                              |
|   | 1                                  | 555 <sup>th</sup> Birth                   | born at Rai Bhoi Ki Talwandi, today known as Nankana Sahib, in Lahore          |
|   |                                    | Anniversary                               | (Pakistan) in 1469   |
|   |                                    |   | The day is also known as Guru Purab or Guru Nanak Prakash Utsavv,              |
|   | 9 July                             | .50                                       | Guru Nanak Jayanti falls on a full moon day in the month of Kartik, according  |
|   | -/-                                | 200                                       | to the Hindu lunar calendar, which is usually during October-Nov.              |
|   | - 6                                | /   | Guru Nanak Dev spread the message of 'Ek Omkar' which means that God is        |
|   | Me.                                | 7.5                                       | one and is present everywhere.   |
| 1 | No.                                | A. C. |  |
| 1 |                                    | . /                                       | He introduced the concept of "Sangat" (community), where all could come        |

| 1 3                  | 3.                                       | Guru Nanak laid the foundation for the three pillars of Sikhism:  |
|----------------------|--|---|
|                      |  | Naam Japna (meditating on God's name),  |
|                      |  | Kirat Karni (honest and truthful living), and   |
|                      |  | Vand Chakna (sharing with others, especially those in need).  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Birsa Munda Jayanti<br>/Janjatiya Gaurav | Born in 1875 in the Munda tribe. He is often referred to as 'Dharti Abba' or the Earth Father.  |
|                      | Divas                                    | declared 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas by the Central Government in 2021.<br>He led the rebellion that came to be known as Ulgulan (revolt) or the Munda rebellion against the British government-imposed feudal state system.                              |
|                      | 60,                                      | His struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908 which restricted the passing of land from the tribal people to non-tribals   |
| 100                  |  | He died on June 9, 1900, at age 25.   |
| 16th Nov             | International Day for Tolerance          | "Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human." In 1996, the UN General Assembly proclaimed proclaiming 16 Nov as International Day for Tolerance |
| 16th Nov             | National Press Day                       | symbolic of a free and responsible press in India.  |
|                      | / /s                                     | The theme "Changing Nature of Press".   |
|                      | Clo.                                     | This was the day on which the Press Council of India started functioning .  |
|                      | 170                                      | The PCI was first set up on 4 <sup>th</sup> July, 1966 by the parliament on the   |
|                      | n of Girls                               | recommendations of the First Press Commission under the chairmanship of Justice J.R Mudholkar.  |
|                      | 18.00                                    | The present council functions under the Press Council Act 1978.   |
|                      |  | It is a statutory, quasi-judicial body that acts as a watchdog of the press in  |
|                      |  | India.  |
|                      |  | Composition   |
|                      |  | Composition: PCI consists of a Chairman and 28 other members.   |
|                      | V 78. /                                  | A20   |
|                      | 0  | The Chairman is nominated by a committee consisting of Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, and one representative of the   |
|                      | 1775                                     | council member.   |
|                      | porch                                    | The Chairman, by convention, has been a retired judge of the Supreme Court.   |
| th                   |  | The term of the Chairman and the members of the Council is 3 years.   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov | International                            | The day is commemorated in memory of the bravery of thousands of studen   |
|                      | Students Day                             | activists in Prague, during the Nazi attack, who fought for the right to higher education.  |
|                      |  | The Nazi forces occupied the Czech Republic on Nov 17, 1939 and executed  |
|                      |  | nine protesters without trial, and over 1200 students sent to concentration   |
|                      |  | camps, and the closing of all Czech universities and colleges.  The day was first marked in 1941 in London by the International Students'  Council  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov | National Epilepsy<br>Day                 | PURPOSE: To raise awareness about epilepsy, support those affected, and educate the public to reduce stigma   |
|                      |  | ORGANIZED BY: Epilepsy Foundation of India, founded by Dr. Nirmal Surya in 2009   |
|                      | 35500                                    | Global Prevalence: 7 crore people worldwide (1.2 crore in India)  |
|                      | / /                                      | Major Symptoms of Epilepsy: Seizures  |
|                      |  | sudden and uncontrolled movements   |
|                      |  | loss of consciousness   |
|                      | / 4                                      | odd behaviours  |
|                      |  | Government Initiatives  |

| 1 69                               | 3.                    | National Programme on Epilepsy   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
|                                    |                       | District Mental Health Programme   |
| 173                                |                       | Epilepsy treatment at institutes like AIIMS and NIMHANS  |
| 17th Nov                           | World Day of          | Started by RoadPeace in 1993   |
|                                    | Remembrance for       | In 2005, the United Nations endorsed it as a global day to be observed every   |
|                                    | Road Traffic Victims  | third Sunday in Nov each year.   |
|                                    | (Third Sunday in      | In September 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution "Improving   |
|                                    | Nov)                  | global road safety", proclaiming the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-  |
|                                    |                       | 2030,(Remember. Support. Act.)   |
|                                    |                       | with the ambitious target of preventing at least 50% of road traffic deaths  |
| 4 Oth 2 4th                        | 144 11A 11 1 1 1 1    | and injuries by 2030.  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> | World Antimicrobial   | Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and  |
| Nov                                | Resistance            | parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial agents  |
| 0/4/                               | Awareness Week        | WAAW is a global campaign to raise awareness and promote best practices  |
|                                    | (WAAW)                | to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.   |
| 4 Oth Nav                          | M/auld Tailet Day     | Theme: "Educate. Advocate. Act now."   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov               | World Toilet Day      | Established by the World Toilet Organization in 2001.  World Toilet Daywas made an official United Nations Observance in 2013. |
|                                    |                       | World Toilet Day was made an official United Nations Observance in 2013.  Theme of 'Toilets - A Place for Peace'.              |
|                                    |                       | 700  |
|                                    |                       | encourages action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.  |
|                                    |                       | 'Safe toilets for all by 2030' is one of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov               | International Men's   | Theme: "Positive Male Role Models".  |
| 19 1100                            | Day                   | International Men's Day originated in 1992   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov               | World Children's Day  | first established in 1954 to promote international togetherness, awareness   |
| ZU INUV                            | World Cillidien's Day | among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.  |
| -10,2                              |                       | Theme: "For every child, every right,"   |
|                                    |                       | On Nov 20, 1959 the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the   |
|                                    |                       | Rights of the Child.   |
|                                    |                       | It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted   |
|                                    |                       | the Convention on the Rights of the Child.   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov               | Africa                | UNGA, in December 1989, proclaimed 20 Nov "Africa Industrialization Day"   |
|                                    | Industrialization Day | This year, Africa Industrialization Week is set to take place in Kampala,  |
|                                    | 210/10                | Uganda, from the 25th to the 29th of Nov 2024.   |
| 1                                  |                       | Under the theme " Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Green  |
| 9.                                 |                       | Industrialization to Accelerate Africa's Structural Transformation ".  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov               | World Chronic         | Third Wednesday of Nov (since 2002).   |
| 1/00                               | Obstructive           | To raise awareness of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)   |
| all a                              | Pulmonary Disease     | Theme is "Know Your Lung Function"   |
| 6)                                 | (COPD) Day            | World Lung Day – 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov               | World Television Day  | In December 1996 the United Nations proclaimed 21 Nov as World Television  |
|                                    |                       | Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was   |
|                                    |                       | held in 1996.  |
| 21st Nov                           | World Fisheries Day   | originated in 1997 when the "World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish   |
| . \                                | 2024                  | Workers" convened in New Delhi.  |
|                                    |                       | 18 countries came together to establish the "World Fisheries Forum" and  |
|                                    |                       | signed a declaration advocating for adopting sustainable fishing practices   |
| · //                               |                       | and policies worldwide.  |
|                                    |                       | Theme 2024 - India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Small-Scale and  |
| 100                                |                       | Sustainable Fisheries.   |
| die                                |                       | As the 3rd largest fish producer, 2nd largest aquaculture nation in the world  |
|                                    |                       | after China and the largest producer of shrimp, India contributes significantly  |
|                                    |                       | to both domestic food security and the global seafood market.  |

|   | The second secon |   |
|---|--|---|
| om Class                                    |  | Government Initiatives and Schemes to Promote Sustainable Fisheries <u>Blue Revolution Integrated Development and Management Fisheries Scheme</u> or Blue Revolution Scheme was launched in FY2015-16 - primarily focused on increasing fish production and productivity. <u>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)</u>   |
|   | A de   | launched in May 2020, is a flagship initiative aimed at transforming India's fisheries sector.  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov                        | National Philosophy<br>Day 2024  | It is observed annually on the third Thursday of Nov introduced by UNESCO in 2002  This edition will focus on "Philosophy: bridging social gaps   |
| 23rd Nov                                    | National Cashew Day  | The cashew tree is native to Brazil and was first identified by Europeans in the 16th century.  National Cashew Day has been observed since 2015 and creates awareness about the versatility of the nut as a food item, including its health benefits.  |
| 23rd Nov                                    | Fibonacci Day  | It is observed on Nov 23 because the digits of this date form a Fibonacci sequence. Or we can say that when the date is written in mm/dd format (11/23) it forms a Fibonacci sequence; 1,1,2,3.   |
| ,   | Potogou Clos   | What is a Fibonacci Sequence?  It is a series of numbers where a number is the sum of the two numbers before it. Or the sequence of numbers in a series where a number is the total of the two numbers before it.  The Fibonacci sequence is one of the biggest accomplishments of Leonardo of Pisa, popularly known as Leonardo Fibonacci.   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov                        | Martyrdom Day of<br>Guru Tegh Bahadur:   | Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru As a boy, Tegh Bahadur was called Tyag Mal born in Amritsar on April 21, 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru He urged his followers to be 'nirbhau' (fearless) and 'nirvair' (without envy). In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. At the site of his execution stands Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in Delhi. |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov                        | Lachit Diwas   | To mark the birth anniversary of the Assamese folk hero Lachit Borphukan.  He was a legendary army commander of the Ahom kingdom, known for his leadership in the 1671 'Battle of Saraighat' - naval battle fought between the Ahom Kingdom and the Mughal Empire (led by Raja Ramsingh-I) on the banks of the Brahmaputra river in Guwahati, Assam   |
|   | / 400  | He defeated the Mughal forces   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov                        | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against  | in 1999 the General Assembly proclaimed The 2024 campaign - Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed. #NoExcuse. UNITE to End Violence against Women the launch of the UNITE campaign (Nov 25- Dec 10) — an initiative of 16 days  |
|   | Women  | of activism concluding on International Human Rights Day (10 December). Globally, almost one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life.   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> to<br>29 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Aviation Safety<br>Awareness Week<br>2024  | The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is observing Aviation Safety Awareness Week from Nov 25 to 29, reaffirming its commitment to safety in aviation.  Historical Milestones Indian aviation  1911: First commercial flight (Allahabad-Naini).  1932: Launch of Tata Airlines.   |

| 1                     | 2                                    | 1947: India joined ICAO.   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|                       |                                      | Sarla Thakral: India's first woman pilot.  |
|                       |                                      | Future Plans   |
|                       |                                      | – Increase operational airports to 350 by 2047.  |
|                       |                                      | <ul> <li>Integrate sustainability and advanced air mobility (AAM).</li> </ul>  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | Constitution Day of                  | Constitution Day also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'   |
|                       | India                                | On 26th Nov 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950.  |
|                       | Sq.                                  | The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 19th Nov 2015 notified the decision of Government of India to celebrate the 26th day of Nov every year as 'Constitution Day' |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | Red Planet Day                       | On Nov 28, Red Planet Day is observed in remembrance of the 1964 NASA  |
|                       |                                      | launch of Mariner 4, the first spacecraft to fly by Mars on July 14, 1965, after travelling there for nearly eight months.   |
|                       |                                      | About Mars:  |
|                       |                                      | Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and the second-smallest planet in the   |
|                       |                                      | Solar System.  |
|                       | 100                                  | Mars is about half the size of Earth.  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | International Day of Solidarity with | On 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov, in 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.  |
|                       | Palestinian People                   | In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 Nov as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.                                   |
|                       |                                      | Palestine, area of the eastern Mediterranean region comprising parts of  |
|                       |                                      | modern Israel and the Palestinian territories of the Gaza Strip (along the   |
| 0                     |                                      | coast of the Mediterranean Sea) and the West Bank (west of the Jordan River).  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov- | International Jaguar                 | International Jaguar Day was created to raise awareness about the increasing   |
|                       | Day                                  | threats facing the jaguar and the critical conservation efforts ensuring its survival.   |
|                       | 100                                  | It celebrates the Americas' largest wild cat   |
|                       | Flo.                                 | Jaguars - Panthera onca  |
|                       | 9.00                                 | Jaguars are classified as Near-threatened by IUCN  |
|                       |                                      | The species has national protections in almost every country it's found, and trade in its parts is banned by CITES.  |

### **DECEMBER**

| DATE                | DAY             | REMARK   |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec | BSF Raising Day | 60th Raising Day   |
|                     |                 | came into being in 1965.   |
|                     | 9               | It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India                 |
|                     | 500             | Headquarters is in New Delhi.  |
|                     | 0.01            | The BSF is the world's largest border-guarding force securing the 6,386.36 km      |
|                     |                 | long International Borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.                           |
|                     |                 | The motto of BSF "DUTY UNTO DEATH"   |
|                     | 550             | Other Central Armed Police Forces are: Assam Rifles (AR), Indo-Tibetan             |
|                     | 10.             | Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve    |
| dion                |                 | Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). |

| 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec | World AIDS Day        | Theme "Take the rights path: My health, my right!"   |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Clos                |                       | It was first observed in 1988, when the World Health Organisation (WHO)                                      |
|                     |                       | recognised the day.  |
|                     |                       | AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is the final stage of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infection |
|                     |                       | A person is diagnosed with AIDS when:  |
|                     | 1/10%                 | Their CD4 cell count drops below 200 cells per cubic millimeter of blood                                     |
|                     | 10                    | They develop certain illnesses, called opportunistic infections  |
| 2nd                 | Assam Day (Asom       | The state of Assam was formed on 26, January 1950 as a state. However,                                       |
| December            | Divas)                | Since 1996 December 2 has been celebrated in Assam as the Sukaphaa Divas, or Axom Divas (Assam Day)          |
|                     |                       | to commemorate the great unifier & the founder of the great Ahom dynasty in Assam, Swargadeo Saulung Sukapha |
|                     |                       | Asom Divas celebrates the his advent in Assam after his journey over the                                     |
|                     |                       | Patkai Hills.  |
| 2nd                 | International Day for | The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as                               |
| December            | the Abolition of      | trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour,                                |
|                     | Slavery 2024          | forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.                           |

| Aspect   | Details   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Forms of Modern  | Human trafficking, Forced labor, Child labor,   |  |  |
| Slavery  | Sexual slavery, Forced marriage, Descent-based slavery                                  |  |  |
| UN Report on Slavery   | – One in ten children globally is involved in labor.                                    |  |  |
| (5)  | – 27.6 million people were in forced labor globally (2021).                             |  |  |
| 1950   | – The majority of cases involve Asia-Pacific (15.1 million).                            |  |  |
| Slavery in India   | – Highest global number of modern slavery victims, with 11 million people affected      |  |  |
| / (  | (2023 Global Slavery Index).  |  |  |
| 1 3  | - Predominantly seen in brick kilns, human trafficking, and child exploitation.         |  |  |
| \  | <ul> <li>Deeply rooted in systemic inequalities and societal structures.</li> </ul>     |  |  |
| Global Initiatives – UN efforts: Conventions and protocols to combat human trafficking and |   |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |
|  | – ILO Reports: Address global trends in forced labor and exploitation.                  |  |  |
| India's Measures   | - Legal Acts: Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; Child Labour (Prohibition and |  |  |
| 1  | Regulation) Act, 2016.  |  |  |
| 1 4  | – Special Units: Anti-trafficking units across states.                                  |  |  |
| 450  | <ul> <li>Rehabilitation Programs: Government schemes for rescued victims.</li> </ul>    |  |  |

| 2nd Dec | National Pollution | Every year, India observes National Pollution Control Day on December 2 to |
|---------|--------------------|--|
|         | Control Day        | remember those who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.             |
|         |                    | This day is observed to make people aware of pollution-related issues and  |
|         | 716                | how it affects our daily lives.  |
|         | a dichin           | Theme - "Clean Air, Green Earth: A Step Towards Sustainable Living."       |
|         | 4                  | What was the Bhopal Gas Tragedy?   |
| b. 1    | 059                | The Bhopal disaster or Bhopal gas tragedy was a chemical accident on the   |
| 136     |                    | night of 2–3 December 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL)       |
|         | 7                  | pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh                                  |
| 1000    | /- (11)            | The horrific incident occurred on December 2, 1984, which turned the city  |
|         | 1. 1               | into a gas chamber and killed around 25,000 people after the toxic methyl  |
| Pro-    | / 12               | isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked and spread in the atmosphere.                  |

| 2nd                      | World Computer   | The custom of celebrating the world computer literacy day started in 2001   |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Oecember  3rd  December  | Literacy Day  World Day of the Handicapped or International Day of Persons with Disabilities | by the Indian company National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT).  2024 Theme: Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future  The annual observance of this day was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations   |
| 4th<br>December          | Indian Navy Day  | Theme 2024 is 'Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation. event in Odisha's Puri, where Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will host chief guest President of India Droupadi Murmu.  The day commemorates the Indian Navy's attack on Karachi Harbour during the Indo-Pakistan War in 1971. Named Operation Trident, the Indian Navy launched its campaign that resulted in the sinking of several Pakistani ships. The Navy has decided to showcase at least 24 ships, submarines, and more than 40 aircraft at this year's event with support from Marine Commandos (MARCOS) and personnel from the Indian Army. |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> December | International Day<br>of Banks  | established by the United Nations in 2019 was celebrated for the first time in 2020 to recognize the critical role that banks and other financial institutions play in supporting sustainable development, poverty reduction, and financial inclusion.  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> December | International<br>Cheetah Day   | Cheetah ( <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> ). CITES Appendix I.  IUCN status: African Cheetah – Vulnerable. Asiatic Cheetah – Critical endangered  In 1952, the Asiatic Cheetah was officially declared extinct from India (now found only in Iran).  On International Cheetah Day, two male Cheetahs - Agni and Vayu - were released in the forest area in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh Kuno National Park currently has 24 Cheetahs including 12 cubs.  After bringing these Cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa, they were first kept in the enclosure.  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> December | International<br>Volunteer Day   | Started by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985.  It is a day where volunteers are acknowledged and the spirit of volunteerism is promoted at the local, national and international levels.  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> December | World Soil Day   | World Soil Day 2024 (WSD) campaign, under the theme: Caring for soils: measure, monitor, manage An international day to celebrate soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002 UN General Assembly designated 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> December | BR Ambedkar's<br>death anniversary   | The Mahaparinirvan Diwas, to observe the 69th Death Anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, is being commemorated by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) on behalf of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, at Prerna Sthal, Parliament House Complex, on 6th December, 2024.  Birth: 14th April 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).  Dr. Ambedkar was a social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot orator and a scholar of comparative religions.   |

- In 1916, he received a doctorate degree from Columbia University, becoming the first Indian to do so.
- He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution** and was **India's first law minister.**
- He founded Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923),
- He participated in all three round-table conferences.
- In 1947, he was appointed **Chairman of the Drafting Committee** for the new Constitution.

• Important Works: Newspaper Mooknayak (1920); The Annihilation of Caste (1936); The Untouchables (1948); Buddha Or Karl Marx (1956), The Buddha and His Dhamma (1956), etc.

| 6 <sup>th</sup> December | All India Civil      | to honor the commitment of the Home Guards and Civil Defence                     |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
|                          | Defence and Home     | organisations.   |
|                          | Guards Day           | The day marks the formation of the Home Guard force on December 6,               |
|                          | Guarus Buy           | 1946, in the Bombay Province, as a voluntary force to assist police in           |
|                          | 0,                   | controlling civil disturbance and communal riots.                                |
|                          | 190                  |  |
|                          | 100                  | Following the 1962 Chinese aggression, the central government advised            |
|                          | 00                   | the states and Union Territories to merge their existing voluntary               |
|                          | 7                    | organisation into one uniform voluntary force.                                   |
|                          |                      | Post-1962: Unified under the Home Guards Act and Rules after the                 |
| 100                      |                      | Chinese aggression.  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December | Armed Forces Flag    | Since 1949, 7th December is observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day                |
|                          | Day                  | throughout the country to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform              |
|                          |                      | who valiantly fought & continue to fight on our borders to safeguard the         |
|                          |                      | country's honour   |
|                          | 1 59                 | This day is observed as a show of support and admiration for members of          |
|                          | 1000                 | the military services who give their lives in defence of the country.            |
|                          | Close                | Fundraising for the wellbeing of armed forces personnel and their families       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December | International Anti-  | Theme: Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's                 |
|                          | Corruption Day       | Integrity  |
|                          | 0.0                  | In 2003, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention              |
|                          | 7                    | against Corruption   |
|                          |                      | The Assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-                   |
|                          |                      | Corruption Day   |
|                          | F - N                | The Convention entered into force in December 2005.                              |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December | International Day of | often referred to as Genocide Prevention Day.                                    |
|                          | Commemoration and    | The date marks the United Nation's adoption of the 1948 Convention on            |
|                          | Dignity of the       | the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.                          |
|                          | Victims of the Crime | The day after this, on 10 December 1948, the first human rights treaty           |
|                          | of Genocide and of   | was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.                       |
|                          | the Prevention of    | In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly established this day                |
|                          | this Crime           | in 2013, the Officed Nations deficial Assembly established this day              |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>         | Human Rights Day     | since 1950   |
| December                 | Truman Rights Day    | It commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly              |
| December                 |                      | 14.2001  |
|                          |                      | adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - first                 |
|                          |                      | universal statement of human rights.   |
|                          |                      | The UDHR is a landmark document that established fundamental human               |
|                          | 1 3                  | rights for all people, regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, language, |
|                          | V = /                | or other status.   |
| 4 h                      |                      | Theme: Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>         | International        | THEME: "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation,                |
| December                 | Mountain Day         | adaptation and youth."   |
|                          | Ø O.                 | The United Nations (UN) designated December 11 as International                  |
|                          |                      | Mountain Day in 2002.  |
|                          | 25                   | The first International Mountain Day was celebrated on December 11,              |
| 100                      |                      | 2003.  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>         | UNICEF Day           | UNICEF Full Form is the United Nations International Children Emergency          |
| December                 | / (1)                | Fund. The name was changed to United Nations Children's Fund in 1953.            |
|                          | 7.2                  | UNICEF is an organisation established by the United Nations in 1946              |
|                          | 1 1                  | which works on humanitarian grounds to provide emergency assistance to           |

| on Closse                      |   | children belonging to underprivileged communities. Currently, UNICEF is working in over 190 countries  It started its operation as an agency who was providing food, clothing and healthcare to people in Europe affected by World War II.  In 1953, UNICEF was declared a permanent organisation of the UN system and in 1956 it gained the Nobel Peace Prize for working for children worldwide.   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 11 <sup>th</sup><br>December   | Bharatiya Bhasha<br>Diwas                   | Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas is celebrated on December 11 <sup>th</sup> to honor the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati.   |
| 105585                         | \$ c.                                       | A Legendary Tamil Poet and Freedom Fighter.  Bharati had his early education in Tirunelveli and Varanasi and worked as a journalist with many newspapers, notable among them being the Swadesamitran and India.  Bharati was also an active member of the Indian National Congress.  |
|                                |   | In 1908, an arrest warrant was issued against Bharati by the government of British India for his revolutionary activities, forcing him to go to Puducherry, where he lived until 1918.   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup><br>December   | International Day of<br>Neutrality          | officially proclaimed by a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution in February 2017. aims to promote peace, strengthen global security, and ease international tensions  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup><br>December   | International Universal Health Coverage Day | On 12 December 2017, the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day). This year's theme, "Health: It's on the government".  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup><br>December - | National Energy<br>Conservation Day         | First celebrated on December 14, 1991 Theme: Lighting the Way to a Sustainable Future This day is championed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power BEE is a key organization in promoting energy conservation in India. Established by the government in 2002   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup><br>December   | Vijay Diwas                                 | to honor the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war and to pay tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country.  The day is also observed in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos' or Victory Day, marking the country's formal independence from Pakistan.  The 1971 war was instigated by the genocide perpetrated by the oppressive Pakistani military regime, led by General Yahya Khan, against the Bengalipeople of East Pakistan.  The conflict erupted when the Sheikh Mujibur Rahman-led Awami League emerged as the winner in the 1970 elections.     |
|                                | Parcham.                                    | Post-elections, the Pakistani military-initiated Operation Searchlight on March 25, 1971 Bangladeshi Liberation War started on 26th Dec 1971 Under PM Indira Gandhi's leadership, India supported Bangladeshi nationalist groups and executed 'Operation Trident,' led by the Indian Navy, to target Karachi Port. Following a 13-day battle, India secured a resounding triumph over Pakistan on December 16, 1971, leading to the creation of Bangladesh from the former East Pakistan. On this significant day, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi of Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender |

| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Pensioners Day in | Pensioners Day, observed annually on 17th December in India, is a tribute  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|
| December         | India             | to D.S. Nakara, the pioneer who fought relentlessly for the rights and     |
|                  |                   | dignity of pensioners.   |
|                  |                   | This day commemorates the landmark Supreme Court judgment of 1982          |
|                  |                   | in D.S. Nakara & Others vs Union Of India Case, given by Late Justice Y.V. |
|                  | in the second     | Chandrachud, then Chief Justice - Supreme Court of India, which            |
|                  | 100               | guaranteed equality and justice for retired officials and pensioners.      |
|                  |                   | •                                    |

- The liberal pension system introduced in 1979 benefited only those who retired after March 31, 1979.
- D.S. Nakara challenged this discriminatory policy in court, arguing that it was a violation of equality.
- The Supreme Court also ordered to provide benefits to those who came under the ambit of the Pension Act, 1972 and those who retired from the armed forces. That judgment is known as the Magna Carta of pensioners.
- The roots of the Indian pension system trace back to the British colonial era. The Royal Commission on Civil Establishments in 1881 first introduced pension benefits for government employees.

| 4011                         |                               | Last titl Billian in Last the Control of the Contro |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 18th<br>December             | Minorities Rights Day         | Minorities Rights Day is observed annually on 18 th December to commemorate the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities in 1992  In India it is observed by the National Commission for Minorities On 29th January 2006, the Ministry of Minority Affairs was established, separating it from the Ministry of Social Justice and Environment The Union Government established the National Commission for Minorities under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to protect the interests of minority communities.  Initially, five religious communities—Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians (Parsis)—were notified as minorities.  Later, on 27th January 2014, the Jains were also recognized as a minority community.   |
| 18th<br>December             | Arabic Language Day           | since 2012. The date coincides with the day in 1973 that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Arabic as the sixth official language of the Organization. The theme for World Arabic Language Day 2024 is "Arabic Language and Al: Advancing Innovation While Preserving Cultural Heritage"   |
| 18th<br>December             | International Migrants<br>Day | In 2000, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 18 December International Migrants Day. On that day, in 1990, the Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families   |
| 19th – 24th<br>December      | Good Governance<br>Week       | As part of the Good Governance Week activities, 2024, the Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore, the Nation-wide campaign for Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery will be held in all Districts, States and Union Territories of India from 19th – 24th December, 2024. 25th December is celebrated as 'Good Governance Day' to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup><br>December | SSB raising day               | Union Home Minister Amit Shah attends the 61st Raising Day function of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) at Siliguri in West Bengal as Chief Guest SSB established as Special Service Bureau in May 1963, in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression in 1962.  In 2004, SSB received the President's Colours in recognition of the keystone role in national security, since its inception.  |

| on dose                      |                                       | It is headquartered in New Delhi and three frontier headquarters are at Lucknow (UP), Patna (Bihar) and Guwahati (Assam).  SSB jawans guard 2450-kilometre-long Indian border with Nepal and Bhutan.  |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 20 <sup>th</sup><br>December | International Human<br>Solidarity Day | on 20 December 2002, established the World Solidarity Fund, which was set up in February 2003 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme.  UN General Assembly, on 22 December 2005 decided to proclaim 20 December of each year International Human Solidarity Day.   |  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup><br>December | First-ever World<br>Meditation Day    | The United Nations is set to host the first Meditation Day on December 21, with the global spiritual leader and humanitarian, Sri Sri Ravishankar delivering the keynote address.  This date is significant as it falls exactly six months after International Yoga Day, celebrated annually on June 21  Themed "Meditation for Global Peace and Harmony,"  Meditation aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 3: "Good Health and Well-Being." It promotes mental and emotional health, which is considered a fundamental human right.                                     |  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup><br>December | World Basketball Day                  | Basketball was played for the first time on December 21, 1891 at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, On 25 August 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution proclaiming 21 December as World Basketball Day.  |  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup><br>December | World Saree Day                       | a special occasion dedicated to honoring the tradition of sarees  |  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>December | National Mathematics<br>Day           | marks the birth anniversary of the brilliant Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. Ramanujan, born in 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu The celebration of National Mathematics Day was officially launched by then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in December 2012, coinciding with the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan. his works have been the foundation of many modern mathematical theories. In 1991, Robert Kanigel penned a biography of Ramanujan's life in the book 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', adapted into a movie in 2016. Ramanujan died at the age of 32 on April 26 1920 |  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>December | National Farmers/ Day<br>Kisan Diwas  | to commemorate the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh.  He was the fifth Prime Minister of India (from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980).  He has been conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.  (2024)  |  |

#### **Notable Initiatives**

Namo Drone Didi Scheme: approved for 2024-25 to 2025-26 with an outlay of ₹1,261 crore, aims to empower 15,000 Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones for agricultural rental services, including fertiliser and pesticide application. The scheme offers 80% Central Financial Assistance of the cost of drones, accessories, and ancillary charges, up to a maximum of ₹8 lakh.

**Kisan Kavach:** On 17th December, 2024, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled Kisan Kavach, Bharat's first anti-pesticide bodysuit, designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure.

National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds): The Union Cabinet approved the (NMEO-Oilseeds) on 3.10.2024 with a total outlay of Rs. 10,103 crore. The mission aims to boost domestic oilseed production and achieve self-reliance in edible oils, to be implemented over a seven-year period from 2024-25 to 2030-31.

National Mission on Natural Farming: The Union Cabinet approved the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) on 25.11.2024 as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme has a total outlay of Rs. 2,481 crore

(Government of India share – Rs. 1,584 crore; State share – Rs. 897 crore), **focusing on promoting chemical-free**, **natural farming practices across the country.** 

Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR Based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF): The Government of India launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR Based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF) on 16 December 2024, providing a ₹1,000-crore corpus to support post-harvest financing for farmers. Under this scheme, farmers can access credit by pledging their produce stored in Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) accredited warehouses, backed by electronic negotiable warehouse receipts (e-NWRs).

| 24 <sup>th</sup> | National     | India celebrates National Consumer Rights Day on 24 <sup>th</sup> December every year to |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|--|
| December         | Consumer Day | raise awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.                              |  |
|                  | 100          | The day commemorates the day when the Consumer Protection Act 1986                       |  |
| \                | X =          | received the President's assent on December 24, 1986.                                    |  |
|                  |              | The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 was passed by the Parliament to replace the            |  |
| 1                |              | Consumer Protection Act, 1986.   |  |
| -103             |              | The theme: "Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice."                      |  |
| 9                |              | The World Consumer Rights Day is observed on 15 March.                                   |  |

- National Consumer Day Celebration to be chaired by Shri Pralhad Joshi (Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of New and Renewable Energy) in New Delhi
- 'Jago Grahak Jago App,' 'Jagriti App,' and 'Jagriti Dashboard" to protect Consumers from the Dark Patterns to be launched tomorrow
- 'e-Mapp' portal for all services Legal Metrology Services to be launched
- AI- enabled National Consumer Helpline 2.0 to be launched
- The <u>'Jago Grahak Jago App</u>,' provides essential e-commerce information about all URLs during a consumer's online activities, alerting them if any URL may be unsafe and requires caution.
- Meanwhile, the <u>'Jagriti App,'</u> allows users to report URLs where they suspect the presence of one or more dark patterns declared illegal.
- Launch of <u>'e-Mapp' portal</u> for all services Legal Metrology Services: It's a unified digital platform to integrate State Legal Metrology portals into a single national system. This initiative streamlines licensing, verification, and registration processes for businesses, reduces compliance burdens, and promotes transparency.

| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Good       | birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.                          |
|------------------|------------|---|
| December         | Governance | born on 25 <sup>th</sup> December, 1924 in the erstwhile princely state of Gwalior (now a |
| 1                | Day        | part of Madhya Pradesh).  |
| 7                | 100        | He was the former Prime Minister of India and was elected to the position twice           |
| 91               |            | in 1996 and 1999.   |
| / 205            | 2          | As a parliamentarian, Vajpayee was awarded with the Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant            |
| 7/0/2            | / /        | Award for Best Parliamentarian in 1994, which defines him as "a role model par            |
| 100              |            | excellence for all legislators."  |
| (0)              |            | He was conferred with Bharat Ratna in 2015 and Padma Vibhushan in 1994.                   |

#### What are the Indian Initiatives to improve Good Governance?

- Good Governance Index (GGI):
  - GGI has been launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to determine the status of governance in the country.
  - It assesses the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.
- National e-Governance Plan:
  - It has the vision to make all government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable.
- Right to Information Act, 2005:
  - It plays an effective role in **ensuring transparency in governance**.
  - Other Initiatives: Setting up of NITI Aayog, Make in India programme, Lokpal, etc.

| 26th     | Veer Bal | Veer Bal Diwas is observed on December 26 to pay homage the courage of the     |
|----------|----------|--|
| December | Diwas    | "Sahibzades", four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the last Sikh guru.              |
| (0)      |          | On 9th January 2022, the day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, |
|          |          | the Prime Minister had announced that 26th December would be observed as       |
| \        |          | 'Veer Bal Diwas'.  |
|          | 1        | This was announced to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh -    |
|          |          | Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji - after being sealed  |
|          | July 1   | alive in a wall on the orders of emperor Aurangzeb (1704).                     |

- Ministry of Women and Child Development to celebrate and commemorate 'Veer Bal Diwas' and 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' on 26th December, 2024
- On 26 December, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, President of India to confer the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' on 17 children (7 boys and 10 girls) from 14 States/UTs for exceptional achievements in seven categories:

Art & Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science & Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.

| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 20 <sup>th</sup> Tsunami | Mark 20 years  |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| December         | Memorial Day             | The tsunami on Dec. 26, 2004 was triggered by a 9.1 magnitude quake off the coast of Indonesia's Aceh province, sending waves as high as 17.4 meters (57 |
|                  | - 001                    | feet) slamming into coastlines of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India and nine   |
|                  | 1000                     | other countries.   |

#### What is a Tsunami?

- A tsunami is a series of massive waves produced by an underwater disturbance typically linked to **earthquakes** that happen beneath or close to the ocean.
- The Japanese words "tsu" (which means harbour) and "nami" (which means wave) make up the word "tsunami".
- tsunamis are caused by geological events, such as earthquakes, underwater volcanic eruptions, landslides, or even asteroid impacts.
- They have extremely long wavelengths and can travel at high speeds across ocean basins.
- With waves arriving every 5 to 60 minutes, tsunamis can attack the shoreline and be dangerous for hours.

#### What is the 3 biggest tsunami ever?

The three biggest tsunamis in recorded history were the **1958 Lituya Bay Tsunami, the Lisbon Earthquake and Tsunami of 1755, and the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean.** 

| 27 <sup>th</sup> | International | Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2020.                          |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|--|
| December         | Day of        | serves as a global reminder of the critical importance of investing in public health |  |
| 140) ·           | Epidemic      | systems to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.             |  |
|                  | Preparedness  |  |  |

# Books & Authors

#### **BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

1. Ratan Tata: A Life

2. Five Decades in Politics

3. Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography

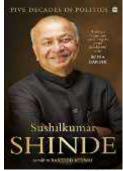
4. I have the streets

5. Time Spent Distance Travelled

6. 'Swaraswamini Asha

- Written by Retired bureaucrat Thomas Mathew.
- He claims that historical records show Ratan and Noel Tata's father Naval Hormusji Tata—adopted from the extended family—shares a common ancestor with the Tata group founder (Jamshedji Tata).

# Autobiography of former Union Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde – 'Five Decades in Politics'

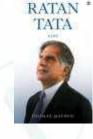


- The book, "Five Decades in Politics", written with journalist-author Rasheed Kidwai and published by HarperCollins India
- Apart from being the Maharasthra CM from 2003 to 2004, held position of Union home minister from 2012-2014, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 2004-2006, All India Congress Committee general secretary

# Soumya Swaminathan releases autobiography of activist Kalpana Sankar

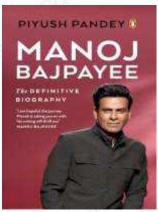


New biography of Ratan Tata - Ratan Tata: A Life



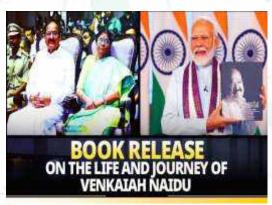
- Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of MS
   Swaminathan Research Foundation and former
   WHO chief scientist, released 'The Scientist
   Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women',
- The book highlights Dr. Sankar's journey in empowering women through her NGO, Hand in Hand India, and her contributions to microfinance and rural development.

#### 'Manoj Bajpayee : The Definitive Biography' authored by Piyush Pandey



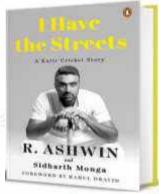
- Manoj Bajpayee, The Definitive Biography has been translated into English by journalist Rohit Vats from Pandey's original Hindi book titled Kuch Paane Ki Zid.
- In 2019, Manoj Bajpayee was awarded Padma Shri, for his contributions to art.

#### PM Modi Released Three Books On Life And Journey Of Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu



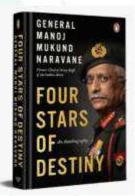
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released three books on the life and journey of former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on the eve of the latter's 75th birthday (July 1st):
- Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service, a biography authored by S. Nagesh Kumar;
- Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India, a photo chronicle compiled by I.V. Subba Rao,
- Mahaneta: Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, a pictorial biography in Telugu authored by Sanjay Kishore.

# Ravichandran Ashwin released autobiography 'I have the streets



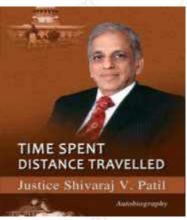
- Team India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin released his autobiography titled 'I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story'.
- It is written by Ashwin with co- author Sidharth Monga.
- Publisher: The Penguin Random House India (PRHI)

# Ex-Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane's Autobiography "Four Stars of Destiny

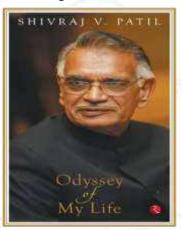


 Gen MM Naravane served as the 28th Chief of Army Staff

#### Justice Shivaraj V. Patil's autobiography 'Time Spent Distance Travelled' released



- released in English and Kannada
- He is a former judge of the Supreme Court
- Mr. Patil served as a High Court judge in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan and was appointed as a Supreme Court Judge in 2000.



- Shivraj V Patil is an Indian politician who was the Minister of Home Affairs of India, from 2004 to 2008 and 10th Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996.
- He was Governor of the state of Punjab and Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh from 2010 to 2015

## Launch of Asha Bhosle's Biography 'Swaraswamini Asha'



- The biography of legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle, titled 'Swaraswamini Asha,' was launched.
- The biography, a compilation of works by 90 authors
- The event featured dignitaries including RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Mumbai BJP president Ashish Shelar, Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar, and Sonu Nigam, among others.

# Goa Governor releases autobiography of nephrologist Dr. K. Thomas Mathew

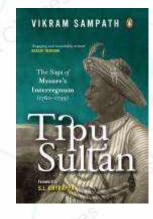


- Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai released 'Ente Jeevitham Niraye: The Autobiography of a Nephrologist' written by Dr. K. Thomas Mathew, in Kozhikode.
- His contributions include establishing Kerala's first dialysis unit at Government Medical College, Kozhikode, in 1975, performing the State's first kidney transplant surgery, and launching the first Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) programme

#### **HISTORICAL BOOKS**

- 1. Tipu Sultan- The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum
- 2. The Golden Road
- 3. 1965 war hero Abdul Hamid
- 4. Gandhi A Life in Three Campaigns
- 5. Dabbling in Diplomacy
- 6. The Prisoner of Bhopal

- EAM Dr Jaishankar releases Vikram Sampath's book Tipu Sultan- The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum
- The book explores the complex and controversial legacy of Tipu Sultan



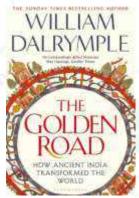
## Second edition of 'Inscriptions of Andhra Pradesh' released



- The second edition of the book Inscriptions of Andhra Pradesh, written by C. Somasundara Rao, former Professor of the Department of History and Archaeology, Andhra University.
- The first edition of the book was published in 2014
- Brahmi script was the basis of most south Indian languages while Nagari script, which came to be known as Deva Nagari later, was the basis of Sanskrit and other north Indian languages.

### The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World by William Dalrymple

- Publisher: Bloomsbury
- he claimed that the legend of the Hindu god Ganesha – whose elephant head was affixed to a human body – proved that cosmetic surgery existed in ancient India.



 India became the "fulcrum of international trade and commerce" not because of military conquest but the "sheer sophistication and attractiveness" of its ideas.

#### **Book on history of Kochi released**

- Cochin Fame and Fables, a book written by veteran journalist M.K. Das
- which traces Cochin's
  journey across centuries

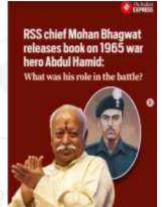
   capturing the
   comprehensive history
   of the port city from its
   birth till date



# RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat releases book on 1965 war hero Abdul Hamid

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan

Bhagwat visited the native village of Hamid, Dhamupur, where he released a book on Hamid titled 'Mere Papa Paramvir' and another book titled 'Bharat ka Musalman'.

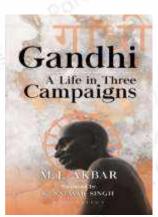


- Company Quarter
  Master Havildar (CQMH) Abdul Hamid laid his life down while fighting Pakistan Army in the Battle of Asal Uttar one of the largest tank battles fought during the 1965 India-Pakistan War.
- Hamid was awarded Param Vir Chakra India's highest gallantry award — posthumously

## A book named "Gandhi A Life in Three Campaigns" Launched

Written by M.J. Akbar
The book delves into the life
and struggles of Mahatma
Gandhi, particularly focusing
on three pivotal mass
campaigns he led:

- Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)
- Salt Satvagraha (1930)
- Quit India Movement (1942)



#### General VK Singh releases book 'Sanskriti ke Ayaam' written by Manorama Mishra

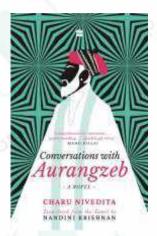
- General V.K. Singh
   (Retd.) is the Union
   Ministers of State (MoS),
   Ministry of Road
   Transport and Highways
   (MoRTH) and Ministry of
   Civil Aviation (MoCA)
- Published by the National Book Trust, India functioning under the Ministry of Education (MoE).

tradition and culture.

the Ministry of Education (MoE).
The book speaks about Indian knowledge,

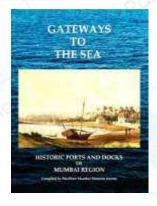


- Part historical novel, part satire, Conversations with Aurangzeb – by the cult Tamil writer Charu Nivedita and translated by Nandini Krishnan
- Published by Harper Collins
- His novel "Zero
   Degree" was
   previously published in
   English translation,



## Maharashtra Governor unveils Book on Mumbai's Historic Ports and Docks

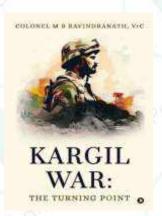
- Maharashtra
   Governor Ramesh
   Bais released the
   book "Gateways to
   the Sea: Historic
   Ports and Docks of
   Mumbai Region"
- compiled by the Maritime Mumbai Museum Society (MMMS).



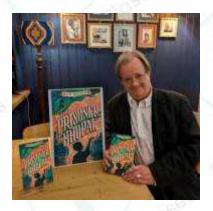
 The book, featuring 18 articles by renowned historians & maritime experts, covers ancient ports like Sopara and Vasai, as well as modern docks such as Mazagon Dock and Mumbai Port.

# Arunachal Governor released book on Kargil War

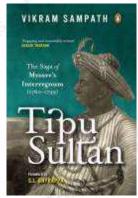
- Arunachal Pradesh
   Governor Lt General
   (Retd) K T Parnaik
   launched a book on
   Kargil War
- The book, titled 'Kargil War: The Turning Point'
- Authored by Vir Chakra awardee, Colonel M B Ravindranath.



Tim Walker's "The Prisoner of Bhopal": A Novel Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy



EAM Dr Jaishankar releases Vikram Sampath's book Tipu Sultan- The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum



The book explores the complex and controversial legacy of Tipu Sultan

### **SPORTS BOOKS**

- 1. I Can Coach
- 2. The Winner's Mindset
- 3. LARA: The England Chronicles
- 4. Witness

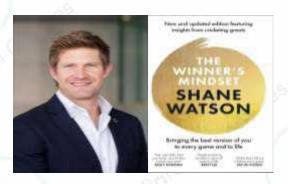
# Siddharth Rajsekar authored book 'I Can Coach' released

Digital coaching leader Siddharth Rajsekar announced the release of volumes 2 and 3 of his transformative book series, 'I Can Coach'.



## A Book Titled "The Winner's Mindset," Authored by Shane Watson

- One of the finest Australian all-rounder cricketers,
   Shane Watson, author of this book, tells us in vivid detail, how by mentally becoming stronger his career was transformed
- Publisher: HarperCollins



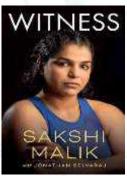


#### 'LARA: The England Chronicles' – A Cricket Legend's Book

- Brian Lara has penned down his incredible cricketing journey in his new book – 'Lara: The England Chronicles'.
- Co-authored with Phil Walker
- published by Fairfield Book.

#### Sakshi Malik's memoir 'Witness'

- Published by Juggernaut Books,
- "Witness" is coauthored by Jonathan Selvaraj
- Sakshi Malik is an Indian freestyle wrestler.
- Sakshi Malik was the first
  Indian woman to win an
  Olympic medal in wrestling, winning a bronze in
  the women's 58kg category at the 2016 Rio
  Olympics
- bronze at the 2013 Commonwealth Championships



#### 'BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life' by Deepa Malik



- publication : HarperCollins
- Deepa Malik is an Indian para athlete from Harvana.
- She is the first Indian woman to win a medal in Paralympic Games. She won a silver medal at the 2016 Summer Paralympics in shot put.
- In 2020, she was elected as President of the Paralympic Committee of India

### **POLITICAL BOOKS**

- 1. Wings To Our Hopes, Volume I
- 2. Why Bharat Matters
- 3. Modi: Energising a Green Future
- 4. What If There Was No Congress:
  The Uncensored History Of
  Independent India
- 5. Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi
- 6. Modialogue

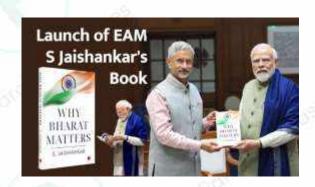
The Book 'Wings To Our Hopes, Volume I,' On President Droupadi Murmu's 75 Significant Speeches



- The book "Wings to Our Hopes Volume I," a compilation of selected speeches by President Droupadi Murmu, was launched at the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex in New Delhi
- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the e-book in English & Hindi
- Two other books titled "Kahani Rashtrapati Bhavan Ki" and "Rashtrapati Bhavan: Heritage Meets the Present" were also released

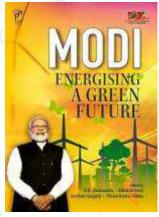
# External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveils his latest book 'Why Bharat Matters'

- S. Jaishankar has been India's External Affairs
   Minister since May 2019 and is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha representing Gujarat.
- His previous book The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World



# Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav launched a book titled 'Modi: Energising a Green Future'

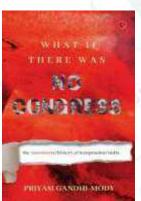
- Edited by Anirban Ganguly, Bibek Debroy, and R K Pachnanda
- Published by Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation.
- The central theme of the book revolves around Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and actions for a sustainable and ecofriendly future.



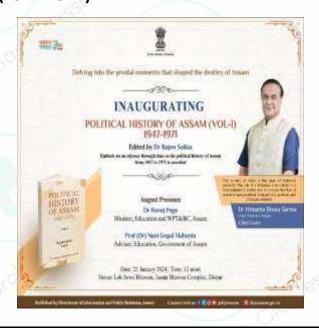
# The book 'What If There Was No Congress: The Uncensored History Of Independent India' by Priyam

Gandhi-Mody

- Published by Rupa
- The book revisits some of the key events that shaped India's political history over the last 80 years and also seeks to provide a roadmap to the India of tomorrow.



# Himanta Biswa Sarma released first volume of 'Political History of Assam (1947-1971)

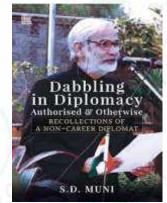


- Edited by Dr. Rajen Saikia, an eminent historian
- The book, envisioned to be completed in three volumes by 2025, covers the political events in Assam from 1947 to 2020.

## A Book Titled "Dabbling in Diplomacy" by Prof. S.D. Muni

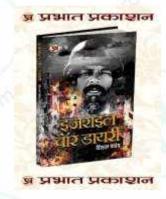
- "Dabbling in Diplomacy: Authorised & Otherwise, Recollections of a Non-Career Diplomat,"
  - Professor S.D. Muni.
- Professor Muni's book details the role of diplomacy during the Vajpayee government, and the subsequent

Manmohan Singh government, in bringing democracy to Nepal



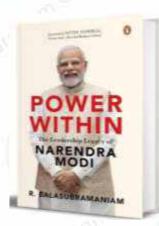
# **I&B Minister Releases Book Titled Israel War Diary**

- Israel War Diary written by Vishal Pandey
- This book will will provide a detailed overview of the war between Israel and Hamas. It will also give insight about India's stance on the war.
- Released by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur



#### Book 'Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi by Dr. R Balasubramaniam' launched

- The book explores PM Modi's leadership journey through Western and Indic perspectives.
- PM Modi signed a copy of the book
- The book provides a roadmap for aspiring public servants, blending leadership insights from different cultural lenses.



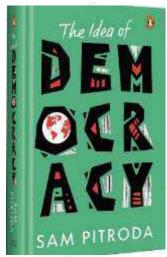
# A New Book "War" By Veteran Investigative Journalist Bob Woodward

- This book delves deep into the dynamics of power between former U.S. President Donald Trump, current President Joe Biden, and Russian President Vladimir Putin
- War is Woodward's fourth book focused on Donald Trump since the former president's rise to power in 2016.



His previous works, Fear, Rage, and Peril,

# Sam Pitroda's New Book 'The Idea of Democracy'



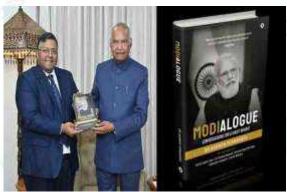
 It explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States.

#### Sam Pitoda is famous as:

- Father of Indian Telecom Revolution
- He was the Founder and First Chairman of India's Telecom Commission.
- Father of Yellow Revolution

# Ashwin Fernandes presented his new book "'Modialogue" to Ram Nath Kovind

 Dr Ashwin Fernandes, Executive Director of the UK-based QS World University Rankings,



presented his book 'Modialogue: Conversations for a Viksit Bharat' to former President Ram Nath Kovind.

- The book celebrates the far-reaching impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's acclaimed radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat'.
- The title, MODIALOGUE -- a blend of 'Modi' and 'dialogue'

### **ECONOMY**

### 1. Adityanath's goal and efforts to make UP a \$1-tn economy

- 2. A Fly on the RBI Wall
- 3. Just a Mercenary

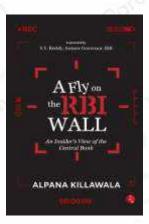


# Book on Adityanath's goal and efforts to make UP a \$1-tn economy launched

- UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna released the book
- A BOOK titled 'Trillion Dollar Economy: Yogi Govt. Uttar Pradesh on the Move' (English) was launched in Lucknow
- The Hindi version of the book —'Trillion Dollar Economy: Ab Nahi Rukega Uttar Pradesh' (Hindi) — and another book titled, 'Yogi Adityanath Ke Prerak Prasanga'
- The books have been authored by Dr Sheelwant Singh.
- It elaborates on the goal of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh becoming a \$1 trillion dollar economy in his five-year tenure (2022-2027).

#### A Book titled "A Fly on the RBI Wall" Authored by Alpana Killawala

 Harshad Mehta scam, liberalisation of the Indian economy — Alpana Killawala's more than 2 decades career with the communications department of the Reserve Bank of India coincided with a very vibrant phase of the central bank.



### Book "India's Contemporary Macroeconomic Themes-Looking Beyond 2020" launched to honour C. Rangarajan

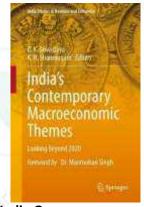
### "India's Contemporary Macroeconomic Themes – Looking Beyond 2020"





Dr. C. Rangarajan
Former Economic Advisory Council to
the Prime Minister , Former Governor,
Reserve Bank of India and Chairman,
Madras School of Economics

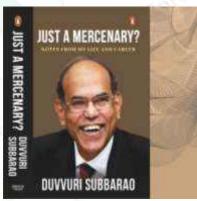
- The book was launched at an event organised at Madras School of Economics
- D.K. Srivastava and K.R. Shanmugam are editors of the book.
- C. Rangarajan Former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and



Former Reserve Bank of India Governor.

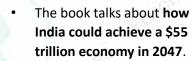
 Important book by C Rangarajan: 'Forks In The Road: My Days At RBI And Beyond'

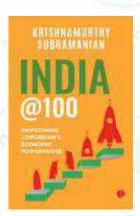
## "Just a Mercenary?": Duvvuri Subbarao's Memoir



- A recent book 'Just A Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career' by Duvvuri Subbarao
- Subbarao was finance secretary (2007-08) before becoming the governor of the RBI for 5 years on September 5, 2008, a few days before the breakout of the Lehman Brothers crisis.
- Lehman Brothers crashed into bankruptcy on September 16, making it the biggest corporate failure in history.

### Piyush Goyal Launches 'India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse' Book by Prof. K V Subramanian





# Chhaunk: On food, Economics and Society By Abhijit Banerjee

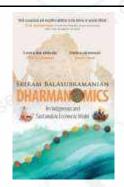




- It is part-memoir, part-cookbook addressing economics and society through the lens of food
- Abhijit Banerjee, an Indian-born American economist, was awarded the 2019 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, along with Esther Duflo, and Michael Kremer for their experimental approach to reducing global poverty

#### **Dharmanomics by Sriram Balasubramanian**

- The book reveals economic models based on dharma existed in India as far back as
   5,000 years
- This is Sriram Balasubramanian's second book.
- he is an economist based in the US.
- The first book was called, quite catchily, kautilyanomics.
- It re-examined the ideas of kautilya or chanakya who was the eminence grise of indian kings about 1,800 years ago.



### **GOVERNMENT LAUNCH**

- 1. Sagar Parikrama
- 2. India—the Road to Renaissance
- 3. Sapno ki Udaan
- 4. Modi's Governance Triumph
- 5. 9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government
- 6. Maha Swaapnikudu

Parshottam Rupala released a book and video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Rajkot, Gujarat



- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala
- The Sagar Parikrama was launched on 5th March, 2022, with the motto "KRANTI se SHANTI"
- Sagar Parikrama is an **outreach program** Spanning from **Mandavi from Gujarat to Ganga Sagar at West Bengal** including Andaman & Nicobar Islands, encompassed **9 coastal states and 4 UTs** in **44 days**
- The initiative has been launched to understand the issues, experiences, and aspirations of fishermen community
- Also to **create awareness of various schemes** and programs of the Government available to fishermen in coastal areas.
- During the Sagar Parikrama events, certificates and sanctions related to the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) were awarded to progressive fishermen, fish farmers, and young fishery entrepreneurs.

# A Book 'India—the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda' launched in Hyderabad



Retired IAS officer and former UN official
 Bhimeswara Challa unveiled his latest book
 India—the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda

# Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari launches first comic book on Indian Air Force heroes



 Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force launched the first Comic Book in the series "Heroes of the Indian Air Force", titled "Heroes of the Indian Air Force-Vol. I"

- The first story in the book, 'Find your Calling' is about the Life of the legendary IAF Marshal Arjan Singh.
- The second story is titled The 'Boyra Boys' and is about the epic Battle of Boyra, fought during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

# Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases an e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan' on National Space Day



- Department of School Education & Literacy,
   Ministry of Education in collaboration with NCERT
   released an e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan' to
   commemorate the 1st anniversary of the landing
   of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar South Pole.
- The current theme of the magazine 'space'

# Amit Shah releases Tarun Chugh's book 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity

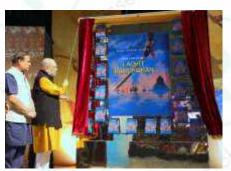




- BJP General Secretary Tarun Chugh's book "Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity" was released in New Delhi.
- The book offers an in-depth exploration of the visionary initiatives, and reforms that guided the Antyodaya mission of the Modi administration.

# Amit Shah launches book 'Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan'

- The book written by Arup Kumar Dutta
- Published by the State government in English



language and translated in 24 Scheduled Indian languages.

#### **About Lachit Borphukan**

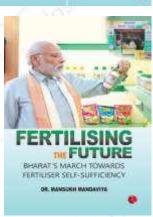
- Lachit Borphukan was a commander in the Ahom Kingdom.
- Ahom Dynasty was founded in 1228 in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley.
- Ahom Kingdom resisted the invasion of the Mughal Empire several times
- Finally, during the battle of Saraighat in 1671, the Ahoms led by Lachit Borphukan successfully defeated the Mughals.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar releases book titled 'Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency



- written by Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr.
   Mansukh Mandaviya.
- The Hindi version of the book is titled 'उर्वरक-आत्मिनभरता की राह'
- The book delineates the journey of making India self reliant in the fertilizer sector under the leadership of PM Modi

and the revolutionary changes that have taken place till date.



### Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar releases book '9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana'



- in Surajkund , Faridabad.
- In the presence of Haryana Governor Bandaru
   Dattatraya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

## A book titled "Maha Swaapnikudu" launched



- A book on former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu, titled 'Maha Swaapnikudu' (A Great Visionary).
- authored by journalist P. Vikram.
- Released by Former Supreme Court judge V.
   Gopala Gowda

# Goa Governor's book "Basic Structure and Republic" released in Panji



Goa Governor - P S Sreedharan Pillai

## Rajya Sabha MP Bhim Singh's latest book titled '75 Great Revolutionaries of India'



- Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan
   Singh attended the launch of '75 Great
   Revolutionaries of India,' a book by MP Bhim Singh.
- The book aims to inspire a developed India by recognizing historical sacrifices.

PM Modi releases compendium of complete works of great Tamil poet Subramania Bharathi on his 143<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary



- A legendary Tamil poet and freedom fighter.
- The birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania



**Bharati** is celebrated as **Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas**, or Indian Language Day, to honor his contributions to literature and linguistic diversity

- The collection is titled 'Kaala Varisayil Bharathi
   Padaippugal' and is the complete collected works
   of Mahakavi Bharathiyar in chronological order. It is
   collated by Seeni Viswanathan.
- Subramania Bharati was an Indian writer of the nationalist period and is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil literary style.
- Also known as the 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar',

#### Himachal Pradesh CM releases Book on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Life



- the book 'Loh Purush Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Ka Jeevanvrit',
- · authored by Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma.

### Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Launches Book on PM Modi's Vision and Development

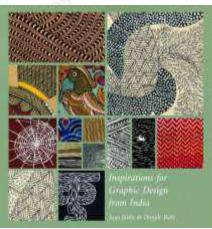


- Union Culture and Tourism Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- book titled New Bharat Modi's Vision and Development.
- The book is based on the developmental works and schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his vision.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1. Inspirations for Graphic Design from India
- 2. Swallowing the Sun
- 3. The Conspiracy
- 4. Phool Bahadur
- 5. India's Nuclear Titans
- 6. The Adventures of Ed-a-Mamma: Ed Finds A Home
- 7. Sri Rama in Tamilagam: An Inseparable Bond
- 8. Breaking Rocks and Barriers
- 9. A Journey from Black Gold to White Gold
- 10. Khaki Mein Sthitapragya
- 11. My Life as a Comrade
- 12. The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution

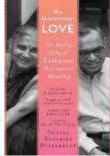
Jaya Jaitly's new book 'Inspirations for Graphic Design from India' released



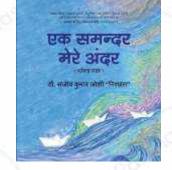
- Co-authored with professor Dimple Bahl of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and published by Arthshila Trust.
- The book focuses on why graphic design must look to Indian craft traditions & is an attempt to institutionalise the work of rural craftspeople, whose skill, labour, and genius is often unrecognised

The book "An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy" released

- Authored by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.
- The book offers an intimate view into the lives of one of India's most respected couples, Sudha and Narayana Murthy, the co-founders of Infosys.



'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,' written by BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi



- 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,' a collection of 75
  poems penned by BrahMos Aerospace Deputy
  CEO Sanjeev Joshi
- was launched by top Indian defence and literary figures like National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan

Former Assistant Secretary General of UN, Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, launches her book "Swallowing the Sun"



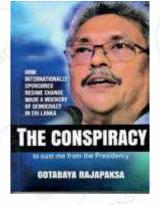
- Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, Former Assistant
   Secretary General, UN and wife of Union Minister
   Hardeep Singh Puri launched her debut book
   "Swallowing the Sun" in Mumbai.
- The novel is set up during the time of independence and the book is inspired by her parents and her roots from Maharashtra.

# The first comprehensive book on Indian modern art "The Gems of Indian Art" launched

- The book documents the late Harish Khullar's collection of 20th century Indian modern and contemporary art.
- This publication has been edited by the veteran art critic, poet and filmmaker Vinod Bhardwaj.

#### "The Conspiracy" book by Gotabaya Rajapaksa

- Former President of Sri Lanka, Gotabaya
   Rajapaksa launched his book 'The Conspiracy to oust me from the Presidency'
- Mr. Gotabaya's
   Presidency from
   November 2019 to July
   2022, Sri Lanka
   witnessed the worst



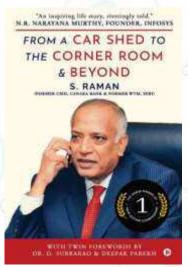
- **economic crisis since Independence in 1948**, as the country ran out of dollars
- The book attributes his political downfall to a "conspiracy" involving foreign and local parties.

# 'Phool Bahadur' – The First Magahi Novel in English



- J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha launches English translation of Magahi novel 'Fool Bahadur' in Patna
- The translation was done by Abhay K, a renowned writer from Nalanda, Bihar. Published by Penguin Random House India
- originally written by Jayanath Pati and published in 1928
- Magahi or Magadhi is an Indo-Aryan
   language. Magahi is represented in Kaithi Script.
   Mainly spoken in districts of Bihar, Jharkhand and west Bengal

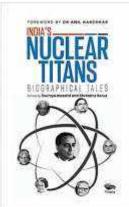
# A book titled "From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond" by S. Raman



- S. Raman retired Chairman and Managing Director of Canara Bank.
- He also worked as a whole-time Member of the board of SEBI.

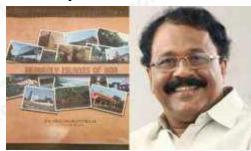
### EAM S Jaishankar Receives Book 'India's Nuclear Titans'





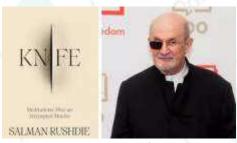
- The book 'India's Nuclear Titans' edited by Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua.
- The book traces the evolution of India into a nuclear state while analysing the role played by stalwarts like Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Abdul Kalam, K Subrahmanyam, among others.

#### Sringeri seer Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Releases Book Authored By Goa Governor



- "Heavenly Islands of Goa", a book authored by Governor of Goa P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
- The book, which is Mr. Pillai's 221st
- Released by Shankaracharya of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Swami
- Jnanpith award winner Damodar Mauzo received the first copy of the book.

# British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir "Knife"



 The harrowing experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022 and how he overcame the near-fatal ordeal.

#### His popular novels:

- Midnight's Children (1981) Booker Prize winning
- The Satanic Verses (1988)
- Shame (1983)

Alia Bhatt releases debut children's book 'The Adventures of Ed-a-Mamma: Ed Finds A Home'



 The book is inspired by her kidswear brand Ed-a-Mamma, featuring illustrations by Tanvi Bhat.

The Hindu Group of Publications has released a coffee-table book titled 'Samayapuram - The Sacred Seat of Shakti



- Authored by Vrinda Ramanan and J. Ramanan, it explores the history and cultural significance of the Samayapuram temple dedicated to Goddess Mariamman.
- The temple located in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu is over 1,200 years old.

- Goddess Mariamman is believed to be an incarnation of Goddess Durga, Mahakali, Adi Shakti, or Nishumbha Sudhini.
- The Mariamman temple is considered that it existed during the Chola period.
- The current Temple Complex was built by Vijayanagara King Vijayaraya Chakkaravarthi in the 18th century. It is also one of the wealthiest temples of Tamil Nadu.
- The Chithirai Ther Thiruvizha (Chariot Festival in the month of Chithirai - April) is a major festival celebrated annually at this temple for 13 days, starting on the 1st Tuesday of Tamil month Chithirai.

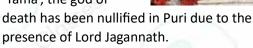
#### Odisha CM releases coffee-table book 'Shree Jagannatha, Lord Of The Universe'



- brought out by The Hindu Group at the valedictory session of the first-ever "World Odia Language Conference"
- Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor of The Hindu BusinessLine, edited Shree Jagannatha, Lord Of The Universe
- the book pictorially narrates traditions and rituals associated with sibling deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra in Puri, one of the four sacred dhams for Hindus

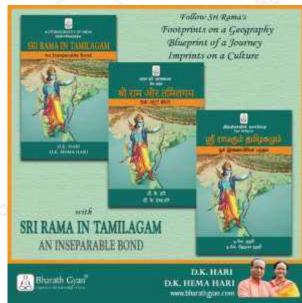
#### **About Shree Jagannath Temple**

- It was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century CE.
- by King Anatavarman
   Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga
   Dynasty.
- Is called 'Yamanika Tirtha'
- according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified



was called the "White Pagoda"

### Launch of the book, "Sri Rama in



#### Tamilagam: An Inseparable Bond"



- · Authored by D.K. Hari and D.K. Hema Hari
- · Launched by Governor R.N. Ravi

## Mallika Sarabhai releases book on Guruvayurappan College

• Chancellor of Kerala Kalamandalam Mallika



Sarabhai released Samoothiri Guruvayurappan College Anubhava Charitram,

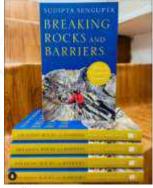
- On the 150-year history of the college at Pokkunnu, founded by the Zamorins in Kozhikode.
- The Zamorins were concerned about the education of their subjects and had been instrumental in spreading education to all sections of people across north Kerala.

#### Sudipta Sengupta, released her memoir "Breaking Rocks and Barriers".

A new book chronicling the work and adventures

of Sudipta Sengupta, a pioneering geologist-mountaineer.

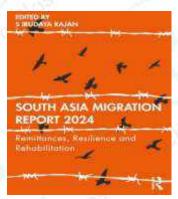
 Sengupta was part of the Third Indian
 Expedition to
 Antarctica that ran from December 3, 1983, to March 25, 1984.



 "Breaking Rocks and Barriers", published by HarperCollins India

## Book on South Asian migration to be released soon

- A book titled 'South
   Asia Migration Report
   2024: Remittances,
   Resilience and
   Rehabilitation',
- set to be launched soon, argues for freedom of mobility for migrants within the countries of the



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

 Edited by migration expert S. Irudaya Rajan, Chair of the International Institute for Migration and Development, India.

#### PM Modi Praises Parimal Nathwani's Book 'Call of the Gir' on Asiatic Lions & Conservation Efforts

Prime Minister
 Narendra Modi has
 appreciated the
 book 'Call of the Gir'
 written by Rajya
 Sabha Member
 Parimal Nathwani.



 The book combines vivid photography and narratives to high

and narratives to highlight the urgency of conservation efforts.

# Somanath releases coffee-table book on ISRO brought out by The Hindu



- Chairman of the Indian Space Research
   Organisation, S. Somanath, released a coffee-table
   book brought out by The Hindu Group of
   Publications, ISRO: Exploring New Frontiers To
   The Moon, The Sun & Beyond.
- The book curated by T.S. Subramanian

# Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi releases the book, 'The Heart and Art of Teaching'



- Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi released the book — 'The Heart and Art of Teaching' —
- authored by B. Purushothaman, founder of Everwin Group of Schools, at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai

#### Discover a New Era in Energy: Book Launch "A Journey from Black Gold to White Gold"

- the Book launch of From Oil to Lithium:
   Navigating the Future of Energy, a transformative new book by acclaimed energy expert Mr.
   Kuldeep Gupta.
- follows the journey of Karan, a man whose career in the Oil & Gas industry leads him to confront the urgent environmental and ethical dilemmas posed by fossil fuels, ultimately inspiring a shift towards renewable energy.

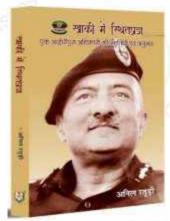


Arundhati Roy's first memoir 'Mother Mary Comes to Me' to release in September 2025



- Publisher Penguin Random House
- Her novel The God of Small Things, which won the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1997

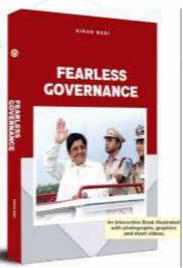
### CM Dhami Releases "Khaki Mein Sthitapragya" by Former DGP Anil Raturi



- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the book "Khaki Mein Sthitapragya" written by former Director General of Police of Uttarakhand, Anil Raturi, in Dehradun.
- Anil Raturi has written this book based on his memoirs and experiences as an IPS officer.

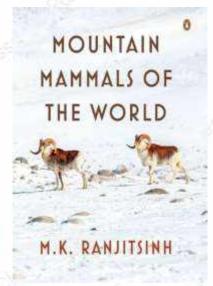
The French translation of former Lieutenant-Governor (Puducherry) Kiran Bedi's book "Fearless Governance" was released





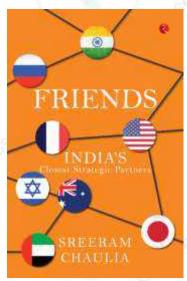
 translated by former Head of the Department of French, Pondicherry University S. Pannirselvame

A Book Titled "Mountain Mammals of the World" By M.K. Ranjitsinh



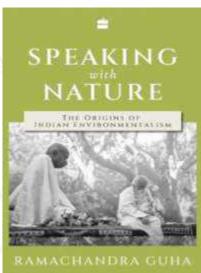
- published by Penguin Random House.
- Dr MK Ranjitsinh was an IAS officer and he has also worked on India's Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
- He has also served as Chairman of the Wildlife Trust of India; Regional Co- ordinator of WWF Tiger Conservation Programme,

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar released the book titled "Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partner", written by professor Sreeram Chaulia



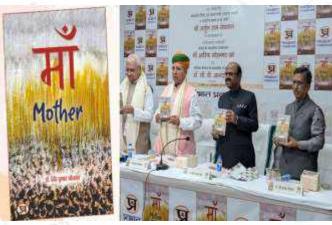


Ramachandra Guha launched his latest book – "Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism"



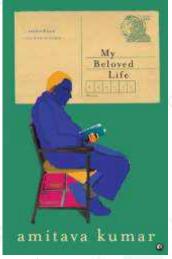
 This book was conceived during the time of Chipko, and it's appearing 40 years later during the time of climate change  an intellectual history of Indian environmentalism by chronicling the lives and contributions of ten varied individuals — some well–known, like Rabindranath Tagore, Verrier Elwin, and Mirabehn, and some far lesser–known, like JC Kumarappa, M Krishnan, and Radhakamal Mukerjee.

## Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal releases book titled 'Maa-Mother



- in the presence of Kerala Governor, Arif
   Mohammed Khan and West Bengal Governor Dr
   C.V Anand Bose.
- The book is written by Dr Davendra Kumar
   Dhodawat, Additional Secretary to the Governor of Kerala.
- The book includes an illustration of motherhood in the form of poems that are written in Hindi and English.

#### 'My Beloved Life' by Amitava Kumar



 My Beloved Life is about ordinary people and their trials and triumphs, about love and loss and the sweeping changes in a newly independent India

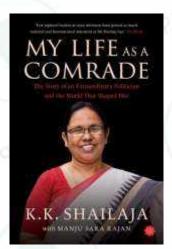
#### Beyond the Higgs Boson, by Manik Kotwal and translated by Jerry Pinto



| Summary/Static | Details   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| News           | Beyond the Higgs Boson: The W                                       |  |
|                | Boson and Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal's Quest for the Unknown Book Launches |  |
| Authors        | Manik Kotwal (Author), Jerry  |  |
|                | Pinto (Translator)  |  |
| Publisher      | HarperCollins India   |  |
| Genre          | Non-fiction, Biography  |  |
| Main Subject   | Life and achievements of Dr.  |  |
|                | Ashutosh Kotwal in particle   |  |
|                | physics   |  |
| Original       | Marathi version titled Putra  |  |
| Publication    | Vhava Aisa (2016).  |  |
| Aim of the     | To inspire young minds with the                                     |  |
| Book           | life of a pioneering Indian   |  |
|                | scientist.  |  |
|                |   |  |

# Kannada translation of K.K. Shailaja's memoir My Life as a Comrade launched

- The Kannada translation of former
   Kerala Health
   Minister K.K. Shailaja's memoir Comrade Aagi Nanna Baduku (My Life as a Comrade)
   was released in Bengaluru.
- Translated into
   Kannada by Dr. H.S.
   Anupama, the book is published by Kriya
   Madhyama.

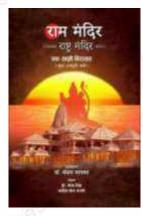


### Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Launches Book "Ram Mandir Rashtra Mandir Ek Sajhi Virast : Kuchh Ansuni Baten"

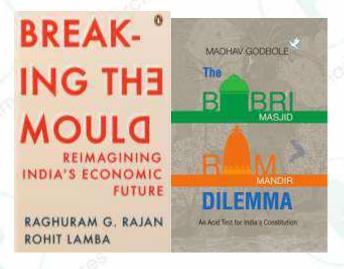
- Co-authored by Geeta Singh and Arif Khan Bharti
- with a foreword by RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

#### **Recent Important Books**

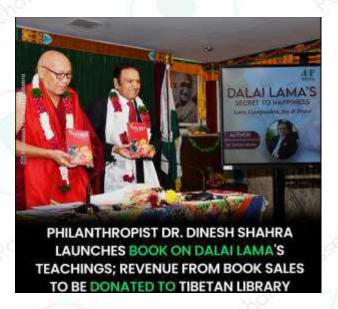
 Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future by Raghuram Rajan and Rohit Lamba



 The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution," authored by Madhay Godbole



# Dr. Dinesh Shahra launched his book - Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness



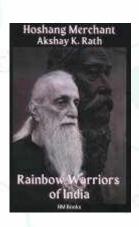
## Metro Mosaic, a book about the journey of Chennai Metro Rail Limited, launched



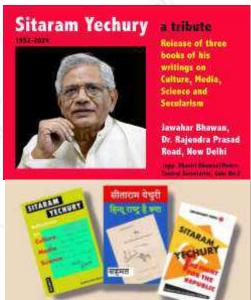
 Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) in collaboration with The HinduGroup launched a coffee table book Metro Mosaic on the former's foundation day.

# Hoshang Merchant's book 'Rainbow Warriors of India'

- Hoshang Merchant new book, Rainbow Warriors of India, co-authored with Akshay K. Rath
- His popular book The Naked Civil Servant (1968)



# Three Books on Sitaram Yechury's Writings on culture, media, and secularism Launched

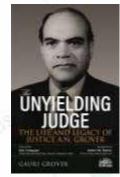


 Three books based on late CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury's writings on culture, media, science, and secularism were released

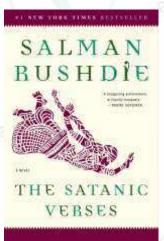
- Published by the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (SAHMAT) and Tulika Books.
- The three books include:
- Hindu Rashtra Hai Kya, a Hindi translation of Yechury's 1993 English book.
- The other two are: The Fight For The Republic, which has three essays, two devoted to Hindutva and one to India @75;
- and Reflections on Culture, Media and Science.

# "The Unyielding Judge: A Tribute to Justice A.N. Grover's Legacy

- Author Gauri Grover, granddaughter of Justice Grover
- Highlights Justice Grover's contributions to Indian jurisprudence, particularly the Kesavananda Bharti case (1973).
- Launched in the presence of Attorney General R Venkataramani.



# Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses' returns to India after 36-year ban



 British-Indian novelist Salman Rushdie's controversial book 'The Satanic Verses' has returned to India 36 years after it was banned by the Rajiv Gandhi government, the 1988 notification imposing the restriction

#### Other Books:

Midnight's Children Shame Victory city The Wizard of Oz

# Awards

### **NATIONAL AWARDS**

#### **Films and Music**

- 1. 69th Filmfare Awards 2024
- 2. Dadasaheb Phalke Award
- 3. 70th National Film Awards in New Delhi
- 4. ANR Award





#### 69th Filmfare Awards 2024

took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

| Category            | Winner                           |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Best Film           | 12th Fail                        |
| Best Director       | Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)   |
| Best Actor in a     | Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)           |
| Leading Role (Male) | (Director - Sandeep Reddy Vanga) |
| Best Actor in a     | Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii   |
| Leading Role        | Prem Kahaani)                    |
| (Female)            | (Director - Karan Johar)         |
| Lifetime            | David Dhawan                     |
| Achievement Award   | A.c.                             |

| Category                 | Winner                     |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Best Film (Critics')     | Joram Director -           |
| (65)                     | Devashish Makhija          |
| Best Actor(Critics')     | Vikrant Massey (12th Fail) |
| Best Actress(Critics')   | Rani Mukerji (Mrs          |
| · / (1)                  | Chatterjee vs. Norway),    |
| 1 7                      | Shefali Shah (Three of Us) |
| Best Actor in a          | Vicky Kaushal (Dunki)      |
| Supporting Role (Male)   |                            |
| Best Actor in a          | Shabana Azmi (Rocky Aur    |
| Supporting Role (Female) | Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)     |
|                          |                            |







## Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty to be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award



- Dadasaheb Phalke Award the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema.
- The award will be presented to Chakraborty at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8, 2024
- Chakraborty was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2024
- debut with Mrinal Sen's 1976 film Mrigayaa, for which he won his first National Film Award for Best Actor.
- He earned two more National Awards for 1992's Tahader Katha (best actor) and 1998's Swami Vivekananda (best supporting actor).
- In 2023, Waheeda Rehman was named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

#### President Droupadi Murmu conferred 70th National Film Awards in New Delhi

- 70th National Film Awards for the year 2022
- Actor Mithun Chakraborty honoured with the Dadasaheb



Phalke Award, the highest recognition in the field of Cinema. (2022)

- The award for Best Book on Cinema conferred to 'Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography' authored by Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Parthiv Dhar.
- The award winners were announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B)
- Honouring the best films and cinematic achievements of the year 2022
- The winners will be felicitated by President
   Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony in October 2024.
- Special Mentions –
   Manoj Bajpayee in
   Gulmohar, and Sanjoy
   Salil Chowdhury for
   Kadhikan



- Ponniyin Selvan: 1 won the most awards (four)
- First handed out in 1954, these awards were known as the State Awards. In those years, only the best films in different regional languages were recognised and awarded.
- The awards for actors and technicians working on the films were first given in 1967.
- Nargis was the first actor to win Best Actress for her performance in Raat Aur Din.
- Uttam Kumar won the Best Actor award for Antony
   Firingee and Chiriyakhana in the same year.

#### Feature Film Categories

| Category                    | Winner          | Film             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Best Feature                | Aattam          | Aattam           |
| Film                        | ~ ~ /           | -1053            |
| Best Actor                  | Rishab Shetty   | Kantara          |
| Best Actress                | Nithya Menen,   | Tiruchitrabalam, |
|                             | Manasi Parekh   | Kutch Express    |
| <b>Best Director</b>        | Sooraj Barjatya | Uunchai          |
| Best Supporting Actress     | Neena Gupta     | Uunchai          |
| Best Supporting Actor       | Pawan Malhotra  | Fouja            |
| Best Feature Film Providing | Kantara         | Kantara          |

| Wholesome                     |                           | 1000                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Entertainment                 |                           |                          |
| Best Debut Film of a Director | Pramod Kumar              | Fouja                    |
| Best Telugu Film              | Karthikeya 2              | Karthikeya 2             |
| Best Tamil Film               | Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1  | Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1 |
| Best Punjabi<br>Film          | Baaghi Di Dhee            | Baaghi Di Dhee           |
| Best Odia Film                | Daman                     | Daman                    |
| Best Malayalam                | Saudi Velakka             | Saudi Velakka            |
| Film                          | CC.225/2009               | CC.225/2009              |
| Best Marathi<br>Film          | Vaalvi                    | Vaalvi                   |
| Best Kannada<br>Film          | KGF: Chapter 2            | KGF: Chapter 2           |
| Best Hindi Film               | Gulmohar                  | Gulmohar                 |
| Best Tiwa Film                | Sikaisal                  | Sikaisal                 |
| Best Bengali                  | Kaberi                    | Kaberi                   |
| Film                          | Antardhan                 | Antardhan                |
| Best Assamese<br>Film         | Emuthi Puthi              | Emuthi Puthi             |
| Special Mention               | Manoj                     | Gulmohar,                |
|                               | Bajpayee,                 | Kadhikan                 |
|                               | Sanjoy Salil<br>Chowdhury | 000                      |
| Best Action                   | KGF: Chapter 2            | KGF: Chapter 2           |
| Direction                     | Kui . Chapter 2           | KOI . Chapter 2          |
| Best<br>Choreography          | Tiruchitrabalam           | Tiruchitrabalam          |
|                               | Fouis                     | Fouria                   |
| Best Lyrics Best Music        | Fouja                     | Fouja                    |
| Director                      | Pritam (Songs), AR Rahman | Various                  |
| 200                           | (Background<br>Score)     |                          |
| Best Makeup                   | Aparajito                 | Aparajito                |
| Best Costumes                 | Kutch Express             | Kutch Express            |
| Best Production Design        | Aparajito                 | Aparajito                |
| Best Editing                  | Aattam                    | Aattam                   |
| Best Sound                    | Ponniyin Selvan           | Ponniyin Selvan          |
| Design                        | – Part 1                  | – Part 1                 |
| Best Screenplay               | Aattam                    | Aattam                   |
| Best Dialogues                | Gulmohar                  | Gulmohar                 |
| Best                          | Ponniyin Selvan           | Ponniyin Selvan          |
| Cinematography                | – Part 1                  | – Part 1                 |
| Best Female                   | Bombay                    | Saudi Velakka            |
| - 1.                          | Jayashri                  | CC.225/2009              |

| Best Male Playback<br>Singer | Arijit Singh | Brahmastra    |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Best Child Artist            | Sreepath     | Mallikappuram |

| Best Film in AVGC | Brahmastra    | Brahmastra    |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Best Non-Feature  | Kutch Express | Kutch Express |
| Film Promoting    |               | 223           |
| Social and        |               | 200           |
| Environmental     | r 1 .         |               |
| Values            |               | 0.            |

#### **Non-Feature Film Categories**

| Category                   | Winner        | Film          |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Best Non-Feature           | Ayena         | Ayena         |
| Film                       |               |               |
| Best Debut Film            | Madhyantara   | Madhyantara   |
| Best                       | Aanakhi Ek    | Aanakhi Ek    |
| <b>Biographical/Histor</b> | Mohenjo Daro  | Mohenjo Daro  |
| ical/Compilation Film      |               | Datelon       |
| Best Arts/Culture          | Ranga         | Ranga         |
| Film                       | Vibhoga/Varsa | Vibhoga/Varsa |
| Best                       | Mono No       | Mono No       |
| Cinematography             | Aware         | Aware         |
| Best Direction             | From the      | From the      |
|                            | Shadow        | Shadow        |
| Best Short Film            | Xunyota       | Xunyota       |
| Best Animated Film         | The Coconut   | The Coconut   |
|                            | Tree          | Tree          |
| Best Non-Feature           | On the Brink  | On the Brink  |
| Film Promoting             | Season 2 –    | Season 2 –    |
| Social and                 | Gharial       | Gharial       |
| Environmental              | 36            | 65            |
| Values                     | 1             | 550           |
| <b>Best Documentary</b>    | Murmurs of    | Murmurs of    |
|                            | the Jungle    | the Jungle    |

#### Film Writing

| Category     | Winner             | Work |
|--------------|--------------------|------|
| Best Critic  | Deepak Dua         | _    |
| Best Book on | Kishore Kumar: The | -    |
| Cinema       | Ultimate Biography |      |

## Amitabh Bachchan honours Chiranjeevi with ANR Award



 Amitabh Bachchan presented the ANR National Award to veteran actor Chiranjeevi in Hyderabad,

- commemorating the **100th birth anniversary of Akkineni Nageswara Rao.**
- The award instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation annually honours artists for their lifetime contribution to cinema.
- Akkineni Nageswara Rao was an Indian actor and film producer, primarily known for his works in Telugu cinema.

#### Indian Television Academy (ITA) Awards 2024 A Celebration of Excellence in Television



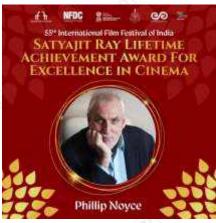
- Platform: Prestigious awards recognizing excellence in Indian television.
- Host: Gaurav Khanna, renowned for his role in Anupamaa.
- Broadcast Date: December 31, 2024, on Star Plus.

| Category                   | Winner                     |  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Popular TV Actor           | Harshad Chopda (Yeh        |  |
|                            | Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai)    |  |
| Popular TV Actress         | Pranali Rathod (Yeh Rishta |  |
| 1000                       | Kya Kehlata Hai)           |  |
| Popular TV Actor (Jury)    | Amar Upadhyay (Doree)      |  |
| Popular TV Actress         | Neha Harsora (Udne Ki      |  |
| (Jury)                     | Aasha)                     |  |
| Iconic TV Personality      | Rupali Ganguly             |  |
| 100                        | (Anupamaa)                 |  |
| Best Show (Drama –         | Anupamaa                   |  |
| Popular)                   | 137                        |  |
| Best Show (Drama –         | Udne Ki Aasha              |  |
| Jury)                      |                            |  |
| <b>Best Negative Actor</b> | Nikitin Dheer (Shrimad     |  |
|                            | Ramayan)                   |  |
| <b>Best Comedy Actors</b>  | Subhangi Atre, Aashif      |  |
| 36.                        | Sheikh, Rohitash Gaur      |  |
| 1                          | (Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain)  |  |
| Best Hindi Channel         | Aaj Tak                    |  |

## 5<sup>th</sup> Filmfare OTT Awards 2024 Celebrating Digital Excellence

| Category                 | Awards                     |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Best Film, Web           | Amar Singh Chamkila        |  |
| Original                 | 05                         |  |
| Best Director, Web       | Imtiaz Ali for Amar Singh  |  |
| Original Film            | Chamkila                   |  |
| Best Actor (Male),       | Diljit Dosanjh for Amar    |  |
| Web Original Film        | Singh Chamkila             |  |
| Best Actor (Female),     | Kareena Kapoor Khan for    |  |
| <b>Web Original Film</b> | Jaane Jaan                 |  |
| Best Music Album,        | A.R. Rahman for Amar Singh |  |
| Film                     | Chamkila                   |  |
| Best Film, Critics       | Jaane Jaan                 |  |
| Best Series              | The Railway Men            |  |

#### Veteran Australian Filmmaker Phillip Noyce Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award



- Will be honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- Notable Works: Patriot Games, Clear and Present Danger, Salt, The Saint, The Bone Collector, Other iconic films.

#### 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024

Dates: 20th to 28th November 2024

• Location: Goa

- Organizers: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B), National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG)
- Theme: "Young Filmmakers" The Future is Now
- Australia as its Country of Focus

## A.R. Rahman honoured with 'XTIC Award 2024 for Innovation' for VR film Le Musk



- 'XTIC Award 2024 for Innovation', instituted by Experiential Technology Innovation Centre (XTIC), an IIT Madras Institute of Eminence Centre in Virtual Reality and related fields, at IIT-Madras.
- for his 37-minute virtual reality (VR) film, Le Musk.

#### 55th IFFI concludes in Goa



- The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is concluded on November 28, 2024, at the Dr.
   Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa.
- Theme: "Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now"
- Duration: 20th November 2024 28th November 2024
- Country of Focus Australia

#### **Complete Winners List**

| Award       | Winner     | Film/Projec<br>t | Country  |
|-------------|------------|------------------|----------|
| Golden      | Saulė      | Toxic            | Lithuani |
| Peacock     | Bliuvaitė  | 1 10             | а        |
| (Best Film) | 1          | 010.             |          |
| Silver      | Bogdan     | The New          | Romani   |
| Peacock     | Muresanu   | Year That        | а        |
| (Best       | 00         | Never            |          |
| Director)   | 100        | Came             |          |
| Silver      | Clément    | Holy Cow         | France   |
| Peacock     | Faveau     |                  |          |
| (Best Actor |            | / 200            | 1        |
| – Male)     | 1          |                  | 10       |
| Silver      | Vesta      | Toxic            | Lithuani |
| Peacock     | Matulytė,  |                  | a        |
| (Best Actor | leva       |                  | (C)      |
| – Female)   | Rupeikaitė |                  | Ç.       |
|             | (shared)   | 1900             |          |

| Louise      | Holy Cow  | France   |
|-------------|---|--|
|             |   | 3/00   |
| Sarah       | Familiar  | USA  |
| Friedland   | Touch   | 16   |
|             | - 91  |  |
| Navjyot     | Gharat  | India  |
| Bandiwadeka | Ganpati   |  |
| r           | -01   | -  |
| Levan Akin  | Crossing  | Georgia  |
| 200         | /   |  |
| 3           |   |  |
|             | \   | 76   |
|             | Courvoisier Sarah Friedland Navjyot Bandiwadeka | Courvoisier Sarah Familiar Friedland Touch  Navjyot Gharat Bandiwadeka Ganpati r |

| 9 | Best Web     | Nipun         | Lampan | India |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------|-------|
|   | Series (OTT) | Dharmadhika   |        | Mr.   |
|   | 1 1          | ri            | 00     | 1.0   |
|   | Indian Film  | Vikrant       | -      | India |
|   | Personality  | Massey        | 480    |       |
|   | of the Year  | 7 710         |        |       |
|   | Satyajit Ray | Phillip Noyce |        |       |
|   | Lifetime     | (Australia) – | 3:     |       |
|   | Achieveme    | Honored for   |        | No.   |
| ľ | nt           | contributions | 7      |       |
|   | -5           | to cinema.    |        | × /   |

#### **Art & Literature**

- Vasudeo Gaitonde Lifetime Achievement Award
- Kundeshwara Samman award
- Nritya Kalanidhi Award
- V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024
- K. Saraswathi Amma Award
- 58th Jnanpith Awards
- Sahitya Akademi Award 2023
- · Sangeet Natak Akademi award
- Pt. Lacchu Maharaj Award
- Brahma Sahitya Puraskara
- Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2024
- Kalidas Samman award

## Maharashtra Govt to Honour Laxman Shreshtha with Late Vasudeo Gaitonde Lifetime

#### **Achievement Award**

 Given to eminent artists for their significant contributions to the field of visual arts.



## Yakshagana artiste Rakshit Shetty Padre to receive Kundeshwara Samman award

- during the annual fair of Shri Kundeshwara Temple in Udupi Karnataka.
- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka.
- Yakshagana literally means, "song" of the yaksha (demi-gods/spirits).
- It is a temple art form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.



#### Vasanthalakshmi Honored with the 'Nritya Kalanidhi' Award



Classical dancer and choreographer Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari was presented with 'Nritya Kalanidhi' award at the 17th Dance Festival of The Music Academy, Chennai

It is presented in the field of **dance** every year by the **Madras Music Academy.** 

#### 'Narakas' Official Language Award



- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has been awarded the Southern Region 'Narakas' Official Language Award for its efforts in the implementation of the Official Language for the year 2022-23.
- The award was presented during the South Western Region Official Language Conference held at Bengaluru.

## Tamil writer Sivashankari selected for Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award



- Noted Tamil writer Sivashankari has been selected for Dr. C. Narayana Reddy
   National Literary Award.
- Ms. Sivashankari will be honoured with a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a memento and a shawl in recognition of her contribution to the field of literature.



Will be presented to the writer on July 29

#### V. Vedachalam wins V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024



- V. Vedachalam, an eminent Tamil epigrapher and historian, has been conferred the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award for 2024.
- Dr. Vedachalam, has written and co-written more than 25 books on subjects such as epigraphy, numismatics, temple art, religion, and society,
- the award named after V. Venkayya, the first Indian
   Chief Epigraphist to the government of India.

## P. Geetha wins first ever K. Saraswathi Amma Award



K. Saraswathi Amma Award is instituted by WINGS
 (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports)
 Kerala, for feminist studies.

## 58th Jnanpith Awards: Jagadguru Swami Rambhadracharya, Gulzar winners for 2023



- The Jnanpith award for 2023 is conferred to distinguished writers from two languages: Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and renowned Urdu writer Shri Gulzar.
- In the previous year, the prestigious award was conferred upon Goan writer Damodar Mauzo.
- This is the 58th edition of the Jnanpith Award given annually for outstanding contributions to Indian literature since 1965. It is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, which was established in 1944.
- The prestigious award includes a cash prize of Rs 11 lakh, a statue of Vagdevi, and a citation.
- The awardees were selected by a committee headed by Odia writer Pratibha Rai.
- It is the second time the award is being given for Sanskrit and the fifth time for Urdu
- Eminent Sanskrit poet Satya Vrat Shastri was the first to receive Jnanpith Award for the year 2006 for Sanskrit in 2009

#### Gulzar

- Gulzar or Sampooran Singh Kalra was born in 1934
- He is considered one of the finest Urdu poets of his generation and is a top director and writer of Hindi cinema.
- Gulzar has received the Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, the Padma Bhushan in 2004, and at least five National Film awards for his work.
- The song "Jai Ho" from the movie "Slumdog Millionaire," which clinched both an Oscar in 2009 and a Grammy in 2010.
- In poetry, he invented a **new genre 'Triveni'** which is a non-muqaffa poem (non-rhymed) of three lines.

#### Jagadguru Rambhadracharya

- He was born in 1950 in Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh), is a distinguished Hindu spiritual leader, educator, and author of over 100 books.
- He was also awarded with Padma Vibhushan award in 2015
- Rambhadracharya, fluent in 22 languages, is a versatile poet and writer proficient in various Indian languages including Sanskrit, Hindi, Awadhi, and Maithili.

#### Sangeet Natak Akademi Announces 6 Akademi Ratnas and 92 Akademi Puraskar for 2022-2023



- 6 eminent personalities in the field of performing arts have been elected by Sangeet Natak Akademi as Akademi Fellows or Akademi Ratna.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship is a significant honor that recognizes the recipients' lifelong dedication and contribution to the performing arts. The fellowship is limited to 40 living individuals at any given time.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi also selected 92 artists from different fields for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 and 2023.
- The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952.
- The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of 3 lakh rupees while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of 1 lakh rupees, besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards will be conferred by President Droupadi Murmu in a special investiture ceremony.
- It has also selected 80 young artists for the Sangeet
   Natak Akademi Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva
   Puraskar for the past two years.

#### Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023



- English author Neelum Saran Gaur and Hindi novelist Sanjeev received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023.
- Neelum Saran Gaur book Requiem in Raga Janki
- Sanjeev novel Mujhe Pehchaano
- The award ceremony coincided with the 70th anniversary (Sahityotsav).
- The authors and poets received an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and an amount of ₹1 lakh.

- Founded on 12 March, 1954
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- an organisation dedicated to the promotion





of literature in the languages of India.

 Awards given for 24 Indian languages (22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English and Rajasthani).



- The first Awards were given in 1955.
- Makhanlal Chaturvedi was the first recipient in the Hindi category in the year 1955.
- RK Narayan was the first recipient in the English category in the year 1960.

#### Kerala litterateur Prabha Varma Selected For Saraswati Samman For The Year 2023



- for his poetry work in Malayalam language 'Roudra Sathwikam'.
- The honour carries, apart from a citation, a plaque and an award money of 15 lakh rupees.
- The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 languages of India listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.
- The award instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991 is recognised as one of the "most prestigious and the highest literary award in the country

#### Sangita Kalanidhi award for T.M. Krishna, Nritya Kalanidhi for Neena Prasad





- The Music Academy, Chennai conferred TM
   Krishna (Noted carnatic vocalist) with the Sangita
   Kalanidhi.
- Considered the highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music, Sangeet Kalanidhi came into existence in 1942.
- Nritya Kalanidhi award will be presented to Dr.
   Neena Prasad (a top-ranking exponent and performer in Mohiniyattam).

## Manjula Ramaswamy conferred with the Sangeet Natak Akademi award



- Veteran Bharatanatyam guru Manjula Ramaswamy has been conferred with the Sangeet Natak Akademi award for 2022-23 for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.
- The 66-year-old dancer and the director of
   Hyderabad-based dance institute Sri Rama Nataka
   Niketan was honoured by President Droupadi
   Murmu.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardees will receive a prize of Rs. 1 Lakh with an Angavastram (shawl) and a Tamrapatra (citation plaque).

#### Sangeet Natak Akademi



- India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- Officially inaugurated on 28 January 1953 by the first President of India Rajendra Prasad.
- It is presently an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture

## Hema Malini, Saira Banu & 8 others to get Pt. Lacchu Maharaj Award



- Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award.
- The award will be given on 31 August 2024 at a ceremony in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Lacchu Maharaj Award, Instituted in memory of the famous kathak exponent Lacchu Maharaj, was not given after 2014.
- Thus, the **Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation** has decided **to honour 10 personalities this year.**

| Awardee   | Award    | Exponent of               |
|---|----------|---------------------------|
|   | for Year | Dance form                |
| Uma Sharma  | 2015     | Kathak                    |
| Rama Vaidyanathan   | 2016     | Kathak                    |
| Uma Dogra   | 2017     | Kathak                    |
| Hema Malini   | 2018     | Kathak, Film actress      |
| Saira Banu  | 2019     | Kathak, Film actress      |
| Sandhaya Puricha,<br>Chairman of Sangeet<br>Natak Akademi | 2018     | Bharatanatyam<br>Exponent |
| Dr. Malabika Mitra  | 2021     | Kathak                    |
| Prachi Shah   | 2022     | Kathak, Film actress      |
| Ashim Bandhu<br>Bhattacharya                              | 2023     | Kathak                    |
| Pandit Rajendra<br>Gangani                                | 2024     | Kathak                    |

#### Lacchu Maharaj

- Born in 1907 in Lucknow
- Lacchu Maharaj, who was born Baij Nath Prasad in Lucknow in 1907, was a noted classical Kathak dancer and choreographer.
- He became famous for choreographing Kathak dance in films like Mughal-e-Azam and Pakeezah.
- He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1957.
- Lacchu Maharaj was the founder and director of the Uttar Pradesh government's Kathak Kendra in Lucknow.

#### Amitabh Bachchan to be Honoured with the Prestigious 3<sup>rd</sup> Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

 Previous recipients of this esteemed award include
 Prime Minister Narendra
 Modi (2022) and popular singer Asha Bhosale (2023).



- Established by the Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti
   Pratishthan in memory Lata Mangeshkar on
   February 6, 2022.
- It is **presented annually on April 24**, the memorial day of Lata Mangeshkar's father and theatre-music veteran Deenanath Mangeshkar.
- Amitabh Bachchan, born on October 11, 1942
- winning numerous accolades, including 4 National Film Awards and 15 Filmfare Awards.
- In 2015, he was honoured with the Padma
   Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award

#### About Lata Mangeshkar

- Born on September 28, 1929, to classical singer and theatre artist Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar and Shevanti in Indore, MP.
- In 1974, she became the first Indian to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, London.
- Lata Mangeshkar was bestowed with the
   Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1989. In 2001, she was
   awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian
   honour
- The government of France conferred on her its highest civilian award (Officer of the Legion of Honour) in 2007.
- Lata Mangeshkar held the distinction of being the most recorded artist in the history of Indian music in Guinness Record in 1974.
- The Indian government honoured her with the daughter of the Nation award on her 90th birthday in September 2019.

## Karnataka Nataka Academy announces awardees for years 2022-25

- A total of 93 awards have been announced under the categories of lifetime achievement award, annual award, and five other categories.
- Stage and cine actor Umashree has been chosen for lifetime achievement award for the year 2022-
- Poet and playwright H. S. Shivaprakash for 2023-24 and Dalit activist, poet and playwright Kotiganahalli Ramaiah for 2024-25.

## Nekara Rathna award to Sanjeev Shettigar and Somappa Jathanna





- The Kadike Trust, working for the revival of traditional Udupi saris, has chosen Sanjeeva Shettigar and Somappa Jathanna for its Nekara Rathna awards in recognition of their lifetime contribution to weaving.
- Mr. Shettigar, 86, has been the president of Shivalli Primary Weavers' Cooperative Society and has been in the field for the last 74 years
- Mr. Shettigar weaved the now extinct Muthu Border saris till 2019.
- The Udupi handloom saris that were at the verge of extinction have been revived with the efforts of the Kadike Trust.

## B. Jeyamohan awarded first Book Brahma Sahitya Puraskara

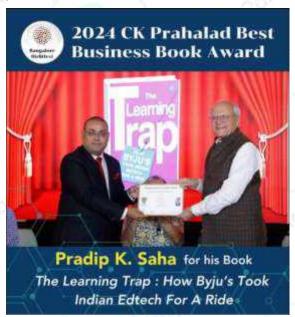


- Tamil and Malayalam writer B. Jeyamohan was awarded the inaugural Book Brahma Sahitya Puraskara - 2024, at the three-day Book Brahma Literature Festival.
- The award is given to an Indian language writer and carries a purse of ₹2 lakh.
- He is acclaimed for authoring Venmurasu(The White Drum), the world's longest novel
- Book Brahma, a Kannada literature and book catalogue portal

## Journalist Pradip K. Saha wins the seventh 2024 BBLF C.K. Prahalad Best Business Book Award

Book - The Learning Trap: How Byju's Took Indian Edtech for a Ride
Author - Pradip K. Saha (journalist)

It is an investigative work on how the multi-billion-dollar valuation company fumbled and is now fighting for survival



## Visakhapatnam artist Moka Vijay Kumar creates record with millet art

 Visakhapatnam artist Moka Vijay Kumar has etched his name in the India Book of Records 2024 as an IBR Achiever (for exceptional and noteworthy feats).



 He bagged the title for making 50 paintings of famous personalities using millets.

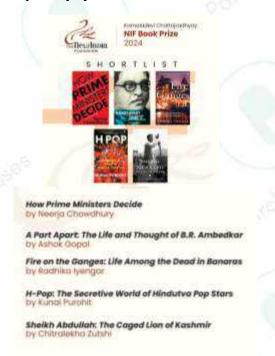
#### Maha Governor honours Seshampatti Sri T. Sivalingam with Sangeetha Kala Vibhushan Lifetime Achievement Award

Maharashtra
 Governor C. P.
 Radhakrishnan
 honoured veteran
 Nadaswaram
 exponent
 Seshampatt iSri T.
 Sivalingam with the
 Sangeetha Kala
 Vibhushan Lifetime



Achievement Award at the **Nadaswara Thiruvizha** programme in Mumbai.

#### Five books shortlisted for Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2024



#### The five books are:

- Ashok Gopal's A Part Apart: The Life and Thought of B.R. Ambedkar (Navayana),
- Chitralekha Zutshi's Sheikh Abdullah: The Caged Lion of Kashmir (HarperCollins),
- Neerja Choudhury's How Prime Ministers Decide (Aleph Book Company),
- Radhika Iyengar's Fire on the Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras (HarperCollins)
- Kunal Purohit's H-Pop: The Secretive World of Hindutva Pop Stars (HarperCollins).
- The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize, established in 2018, carries a cash award of ₹15 lakh and a citation
- · the winner will be announced in November.
- Last year, Akshaya Mukul won for his book Writer, Rebel, Soldier, Lover: The Many Lives of Agyeya (Penguin Random House).

## Rajkumar Hirani to Receive Kishore Kumar Samman in Khandwa

 Director Rajkumar Hirani, known for films such as "Munna Bhai MBBS", "3 Idiots" and "PK", will be



conferred the Madhya Pradesh government's Kishore Kumar Samman for the year 2023.

 The award ceremony will take place on October 13, 2023, in Khandwa, Kishore Kumar's hometown.

- given in the : acting, screenplay, songwriting, and direction
- cash prize of 5,00,000 rupees, a plaque, and a shawl with a coconut.

## Kalidas Samman award for Mysuru artist Raghupathi Bhat

- Kalidas Samman award for the year 2023 announced by
   Madhya Pradesh government to artist Raghupathi Bhat for his contribution to the field of painting.
- The award carries a cash prize of
   ₹5 lakh and a citation and will be conferred to
   Raghupathi Bhat at a function to be held in Ujjain on November 12.
- Raghupathi Bhat is credited with reviving the
   Ganjifa miniature painting which was on the brink
   of extinction. He earned the prefix "Ganjifa" which
   is now appended before his name.

## Shehnai maestro to receive Sangeeth Vidwan award

The Karnataka State government has announced that it will confer the Sangeeth Vidwan Award on Shehnai maestro Pandit Basavaraj Bhajantri from Haveri district.

The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a citation.



## Ruskin Bond awarded Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

 Eminent author Ruskin Bond has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest honour given by the literary organisation.



- Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kashik presented the honour
- His notable works include Vagrants in the Valley,
   Once Upon a Monsoon Time, Angry River, Strangers
   in the Night, All Roads Lead to Ganga, Tales of
   Fosterganj, Leopard on the Mountain and Too Much
   Trouble.
- The 1978 Hindi film Junoon is based on Ruskin's historical novel A Flight of Pigeons (Indian Rebellion of 1857).

- Several of his stories The Night Train at Deoli, Time Stops at Shamli and Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra (Sahitya Akademi Award 1992) were included in the school curriculum in India.
- In 2005, his popular children's novel The Blue Umbrella was made into a film.
- He has been honoured with Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2019, and the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar in 2012.

## Upamanyu wins JCB Prize 2024 for 'Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life'





- Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life by Upamanyu Chatterjee
- Published by Speaking Tiger Books
- Has been announced as the winner of the 2024 JCB
   Prize for Literature, and awarded the 25-lakh Rupee
   Prize.
- The JCB Prize for Literature was established in 2018 by JCB India and is administered by the JCB Literature Foundation
- It is sponsored by the English construction manufacturing group JCB.
- Tamil writer Perumal Murugan won the 2023 JCB
   Prize for Literature for his novel Fire Bird, translated into English by Janani Kannan

## Sahitya Aaj Tak 2024: Gulzar to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award



On November 23, the Honorable President of India, Smt. **Droupadi Murmu**, **will honor** luminaries and emerging talents at the 'Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Samman.' in Delhi

- The prestigious 'Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Lifetime
   Achievement Award' to Gulzar, one of India's most
   iconic poets, lyricists, and filmmakers.
- The 'Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Samman' was launched in 2023 in collaboration with the Jagriti Foundation as part of 'Sahitya Aaj Tak,' now India's largest literary festival

## The 'Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Samman' will also recognize outstanding contributions across seven other categories:

- Best Work (Male Author)
- Best Work (Female Author)
- Popular Author Award
- Indian Language Literature Award
- Emerging Talent Award

#### Hindi poet Gagan Gill, English writer Easterine Kire among recipients of Sahitya Akademi Awards

- Hindi poet Gagan Gill and English writer Easterine Kire are among the 21 recipients of the annual Sahitya Akademi Awards.
- Ms. Gill was selected for her book on poetry Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar
- Ms. Kire made it to the coveted list for her novel Spirit Nights.

#### About SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD

- Sahitya Akademi established in 1954
- The Sahitya Akademi annually confers the award on writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the 24 Indian languages (22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English and Rajasthani).
- The first Awards were given in 1955.
- The awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of the award
- The authors and poets will receive a plaque, a shawl and an amount of ₹1 lakh in an award ceremony on March 8, 2025.

#### K. Jayakumar bags Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award

 Former Chief Secretary and writer K. Jayakumar has bagged Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for his poetry collection Pingalakeshini.



- A popular lyricist, Jayakumar had penned lyrics for about a hundred Malayalam films, including several hit songs.
- In 2021 received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for overall contributions and the coveted Asan Poetry Prize.

#### Padma Shri Tabla Maestro Pt. Swapan Choudhary Awarded 2023 National Tansen Samman

- 'Tansen Samaroh' took place in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, from December 15 to 19, 2024.
- Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri from Kolkata was presented
   'Rashtriya Tansen Samman' for the year 2023.
- Sanand Nyas Sanstha from Indore was awarded with the 'Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman' for the year 2023.



- Both the awards carry cash award of Rs 5 lakh each
- The award, instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government in the name of Tansen, is the highest national music award in the field of Indian classical music.

#### Five artists honoured with 'Vani Kala Sudhakara' title by Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha

 Five artists were honoured with the title 'Vani Kala Sudhakara' by Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha here during the inauguration of the 45th Isai, Iyal, Nataka Vizha and the 35th Bharatham Festival. Vocalist Nirmala Sundararajan, violinist Embar S.
Kannan, mridangam exponent B. Harikumar,
bharatanatyam exponent Priyadarsini Govind and
playwright, director and theatre artist M. Boovaraga
Moorthy were conferred the title

## Shaji N Karun Honored with JC Daniel Award 2023



- recognising his lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema.
- The award, the highest honour in Malayalam cinema instituted by the state government, includes a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a statuette.

#### 100<sup>th</sup> Tansen Music Festival Sets Guinness World Record for "largest Hindustani classical band"

- A Guinness World Record for the was set at Gwalior
   Fort in Madhya Pradesh when 546 artistes
   performed various ragas on 9 instruments.
- The performance was part of the 100th International Tansen Samaroh
- The performance was based on Malhar, Miyan ki
   Todi and Darbari Kanhra, three ragas composed by
   Tansen.
- The performance was organized by renowned flute player Pandit Ronu Majumda

## Writer Suryabala's novel selected for 34<sup>th</sup> Vyas Samman

- Noted Hindi writer Suryabala's novel "Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary" has been selected for the 34th Vyas Samman, 2024, the KK Birla Foundation.
- Instituted in 1991. It is awarded annually by the K.K.
   Birla Foundation
- given to an outstanding Hindi literary work by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.



 It carries a cash prize of ₹4 lakh, a citation and a plaque.

- Vyas Samman, 2023 was given to Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- Apart from the Vyas Samman, the KK Birla
   Foundation has instituted other prestigious literary awards.
- The Saraswati Samman, with a cash prize of ₹15
   lakh, honors outstanding literary works in any
   language included in Schedule VIII to the
   Constitution of India.
- The Bihari Puraskar (in the name of famous Hindi poet Biharilal), with a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, is dedicated to Hindi/Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan.

## In interim order, Supreme Court directs T.M. Krishna to be not recognised as recipient of M.S. Subbulakshmi award

- The Supreme Court, in an interim order, directed that Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna "should not be recognised" as a recipient of the The Hindu Sangita Kalanidhi M.S. Subbulakshmi Award.
- The top court's order came a day after Mr. Krishna was conferred the award instituted by The Hindu and awarded by the Music Academy at the inauguration of its 98th annual Conference and Concerts in Chennai.
- A Bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S.V.N.
   Bhatti, hearing a petition filed by Bengaluru
   resident V. Shrinivasan, who claimed to be a
   grandson of the late legendary singer, M.S.
   Subbulakshmi, restrained Mr. Krishna "from
   projecting himself as a recipient of this award".

## Ajay Kumar wins Srinivas Rayaprol Poetry Prize

- Srinivas Rayaprol Poetry Prize, 2024, jointly administered by Srinivas Rayaprol Literary Trust and the Department of English, University of Hyderabad
- recognise excellence in poetry written in English by poets in the age group of 20-40 years.
- The prize carries a cash prize of ₹15,000 and a citation and will be presented at the Hyderabad Literary Festival in January 2025.



## Noted poets Andesri, Khadar Mohiuddin selected for Lok Nayak Foundation literary award



- Noted poet Ande Yellaiah of Rebarthi village in Warangal district and writer Khadar Mohiuddin of Krishna district have been chosen for the 'sahitya puraskaram' (literary award) of the Lok Nayak Foundation (LNF) for 2025.
- Mr. Yellaiah, popularly known as 'Andesri'
- · He had bagged the Padma Shri for his works
- The literary award, carrying a cash prize of ₹2 lakh, would be given in Visakhapatnam on January 18, 2025.
- The award was instituted, in 2005, in memory of film actor and former Chief Minister, the late NT Rama Rao and the late poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat conferred Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2022-23 in New Delhi

- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat conferred the award to 82 young artists
- Sangeet Natak Akademi instituted the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (UBKUP) in 2006 in the name of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan for young performing art practitioners (music, dance, drama, folk & tribal arts and puppetry) up to the age of 40 years.
- The Yuva Puraskar carries a purse money of Rs
   25,000, a plaque and an angavastram.
- Ustad Bismillah Khan became the third classical musician of India after M. S. Subbalakshmi and Ravi Shankar to be awarded the Bharat Ratna (2001)



#### **Gallantry**

- Kirti Chakra:
- Shaurya Chakra
- Gallantry And Distinguished Service Awards
- Distinguished Service Awards
- Jeevan Raksha Padak
- Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak

#### President Droupadi Murmu Gives Away Gallantry Awards At Rashtrapati Bhavan





- President Droupadi Murmu conferred 10 Kirti Chakras, including seven posthumously, to personnel of the Army and paramilitary forces for displaying indomitable courage and extraordinary valour in the line of duty.
- Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.
- She also presented 26 Shaurya Chakras, including seven posthumously
- The Shaurya Chakra is India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award after the Ashok Chakra and Kirti Chakra



#### Kirti Chakra:

- It is an Indian military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle.
- It may be awarded to civilians as well as military personnel, including posthumous awards. It is the peacetime equivalent of the Maha Vir Chakra.

#### Shaurya Chakra:

- It is an Indian military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice while not directly engaging with the enemy.
- It may be awarded to civilians and military personnel, sometimes posthumously.

#### **Gallantry Awards**

- First Three gallantry awards: Param Vir Chakra,
   Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra
- Instituted by: Government of India
- Instituted on: 26th January 1950, deemed in effect from 15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1947.
- In 1952, other three gallantry awards: Ashoka Chakra Class-I, Ashoka Chakra Class-II and Ashoka Chakra Class-III — were instituted.
- Deemed in effect from 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947.
- In January 1967, these awards were renamed as Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra respectively.

#### Order of precedence



- The Param Vir Chakra
- The Ashoka Chakra
- The Mahavir Chakra
- The Kirti Chakra
- The Vir Chakra
- The Shaurya Chakra

#### The awards are announced twice in a year:

- Republic Day
- Independence Day.

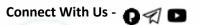
#### Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar Presented Gallantry And Distinguished Service Awards

- Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), presented Gallantry and Distinguished Service awards to Naval personnel on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India at Naval Investiture Ceremony held at INS Hansa, Goa on 14 April 2024.
- A total of 35 personnel were conferred with various awards during the ceremony, which included Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) to Cdr Manish Singh Karki, Cdr Kaustab Banerjee, Lt Cdr Panneerselvam Vishnu Prasanna and Lt Cdr Bhaskar.
- The CNS Trophy for Best Green Practices 2023 was awarded to Naval Dockyard, Mumbai and INS Valsura in the industrial and non-industrial categories respectively
- The CNS will also present the Capt Ravi Dhir
   Memorial Gold Medal for promoting Flight Safety
- The Lt VK Jain Memorial Gold Medal for pioneering research in the field of Weapon Improvement and Electrical Engineering.

## President Murmu Presents 94 Distinguished Service Awards



- President Droupadi Murmu presented 94
   Distinguished Service Awards to the serving and retired personnel of the Armed forces and Indian Coast Guard.
- She conferred 31 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 4
   Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 2 Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals and 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals.
- The President conferred the award during Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-2) at Rahsrtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.



#### **Other Military Awards**



President of India approved the awards for 31 persons:

- Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 03,
- Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 07
- Jeevan Raksha Padak to 21 persons.
- Three awardees are posthumous.
- Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are given to a person for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person.

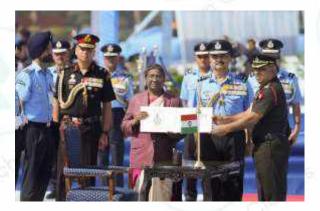
## President of India Confers RPSF Constable with 'Jeevan Raksha Padak



RPSF Constable bags 'Jeevan Raksha Padak'

- 'Jeevan Raksha Padak' to Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) constable Sh. Shashikant Kumar for the year 2023, on the occasion of Republic Day 2024.
- His remarkable courage, quick thinking, and prompt action in saving the life of a female railway passenger has earned him this esteemed recognition

## Prez Murmu presents President's Standard and Colours to four IAF Units at Air Force Station



- at Air Force Station in Hindon, Uttar Pradesh.
- This is the first time in the history of the service that four units have been awarded the President's Standard and Colours together in a single ceremony.
- Two squadrons received the President's Standard
   45 Squadron and the 221 Squadron
- President's Colours 11 Base Repair Depot and 509 signal unit
- The President's Standard and Colours is the highest military honour for any armed forces unit.
- The President's Standard is awarded after 18
  years of service and the President's Colours award
  after 25 years of service.

## Raksha Mantri trophy awarded to top armed forces hospitals



- Lt Gen Daljit Singh, Director General Armed Forces Medical Services and Senior Colonel Comdt, Army Medical Corps, presented the Raksha Mantri Trophy for the Best and Second Best Command Hospitals of 2022.
- Top Command Hospital (Southern Command),
   Pune
- Second Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow
- Established in 1989, the Raksha Mantri Trophy aims to recognize excellence in healthcare services delivered by Armed Forces Hospitals and promote healthy competition among them.

#### Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak awarded to 463 personnel from states, UTs, and central forces

- The 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' has been awarded to 463 personnel of various States/Union Territories (UTs)/Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)/Central Police Organisations (CPOs) for the year 2024.
- The medal is given to recognize excellent work, promote high professional standards and boost the

morale of the concerned official/officer in the following four fields:

- (i) Special Operation.
- (ii) Investigation.
- (iii) Intelligence.
- (iv) Forensic Science.
- The 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' has been instituted vide Ministry of Home Affairs' Notification dated 1st February 2024.
- The medal will be announced on 31st of October every year, i.e., on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah presents 'President's Colour' to the Chhattisgarh Police in Raipur

- President's Colour is the highest honour that can be awarded to any military unit, military training establishments, or State/UT Police Forces of India.
- It is also known as Nishaan, which is an emblem that is worn by all unit officers on the left-hand sleeve of their uniform.
- any armed force must complete 25 years of service to be eligible for this prestigious honour.
- The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed
   Forces to be awarded the President Colour by Dr.
   Rajendra Prasad on May 27, 1951.
- Colours are generally presented personally by the President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces

#### **Padma Awards**

- About Padma Awards
- Padma Vibhushan
- Padma Bhushan
- Padma Shri
- Bharat Ratna



## President Droupadi Murmu Conferred Padma Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The awards were announced early this year on the eve of the Republic Day.
- Total 132 Padma Awards announced:
  - The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110
     Padma Shri Awards.
  - 30 of the awardees are women
  - 8 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI
  - 9 Posthumous awardees.

#### **About Padma Awards**

- The awards are announced on the eve of Republic Day every year.
- These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.
- Padma Awards were instituted in the year 1954
- Interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997.

#### Padma Vibhushan

- · Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu,
- Actors Chiranjeevi and Vyjayanthimala Bali,
- Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam,
- **Bindeshwar Pathak**, founder of Sulabh International (posthumous)



#### 5 Padma Vibhushan Awards 2024 Winners Padma Vibhushan is India's 2nd highest civilian honors, after Bharat Ratna

| S.No. | Awardee Name        | Field   | State   |
|-------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| 1.    | Ms. Vyjayantimala   | Art     | Tamil   |
|       | Bali                |         | Nadu    |
| 2.    | Shri Konidela       | Art     | Andhra  |
|       | Chiranjeevi         |         | Pradesh |
| 3.    | Shri M Venkaiah     | Public  | Andhra  |
|       | Naidu               | Affairs | Pradesh |
| 4.    | Shri Bindeshwar     | Social  | Bihar   |
| 3500  | Pathak (posthumous) | Work    | 1 -8    |
| 5.    | Ms. Padma           | Art     | Tamil   |
|       | Subrahmanyam        |         | Nadu    |

#### **Padma Bhushan**

#### **Posthumously Conferred:**

- Late actor Vijayakant
- M. Fathima Beevi, the first female judge of the Supreme Court of India
- Satyabrata Mookherjee, former President of BJP in West Bengal
- Togdan Rinpoche, spiritual leader in Ladakh





**Young Liu**, Chairman of **Taiwan's** Foxconn Group, has also been conferred with a Padma Bhushan.

- Actor Mithun Chakraborty;
- Singer Usha Uthup;
- Music director Pyarelal Sharma (of Laxmikant-Pyarelal duo);
- O. Rajagopal, BJP leader from Kerala;
- Tejas Madhusudan Patel, cardiologist from Gujarat;
- Ram Naik, veteran BJP leader and former Uttar Pradesh Governor;





- Hormusji N. Cama, senior publisher leading the Gujarati newspaper Bombay Samachar;
- · industrialist Sitaram Jindal;
- Veteran Marathi film director Dattatray Ambadas
   Mayaloo;
- senior journalist Kundan Vyas
- Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur, a physician known for his contribution on Kala Azar

### 17 Padma Bhushan Awardees 2024 India's third-highest civilian award

| S.No. | Awardee<br>Name               | Field                  | State/Country |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1.    | Ms. M<br>Fathima Beevi<br>(P) | Public<br>Affairs      | Kerala        |
| 2.    | Shri Hormusji<br>N Cama       | Literature & Education | Maharashtra   |

| 3.  | Shri Mithun<br>Chakraborty                            | Art                                       | West Bengal |
|-----|---|---|-------------|
| 4.  | Shri Sitaram<br>Jindal                                | Trade &<br>Industry                       | Karnataka   |
| 5.  | Shri Young Liu  | Trade & Industry                          | Taiwan      |
| 6.  | Shri Ashwin<br>Balachand<br>Mehta                     | Medicine                                  | Maharashtra |
| 7.  | Shri<br>Satyabrata<br>Mookherjee<br>(P)               | Public<br>Affairs                         | West Bengal |
| 8.  | Shri Ram Naik   | Public<br>Affairs                         | Maharashtra |
| 9.  | Shri Tejas<br>Madhusudan<br>Patel                     | Medicine                                  | Gujarat     |
| 10. | Shri<br>Olanchery<br>Rajagopal                        | Public<br>Affairs                         | Kerala      |
| 11. | Shri Dattatray<br>Ambadas<br>Mayaloo alias<br>Rajdutt | Art                                       | Maharashtra |
| 12. | Shri Togdan<br>Rinpoche (P)                           | Others –<br>Spiritualism                  | Ladakh      |
| 13. | Shri Pyarelal<br>Sharma                               | Art                                       | Maharashtra |
| 14. | Shri<br>Chandreshwar<br>Prasad Thakur                 | Medicine                                  | Bihar       |
| 15. | Ms. Usha<br>Uthup                                     | Art                                       | West Bengal |
| 16. | Shri<br>Vijaykanth (P)                                | Art                                       | Tamil Nadu  |
| 17. | Shri Kundan<br>Vyas                                   | Literature &<br>Education –<br>Journalism | Maharashtra |

#### Padma Shri (7 in sports)





- tennis star Rohan Bopanna,
- veteran squash player Joshna Chinappa,
- hockey player Harbinder Singh,
- Mallakhamb practitioner Uday Deshpande,

- archer Purima Mahtao,
- para badminton coach Gaurav Khanna
- para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia

#### 110 Padma Shri Awardees 2024

| SN | Name                               | Field                        | State/Region<br>/<br>Country |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1  | Shri Khalil<br>Ahamad              | Art                          | Uttar Pradesh                |
| 2  | Shri Badrappan<br>M                | Art                          | Tamil Nadu                   |
| 3  | Shri Kaluram<br>Bamaniya           | Art                          | Madhya<br>Pradesh            |
| 4  | Ms. Rezwana<br>Choudhury<br>Bannya | Art                          | Bangladesh                   |
| 5  | Ms. Naseem<br>Bano                 | Art                          | Uttar Pradesh                |
| 6  | Shri Ramlal<br>Bareth              | Art                          | Chhattisgarh                 |
| 7  | Ms. Gita Roy<br>Barman             | Art                          | West Bengal                  |
| 8  | Ms. Parbati<br>Baruah              | Social<br>Work               | Assam                        |
| 9  | Shri Sarbeswar<br>Basumatary       | Others –<br>Agricultur<br>e  | Assam                        |
| 10 | Shri Som Datt<br>Battu             | Art                          | Himachal<br>Pradesh          |
| 11 | Ms. Takdira<br>Begum               | Art                          | West Bengal                  |
| 12 | Shri<br>Sathyanarayana<br>Beleri   | Others –<br>Agricultur<br>e  | Kerala                       |
| 13 | Shri Drona<br>Bhuyan               | Art                          | Assam                        |
| 14 | Shri Ashok<br>Kumar Biswas         | Art                          | Bihar                        |
| 15 | Shri Rohan<br>Machanda<br>Bopanna  | Sports                       | Karnataka                    |
| 16 | Ms. Smriti Rekha<br>Chakma         | Art                          | Tripura                      |
| 17 | Shri Narayan<br>Chakraborty        | Science &<br>Engineerin      | West Bengal                  |
| 18 | Shri A Velu<br>Ananda Chari        | Art                          | Telangana                    |
| 19 | Shri Ram Chet<br>Chaudhary         | Science &<br>Engineerin<br>g | Uttar Pradesh                |

| 20  | Ms. K                  | Others –    | Andaman &        |
|-----|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
|     | Chellammal             | Agricultur  | Nicobar          |
|     |                        | е           | Islands          |
| 21  | Ms. Joshna             | Sports      | Tamil Nadu       |
|     | Chinappa               | 128         |                  |
| 22  | Ms. Charlotte          | Others –    | France           |
|     | Chopin                 | Yoga        |                  |
| 23  | Shri Raghuveer         | Literature  | Gujarat          |
|     | Choudhary              | &           |                  |
|     | 800                    | Education   | 1                |
| 24  | Shri Joe D Cruz        | Literature  | Tamil Nadu       |
|     | 3                      | &           |                  |
|     |                        | Education   | 2003             |
| 25  | Shri Ghulam Nabi       | Art         | Jammu &          |
|     | Dar                    |             | Kashmir          |
| 26  | Shri Chitta            | Others –    | Tripura          |
|     | Ranjan                 | Spiritualis |                  |
|     | Debbarma               | m           | J. man           |
| 27  | Shri Uday              | Sports      | Maharashtra      |
|     | Vishwanath             |             |                  |
|     | Deshpande              |             | 1                |
| 28  | Ms. Prema              | Medicine    | Karnataka        |
| 7   | Dhanraj                |             |                  |
| 29  | Shri Radha             | Medicine    | Uttar Pradesh    |
| ď   | Krishan Dhiman         |             | 100              |
| 30  | Shri Manohar           | Medicine    | Maharashtra      |
|     | Krishana Dole          | caiemie     | Tranarasnera     |
| 31  | Shri Pierre            | Literature  | France           |
| -   | Sylvain Filliozat      | &           | Transc           |
|     |                        | Education   | / (              |
| 32  | Shri Mahabir           | Art         | Haryana          |
| -   | Singh Guddu            | """         | Tran yana        |
| 33  | Ms. Anupama            | Art         | Karnataka        |
|     | Hoskere                | 7.1.0       | narratana        |
| 34  | Shri Yazdi             | Medicine    | Gujarat          |
| 200 | Maneksha Italia        | Wedienie    | Cajarat          |
| 35  | Shri Rajaram Jain      | Literature  | Uttar Pradesh    |
|     | - Siiii Najarani Saiii | &           | ottai i i adesii |
|     | 7                      | Education   | 105              |
| 36  | Shri Jankilal          | Art         | Rajasthan        |
| 37  | Shri Ratan Kahar       | Art         | West Bengal      |
| 38  | Shri Yashwant          | Literature  | Uttarakhand      |
| 55  | Singh Kathoch          | &           | o ccar annualia  |
|     | 5g Ratifoth            | Education   |                  |
| 39  | Shri Zahir I Kazi      | Literature  | Maharashtra      |
| 33  | Jiii Zaiii i Kazi      | &           | Manarasila       |
|     | -32                    | Education   | N 1              |
| 40  | Shri Gaurav            | Sports      | Uttar Pradesh    |
| 70  | Khanna                 | Sports      | Ottai Frauesii   |
| 41  | Shri Surendra          | Literature  | Bihar            |
| 71  | Kishore                | &           | Dirial           |
|     | RISHOLE                | Education   | 1401             |
|     |                        | Luucation   | 9                |

|     | 2000                | _          |               |
|-----|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| ď   | 4/02                | Journalism | - 80          |
| 42  | Shri Dasari         | Art        | Telangana     |
|     | Kondappa            | . /        | 800           |
| 43  | Shri Sridhar        | Literature | Karnataka     |
|     | Makam               | &          | 350           |
|     | Krishnamurthy       | Education  |               |
| 44  | Ms. Yanung          | Others –   | Arunachal     |
|     | Jamoh Lego          | Agricultur | Pradesh       |
|     | adil                | е          | /             |
| 45  | Shri Jordan         | Art        | Sikkim        |
|     | Lepcha              |            | / ==          |
| 46  | Shri Satendra       | Sports     | Madhya        |
|     | Singh Lohia         |            | Pradesh       |
| 47  | Shri Binod          | Art        | Odisha        |
|     | Maharana            |            | 00,0          |
| 48  | Ms. Purnima         | Sports     | Jharkhand     |
|     | Mahato              | 1 -7       | ,6            |
| 49  | Ms. Uma             | Art        | Andhra        |
|     | Maheshwari D        | 0          | Pradesh       |
| 50  | Shri Dukhu Majhi    | Social     | West Bengal   |
|     | 70%                 | Work       | 1, 7          |
| 51  | Shri Ram Kumar      | Art        | Bihar         |
|     | Mallick             |            | 1             |
| 52  | Shri Hemchand       | Medicine   | Chhattisgarh  |
|     | Manjhi              |            |               |
| 53  | Shri                | Medicine   | Maharashtra   |
|     | Chandrashekhar      |            |               |
|     | Mahadeorao          | E /        | 10.5          |
|     | Meshram             |            | 1550          |
| 54  | Shri Surendra       | Art        | Uttar Pradesh |
|     | Mohan Mishra        | 777        |               |
|     | (Posthumous)        | Service .  |               |
| 55  | Shri Ali            | Art        | Rajasthan     |
|     | Mohammed &          |            |               |
|     | Shri Ghani          |            |               |
|     | Mohammed*           |            |               |
|     | (Duo)               |            |               |
| 56  | Ms. Kalpana         | Trade &    | Maharashtra   |
|     | Morparia            | Industry   | 25            |
| 57  | Ms. Chami           | Social     | Jharkhand     |
|     | Murmu               | Work       | O.            |
| 58  | Shri Sasindran      | Public     | Papua New     |
|     | Muthuvel            | Affairs    | Guinea        |
| 59  | Ms. G Nachiyar      | Medicine   | Tamil Nadu    |
| 60  | Ms. Kiran Nadar     | Art        | Delhi         |
| 61  | Shri Pakaravur      | Literature | Kerala        |
|     | Chithran            | &          |               |
|     | Namboodiripad       | Education  |               |
|     | (Posthumous)        | Ladoution  |               |
| 62  | Shri Narayanan E    | Art        | Kerala        |
| UZ. | Jili Ivalayallali E | ALC.       | ACTUIA        |

| 63 | Shri Shailesh         | Science &   | Delhi           |
|----|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
|    | Nayak                 | Engineerin  | - Jugar         |
|    | / /                   | g           | 201             |
| 64 | Shri Harish Nayak     | Literature  | Gujarat         |
|    | (Posthumous)          | &           |                 |
|    | X                     | Education   |                 |
| 65 | Shri Fred Negrit      | Literature  | France          |
|    | 100                   | &           |                 |
|    | A(G)                  | Education   |                 |
| 66 | Shri Hari Om          | Science &   | Haryana         |
|    | 6                     | Engineerin  | X               |
|    | 3-1                   | g           |                 |
| 67 | Shri Bhagabat         | Art         | Odisha          |
| •  | Padhan                | 1           | ~ ~ ~           |
| 68 | Shri Sanatan          | Art         | West Bengal     |
| 50 | Rudra Pal             | 74.0        | West Beligal    |
| 69 | Shri Shankar          | Social      | Maharashtra     |
| 09 | Baba Pundlikrao       | Work        | ivialialasiitid |
|    | Papalkar              | VVOIK       | /               |
| 70 | Shri Radhe            | Medicine    | Uttar Pradesh   |
| 70 | V20.00                | ivieuicifie | Ottal Pladesh   |
| 71 | Shyam Pareek          | Modicina    | Cuiarat         |
| /1 | Shri Dayal            | Medicine    | Gujarat         |
|    | Mavjibhai             |             | A               |
| () | Parmar                |             | 0.11.1          |
| 72 | Shri Binod Kumar      | Art         | Odisha          |
|    | Pasayat               |             |                 |
| 73 | Ms. Silbi Passah      | Art         | Meghalaya       |
| 74 | Ms. Shanti Devi       | Art         | Bihar           |
|    | Paswan & Shri         | The same    | 1. 1            |
|    | Shivan Paswan*        | 700         | 1 1             |
|    | (Duo)                 |             |                 |
| 75 | Shri Sanjay Anant     | Others –    | Goa             |
|    | Patil                 | Agricultur  |                 |
|    | DOT                   | е           |                 |
| 76 | Shri Muni             | Literature  | Kerala          |
|    | Narayana Prasad       | &           | - 55            |
|    |                       | Education   |                 |
| 77 | Shri K S Rajanna      | Social      | Karnataka       |
|    | 3                     | Work        | -70,            |
| 78 | Shri                  | Medicine    | Karnataka       |
|    | Chandrashekar         | 7000        |                 |
|    | Channapatna           | 10          |                 |
|    | Rajannachar           |             |                 |
| 79 | Shri Bhagwatilal      | Literature  | Madhya          |
|    | Rajpurohit            | &           | Pradesh         |
|    | C. C.                 | Education   |                 |
| 80 | Shri Romalo Ram       | Art         | Jammu &         |
| 3  | Pro-                  | 100         | Kashmir         |
| 81 | Shri Navjivan         | Literature  | Uttar Pradesh   |
|    | Rastogi               | &           | -10-            |
|    |                       | Education   | 100             |
| 82 | Ms. Nirmal Rishi      | Art         | Punjab          |
| OΖ | ivis. Ivilliai Kisiil | AIL         | runjav          |

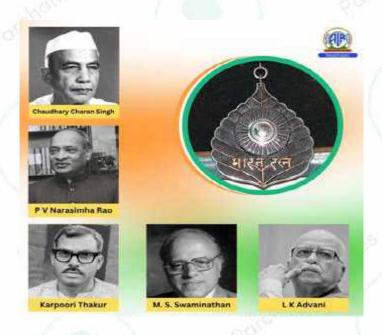
| 83 | Shri Pran         | Art        | Punjab        |
|----|-------------------|------------|---------------|
|    | Sabharwal         |            | 36            |
| 84 | Shri Gaddam       | Art        | Telangana     |
|    | Sammaiah          |            | 200           |
| 85 | Shri              | Social     | Mizoram       |
|    | Sangthankima      | Work       | 350           |
| 86 | Shri Machihan     | Art        | Manipur       |
|    | Sasa              |            |               |
| 87 | Shri Omprakash    | Art        | Madhya        |
|    | Sharma            |            | Pradesh       |
| 88 | Shri Eklabya      | Science &  | West Bengal   |
|    | Sharma            | Engineerin | 1 20          |
|    | 230               | g          |               |
| 89 | Shri Ram          | Science &  | Haryana       |
|    | Chander Sihag     | Engineerin | 280           |
|    | /                 | g          | 00,0          |
| 90 | Shri Harbinder    | Sports     | Delhi         |
|    | Singh             | 1 -2       | .6            |
| 91 | Shri Gurvinder    | Social     | Haryana       |
|    | Singh             | Work       | 100           |
| 92 | Shri Godawari     | Art        | Uttar Pradesh |
|    | Singh             |            |               |
| 93 | Shri Ravi Prakash | Science &  | Mexico        |
|    | Singh             | Engineerin |               |
|    | 365)              | g          |               |
| 94 | Shri Seshampatti  | Art        | Tamil Nadu    |
|    | T Sivalingam      | N 7        | - OS          |
| 95 | Shri Somanna      | Social     | Karnataka     |
|    | 1 9               | Work       | 65            |
| 96 | Shri Kethavath    | Literature | Telangana     |
|    | Somlal            | &          | 4             |
|    |                   | Education  |               |
| 97 | Ms. Shashi Soni   | Trade &    | Karnataka     |
|    | 1.00              | Industry   |               |

| 98  | 8 | Ms. Urmila           | Art        | Uttar Pradesh |
|-----|---|----------------------|------------|---------------|
|     |   | Srivastava           |            | - June        |
| 99  | 9 | Shri Nepal           | Art        | West Bengal   |
|     |   | Chandra              |            |               |
|     |   | Sutradhar            | 150        |               |
|     |   | (Posthumous)         | 102        |               |
| 10  | 0 | Shri Gopinath        | Art        | Odisha        |
| 0   |   | Swain                |            |               |
| 10  | 0 | Shri Laxman          | Art        | Rajasthan     |
| 1   |   | <b>Bhatt Tailang</b> |            | , The         |
| 10  | 0 | Ms. Maya             | Social     | Rajasthan     |
| 2   | 4 | Tandon               | Work       | . (7)         |
| 10  | 0 | Ms. Aswathi          | Literature | Kerala        |
| 3   |   | Thirunal Gouri       | &          | 0.0           |
|     |   | Lakshmi Bayi         | Education  |               |
|     |   | Thampuratty          | 1          | 6             |
| 10  | 0 | Shri Jagdish         | Art        | Gujarat       |
| 4   |   | Labhshanker          | 200        | / DBS         |
| <   |   | Trivedi              | 200        |               |
| 10  | 0 | Ms. Sano             | Social     | Nagaland      |
| 5   |   | Vamuzo               | Work       | 1             |
| 10  | 0 | Shri Balakrishnan    | Art        | Kerala        |
| 6   |   | Sadanam Puthiya      |            | 1.00          |
| 4 3 |   | Veetil               |            | - 600         |
| 10  | 0 | Shri Kurella         | Literature | Telangana     |
| 7   |   | Vittalacharya        | &          | 150           |
|     |   | 1                    | Education  | 58            |
| 10  | 0 | Shri Kiran Vyas      | Others –   | France        |
| 8   |   |                      | Yoga       | 1 1           |
| 10  | 0 | Shri Jageshwar       | Social     | Chhattisgarh  |
| 9   |   | Yadav                | Work       |               |
| 1:  | 1 | Shri Babu Ram        | Art        | Uttar Pradesh |
| 0   |   | Yadav                |            |               |

#### **Bharat Ratna**

#### Chaudhary Charan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao, Karpoori Thakur, M S Swaminathan, L K Advani Conferred With Bharat Ratna

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred Bharat
   Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, on:
- Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, posthumously
- Former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, posthumously
- Agriculture scientist M S Swaminathan, posthumously
- Two-time former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur, posthumously
- Former Deputy Prime Minister and veteran BJP leader L K Advani



#### **MS Swaminathan**



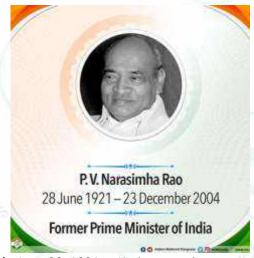
- Known as the father of the 'Green Revolution' in India
- Also known as the 'father of economic ecology' by the United Nations Environment Programme
- Birth: August 7, 1925 in Kumbakonam, Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu)
- Death: 28th September 2023 (age of 93) in Chennai
- He played a crucial role in developing high-yielding varieties of paddy leading to the Green Revolution in India and making India self-sufficient in food grains by 1971.
- served as the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and International Rice Research Institute (1972 - 1979).
- Worked as the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1979-80.
- Also served as the President of IUCN (International Union of the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) - 1984-90.
- In 2004, Swaminathan was appointed as Chairman of the National Commission on Farmers.

#### Awards:

- Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1971
- Albert Einstein World Science Award in 1986.
- First World Food Prize in 1987
- Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma
   Vibhushan (1989) the three most prestigious awards.
- named one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th century by Time magazine.

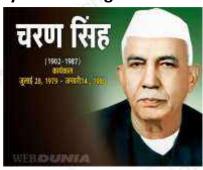
#### P.V. Narasimha Rao

- Pamulaparthi Venkata Narasimha Rao, commonly known as P.V. Narasimha Rao
- was a prominent Indian lawyer, statesman, and politician
- served as the **9th Prime Minister of India** from 1991 to 1996.



- Birth: June 28, 1921 at Karimnagar, in present-day Telangana
- Death: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2004 in New Delhi
- He was a lawyer and a towering Congress leader in undivided Andhra Pradesh
- He was a freedom fighter who took part in Hyderabad's Vande Mataram movement in the late 1930s.
- the first person from south India to become the prime minister of India
- In 1991, when India was facing a foreign reserves crisis, Narasimha Rao's government brought about the three big-ticket economic reforms -globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation.
- One of his famous books The insider

#### **Chaudhary Charan Singh**



- Birth: 23 December 1902 Noorpur in Meerut district, UP
- Death: 29<sup>th</sup> May 1987 in New Delhi
- · Crematorium name: Kisan Ghat
- Charan Singh actively participated in the freedom struggle, following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi and got jailed on multiple occasions.
- Entered politics as a member of the Indian National Congress
- In 1967, he quit the Congress and became Uttar
   Pradesh's first non-Congress chief minister ( from Sanyukta Vidhayak Dal coalition)
- He became the chief minister for the second time in 1970.

- Served as India's 5th prime minister from July 28, 1979 till January 14, 1980.
- · He was the chief architect of land reforms in U.P
- He dedicated his entire life for the rights of farmers and their welfare - Regarded as a 'champion of peasants'
- One of his famous books Abolition of Zamindari:
   Two Alternatives



- Born on 24 January, 1924 in Samastipur district, to a marginal farmer from the Nai (barber) community
- Named Jannayak, or People's Leader, Thakur was a freedom fighter, imprisoned during the Quit India movement in 1942
- Served twice as Chief Minister of Bihar:
  - December 1970 and June 1971 (Bharatiya Kranti Dal)
  - December 1977 and April 1979 (Janata Party)
- During Thakur's Chief Ministership in 1977, the Mungerilal Commission submitted its report recommending that backward classes be reclassified as extremely backward classes (including weaker sections of Muslims) and backward classes.
- Karpoori Thakur paved the way for reservations for backward castes in government services in Bihar in 1978, a move that would set the tone for the implementation of the Mandal Commission report in 1990.



- He is the 50th recipient of Bharat Ratna since its inception (1954)
- November 8, 1927 Born in Karachi, in present day Pakistan

- It was Advani as BJP Chief when the party adopted the Mandir pledge in 1989, and then his 'Rath Yatra' in 1990 from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in UP to build the Ram temple changed the course of Indian politics.
- Advani, through the years, had served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party for the longest period since its inception in 1980.
- He was 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004 under Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government
- Previously served as the Home Minister in the BJPled National Democratic Alliance from 1998 to 2004.
- He also led as the Leader of the Opposition during the 10th and 14th Lok Sabha.
- Received Padma Vibhushan in 2015, India's second-highest civilian honor

#### **About Bharat Ratna**



- Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country, established in 1954 by India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- The award was originally only given to living people, but in 1966 the criteria changed to allow posthumous awards.
- The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India.
- Famous scientists, Dr. Chandrasekhara Venkata
   Raman, Indian independence activist and lawyer C.
   Rajagopalachari, and India's first Vice President,
   Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, were the first to receive
   the Bharat Ratna in 1954
- The youngest Bharat Ratna recipient in India was Sachin Tendulkar who received this award in the year 2014 when he was 40 years old.
- The first posthumous recipient of the Bharat Ratna award - former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri (1966)

#### **Science Awards**

- M S Swaminathan Award
- K.P.P. Nambiar Award
- ASI's Aryabhata Award
- Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar-2024



## Professor B R Kamboj, Receives Prestigious M S Swaminathan Award

- in recognition of his contributions as a scientist in the field of agronomy.
- Prof. B.R. Kamboj Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University
- Thawar Chand Gehlot, the Governor of Karnataka, presented him this award.
- The award ceremony took place at the International Conference on 'One Health One World,' held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

#### **About M S Swaminathan Award:**

- It was instituted in 2004
- It is a biennial award constituted by the Retired Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).
- The award carries a Cash prize of Rs.2
   lakhs (Rupees Two Lakhs only), a Medal, and a Citation.
- The award is open to all, irrespective of his/her nationality.

## Science Ministry announces first recipients of 'Vaibhav' fellows



- Department of Science and Technology (DST)
   announced the first batch of 'Vaibhav' fellows a
   scheme meant to attract Indian-origin scientists
   based abroad for short-term collaboration.
- 22 scientists, mostly based at North American and European institutes will spend anywhere from a month or two annually, for a maximum of three years, at host Indian institutes.
- Currently, the institutions include the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, among others.

- Apart from these, two 'distinguished fellowships' were also offered to senior professors
- Vaibhav Fellows will get a stipend (₹4 lakh per month), accommodation, and their host institutions will get a research grant, to enable them to host the fellows.
- The Vaibhav fellowship scheme was first set into motion in June 2023
- It is similar to another scheme, called Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (Vajra) scheme, again of the DST, initiated in 2018.
- Vajra was open to all foreign scientists, whereas
   Vaibhav is exclusively for the Indian diaspora

## K.P.P. Nambiar Award for ISRO Chairman S. Somanath



- The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala section conferred the 2024 K.P.P.
   Nambiar Award on Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath.
- Mr. Somanath has been pivotal in steering Chandrayaan-3, and played significant roles in various Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and ISRO missions.
- The award is given to individuals or groups in the State for significant contributions to the IEEE vision of advancing technology for humanity
- K.P.P. Nambiar was an Indian industrialist and technocrat, known for his work in the field of industrial development and electronic technology,

- who was also the **founder chair of IEEE Kerala** section.
- had been credited with establishing India's first state run electronics venture Keltron and Inda's first IT park Technopark,
- In 2006, the country had honoured him by conferring Padma Bhushan.

#### Dr. Pavuluri Subba Rao received ASI's Aryabhata Award



- Ananth Technologies Founder, CEO and Chairman Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the 'Aryabhatta Award' instituted by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI). He was also presented with ASI's 'Distinguished Fellow' title.
- He received the award recognition of Rao's "tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India."
- A former ISRO scientist, Rao incorporated Ananth Technologies Limited in 1992 to indigenously design and develop some of the country's most sophisticated avionics for ISRO and the Defence sector.
- ATL has supplied key components and technologies to 98 satellites and 78 launch vehicles for Indian space programmes.

## ISRO Chairman S. Somnath gets honorary doctorate



 Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot bestowed the honorary doctorate awarded by Visvesvaraya
 Technological University (VTU), Belgagavi and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad on ISRO Chairman S. Somnath.

#### Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar-2024

- The government has invited nominations for Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar-2024 in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- The awards shall be announced on 11th May 2024 (National Technology Day).
- The Award Ceremony for all categories of awards will be held on 23rd August 2024 (National Space Day).
- A total of 56 awards have been announced in 13 domains under 4 categories for individuals or teams:
  - Vigyan Ratna Lifetime Achievement in Science Technology
  - Vigyan Shri distinguished contribution in Science Technology
  - Vigyan Yuva: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) award - to young scientists with exceptional contribution to Science Technology
  - Vigyan Team awards to a team comprising of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators in Science Technology
- The awards this year are being coordinated by the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

#### Kiran Mazumdar gets 'Jamsetji Tata Award' for biosciences movement in India



- Biocon Group Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw was conferred the prestigious Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ) for pioneering the biosciences movement in India.
- The Jamsetji Tata Award, instituted in 2004 by ISQ recognises business leaders who have made significant contributions to Indian society.

## Chennai-based gastrointestinal surgeon honoured with medical excellence award at UK House of Commons



- Ravindran Kumeran, senior consultant gastrointestinal surgeon at Apollo First Med Hospital, Chennai, was recently honoured with the prestigious Global Medical Excellence Award in Bariatric Surgery.
- 2. The award ceremony took place at the House of Commons, British Parliament, London

## Infosys Science Foundation announces prize winners for 2024, two women among six winners



- The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF)
   announced the winners of the Infosys Prize
   2024
- in six categories Economics, Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

#### The prize for each category comprises a gold medal, a citation, and a purse of \$100,000 (or its equivalent in rupees).

| Vedika Khemani     |
|--------------------|
| Neena Gupta        |
| Siddhesh Kamat     |
|                    |
| Mahmood Kooria,    |
|                    |
| Shyam Gollakota    |
| Arun Chandrasekhar |
| Winner             |
|                    |

## Two CMFRI scientists win NAAS recognition



- 4. Two scientists from the Central Marine
  Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) were
  recognised by the National Academy of
  Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) for their
  contributions to advanced research in
  fisheries science.
- Eldho Varghese, senior scientist, was elected as a NAAS fellow
- 6. **Sumithra T.G.,** scientist, was selected as **NAAS** associate

#### **Sports**

- National Sports & Adventure Awards 2023
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023
- Arjuna Award
- Dronacharya Award
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy (MAKA)
- · Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar
- Ekalabya Puraskar

#### **6 categories of National Sports Awards**

- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023
- Arjuna Award 2023
- Dronacharya Award 2023
- Major Dhyan Chand Award 2023

## President Droupadi Murmu presented National Sports & Adventure Awards 2023

#### At Rashtrapati Bhawan

The National Sports awards are the highest sporting honours in India

The awards are administered by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad rolling Trophy (MAKA Trophy) 2023
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2022
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2023

## **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023**

The award is given **for outstanding performances** in sports spanning **over a period of four years** 

- India's highest sporting honour, established in 1991-92
- First Khel Ratna award Vishwanathan Anand (Chess) as well as Shri Geet Sethi (Billiards)
- youngest sportsperson to win the Khel Ratna Pistol shooter Abhinav Bindra (2001) when he was
  just 18.
- first Indian woman to receive the Khel Ratna -Olympic bronze medal-winning weightlifter Karnam Malleswari (1994-95)

| S.N | Name of the sportsperson     | Discipline |
|-----|------------------------------|------------|
| 1.  | Chirag Chandrashekhar Shetty | Badminton  |
| 2.  | Rankireddy Satwik Sai Raj    | Badminton  |

#### **Arjuna Award**

- · instituted in 1961
- It is awarded for consistent good performance over a period of four years.
- 26 Sports persons received Arjuna Award for 2023

#### **Arjuna Award Winners**

| Name of the sportsperson         | Discipline   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Shri Ojas Pravin Deotale         | Archery      |
| Ms Aditi Gopichand Swami         | Archery      |
| Shri Sreeshankar M               | Athletics    |
| Ms Parul Chaudhary               | Athletics    |
| Shri Mohameed Hussamuddin        | Boxing       |
| Ms R Vaishali                    | Chess        |
| Shri Mohammed Shami              | Cricket      |
| Shri Anush Agarwalla             | Equestrian   |
| Ms Divyakriti Singh              | Equestrian   |
| 400                              | Dressage     |
| Ms Diksha Dagar                  | Golf         |
| Shri Krishan Bahadur Pathak      | Hockey       |
| Ms Pukhrambam Sushila Chanu      | Hockey       |
| Shri Pawan Kumar                 | Kabaddi      |
| Ms Ritu Negi                     | Kabaddi      |
| Ms Nasreen                       | Kho-Kho      |
| Ms Pinki                         | Lawn Bowls   |
| Shri Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar | Shooting     |
| Ms Esha Singh                    | Shooting     |
| Shri Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu   | Squash       |
| Ms Ayhika Mukherjee              | Table Tennis |
| Shri Sunil Kumar                 | Wrestling    |
| Ms Antim                         | Wrestling    |
| Ms Naorem Roshibina Devi         | Wushu        |

| Ms Sheetal Devi              | Para Archery  |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Shri Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy | Blind Cricket |
| Ms Prachi Yadav              | Para Canoeing |

#### **Dronacharya Award**

- Instituted in 1985, is India's highest sports honour for coaches
- Regular Category (5):

| 0 , ( ,                          |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Name of the Coach                | Discipline     |
| Shri Lalit Kumar                 | Wrestling      |
| Shri R. B. Ramesh                | Chess          |
| Shri Mahaveer Prasad Saini       | Para Athletics |
| Shri Shivendra Singh             | Hockey         |
| Shri Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar | Mallakhamb     |

Lifetime Category (3):

| Name of the Coach           | Discipline   |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Shri Jaskirat Singh Grewal  | Golf         |
| Shri Bhaskaran E            | Kabaddi      |
| Shri Jayanta Kumar Pushilal | Table Tennis |

#### **Major Dhyan Chand Award 2023**

- since 2002
- India's highest honour for lifetime achievements in sports

| Name of the sportsperson | Discipline |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Ms Manjusha Kanwar       | Badminton  |
| Shri Vineet Kumar Sharma | Hockey     |
| Ms Kavitha Selvaraj      | Kabaddi    |

#### **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy (MAKA)**

- The oldest National Sports Award in India,
- instituted in 1956–1957
- It is given to an institution or university for top performance in inter-university tournaments over the last one year

| Guru Nanak Dev          | Overall winner                       |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| University, Amritsar    | university                           |
| Lovely Professional     | 1st runner up university             |
| University, Punjab      | 10.                                  |
| Kurukshetra University, | 2 <sup>nd</sup> runner up university |
| Kurukshetra             |                                      |
|                         |                                      |

### **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2022**

- National Adventure Awards now known as the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award
- First presented for the year 1994 in 1995

| Late Savita Kanswal       | Land Adventure  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Tulsi Chaitanya Mothukuri | Water adventure |

| Anshu Kumar Tiwari | Air Adventure |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Parveen Singh      | Lifetime      |

#### Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

- since 2009
- Awarded to organisations or corporates (both private and public) and individuals for playing a role in the area of sports promotion and development over the last three years

| Category                 | Entity awarded        |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Identification and       | Jain Deemed to be     |  |
| nurturing of budding /   | University, Bengaluru |  |
| young talent             |                       |  |
| Encouragement to sports  | Odisha Mining         |  |
| through Corporate Social | Corporate Limited     |  |
| Responsibility           | 1 80.                 |  |

#### Odisha swimmer Pratyasa Ray to get Ekalabya Puraskar this year

Pratyasa Ray has been selected for the 32nd Ekalabya Puraskar for 2024 for her achievements in swimming.



- She will receive a cash prize of Rs 7 lakh, an increase from the previous Rs 5 lakh
- Ray secured six medals four gold, one silver and a bronze - in the Khelo India University Games in Guwahati in February this year.
- Ekalabya Puraskar was instituted by charitable body IMPaCT (Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT) in 1993
- The award is given every year to young sportspersons of Odisha in recognition of their outstanding performance in the preceding two years.

#### **Banking & Business**

- ENBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2023
- PSU Samarpan Award
- Times Power Icon 2024 Award
- Global WaterTech Award
- SKOCH Gold Award
- Youth Icons of India
- Patrick J. McGovern Award
- Aegis Graham Bell Awards

#### Vineet Jain Honoured with ENBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2023



- Vineet Jain, Managing Director, The Times Group, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement award 2023 by the jury of the exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA)
- in recognition of his 'immeasurable contributions to the Indian television news landscape.

#### Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD Hemant Khatri Honored with 'PSU Samarpan Award



Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Hemant Khatri has been honoured with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect

- Recognised his exemplary leadership in driving the transformation of the shipyard and inspiring countless individual within the industry.
- HSL CMD received the award in the 'Other PSU' category

## **REC wins Best Green Bond - Corporate Award**

- REC Limited (Rural Electrification Corporation
   Limited,), has been bestowed with the prestigious
   Best Green Bond Corporate Award at The Asset

   Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- REC has received the award for issuance of \$750 million USD Green Bonds in April 2023



- It is the largest ever Senior Green Bond Tranche by a South or South-East Asian issuer.
- REC is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power,
- It is a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).
- It was incorporated in 1969
- CMD Vivek Kumar Dewangan



## South Indian Bank gets Best Technology Bank of the year award



- South Indian Bank has been honoured with the title of Best Technology Bank of the Year Award at the 19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations in Mumbai.
- The bank's outstanding performance was recognised with a total of six prestigious awards.
- The awards were presented by T Rabi Sankar,
   Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in Mumbai.
- The IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations has been an annual event since its inception in 2005.
- Instituted by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), it recognises organisations that have brought in transformational changes in their businesses by adopting modern digital solutions.

South Indian Bank excelled across various categories, which include:

- winner in Best Technology Bank of the Year
- winner in Best Tech Talent and Organisation
- winner in Best IT Risk and Management; and so on



#### South Indian Bank

- One of the earliest banks in South India
- Foundation Year January 29, 1929
- Headquarter Thrissur, Kerala
- MD & CEO PR Seshadri





## Vijay Jain bags prestigious "Times Power Icon 2024 Award



- Mr. Vijay Jain, Managing Director of Star Estate (Real Estate enterprise)
- The award ceremony, held recently in Noida, was organized by The Times Group.

## REC wins SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in Renewable Energy Financing Category

- REC (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, and is registered with the RBI as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).
- It has been bestowed with the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category.
- The SKOCH ESG Awards recognise organisations demonstrating outstanding performance in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.
- The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy.

## GAIL Wins 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award for Barauni – Guwahati Pipeline

- GAIL (India) Limited won the prestigious 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award in the 'Achievement Award for Best Construction Projects' category for its Barauni – Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project (BGPL).
- The 718km pipeline which traverses through Bihar,
   West Bengal and Assam has been built at a cost of Rs 3,992 crore by GAIL, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- The BGPL project, an integral part of Jagdishpur –
  Haldia & Bokaro Dhamra Pipeline project, has
  connected North-East India with the National Gas
  Grid for the first time.
- GAIL Director (Projects) Deepak Gupta

## Bank of India receives Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24



- Bank of India (BOI) received the Atal Pension
   Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 and the APY
   Ultimate Champions Cup from PFRDA.
- Three BOI branches were recognized among the top five across India for APY enrolments.
- BOI founded 1906
- Nationalized 1969
- HQ Mumbai
- CMD Rajneesh Karnatak

#### Jitendra Singh Conferred The Prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award" for Diabetes Research

- for his remarkable contributions to diabetology, diabetes care, and research at the International Meet of Medical Professionals in Chennai
- The citation compared him to the esteemed Bidhan Chandra Roy, noting his dual success in both medical and public spheres, including his three consecutive terms as a Member of

**Parliament** and his role in the Union Council of Ministers.



- Include his role as the Lifetime Patron of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), the country's largest academic association for diabetologists.
- His book "Diabetes Made Easy"
- Singh's pioneering work on "Stress Diabetes in Kashmiri Migrants" received acclaim from the World Health Organization (WHO).
- He was instrumental in finalising the "Guidelines for Management of Diabetes in Pregnancy," which have been approved by the WHO.

#### CWC won GEEF Global WaterTech Award

Central Water
 Commission (CWC)
 won the 'Water
 Department of the
 Year' at the Global
 Water Tech Summit
 2024 by GEEF in New
 Delhi.



- Acknowledged for hydro-meteorological data collection, flood forecasting, reservoir monitoring, and initiatives like 'Floodwatch India'.
- CWC is a premier Technical Organization of India, under Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Founded in 1945.
- · Chairman: Kushvinder Vohra.

#### **BSPTCL Wins SKOCH Gold Award**

- Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited (BSPTCL) has received the prestigious Skoch Gold Award
- For Successful implementation of the SAMAST (Scheduling, Accounting, Metering, and Settlement of Transactions) project
- Bihar is the first state to successfully implement all modules of the SAMAST project.
- SAMAST is a solution for seamless transaction of power from generating stations to distribution companies (discoms) with transparency and accuracy in settlement of transactions

#### RGIA Clinches Best Airport Award for Third Consecutive Year



### RINL Wins CII-GBC National Energy Leader Award for Sixth Consecutive Year

- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), also known as Vizag Steel, bagged the prestigious National Energy Leader Award from the Confederation of Indian Industry – Green Business Centre (CII-GBC).
- RINL has also achieved the "Excellent Energy Efficient Unit Award" for an impressive 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

## Industrialist Deepak C Mehta, Honored with Indian Chemical Council Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023 in Mumbai



## FICCI Honours Ayushmann Khurrana and Neeraj Chopra as Youth Icons of India



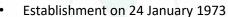
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) recently organized its prestigious Young Leaders Awards in New Delhi

#### SAIL receives prestigious SHRM HR Excellence Awards

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with SHRM - HR Excellence Awards
- for 'Excellence in Inclusion, Equity & Diversity' and 'Excellence in Managing the Distributed Workforce' categories
- at the prestigious SHRM India Annual Conference 2024 held in New Delhi, recently.

#### Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

- Its 'Maharatna'
- The Government of India owns about 65% of SAIL's equity



· Chairman of SAIL - Amarendu Prakash



## Chiratae Ventures honours Narayana Murthy with the Patrick J. McGovern

#### **Award**

 Chiratae Ventures is one of India's largest homegrown venture capital funds.



- Narayana Murthy, Founder of Infosys Limited, was awarded the India Lifetime Achievement Award,
- Shantanu Narayen, Chair and CEO at Adobe, won the Global Lifetime Achievement Award.

## REC wins 'Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024

REC Limited is a
 Maharatna Central Public
 Sector Enterprise under
 the Ministry of Power and
 a leading NBFC



- The Award ceremony was organised by Outlook
   Group, in collaboration with IIT Goa.
- The award highlights the corporation's pledge to sustainability initiatives, leading the path toward a greener future.

#### Wagh Bakri Tea Group Honored with Prestigious Generational Legacy Award

 The Wagh Bakri Tea Group has received the esteemed "Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy" from Hurun India.



## C-DOT bags 3 awards at 14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards

- Aegis Graham Bell Awards largest innovation award in India.
- Initiated in 2010 by the Aegis School of Data Science, the Aegis Graham Bell Awards (AGBA) celebrate the brilliance of young minds poised to become technology leaders, startup founders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and intraentrepreneurs.
- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, strikes a hat-trick by securing top position in three awards .
- The <u>1st award</u> was jointly shared with Google India, - category "Innovation in AI" for - ASTR Project.
  - ASTR (AI & Facial Recognition-powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification) is a game-changer in the fight against cyber crimes



- <u>Second award</u> the category "Innovation in Social Good" for – CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) solution.
  - CEIR helps in revolutionizing mobile security by detecting clone IMEIs, restricting import of counterfeit mobile devices and also enabling the blocking and tracing of lost or stolen phones.
- 3rd award for "Innovation in Telecom" category
   For Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) product.
  - This revolutionary solution ensures unbreakable security for communications between two networks, parties.

## BEML wins Chanakya Award for Excellence in Investor engagement

- BEML Limited has been honoured with awards in multiple categories at the 18th Global Communications Conclave and the 14th Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) Excellence awards,
- · held in Mangaluru.
- The BEML team received accolades across key categories for its innovative and impactful communication efforts, including Multi-Channel

- Communications, Change Communication Campaign, Corporate Brochure, channel partner engagement, and the **Chanakya Award for Excellence in Investor engagement.**
- BEML Limited was established in May 1964 as Bharat Earth Movers Limited to manufacture mining equipment and rail coaches and spare parts.
- BEML's headquarters are in Bangalore.
- BEML manufactures a variety of heavy equipment for the mining, railways, transport, and defense sectors

## GAIL (India) Wins "Initiatives in Promoting Hydrogen Company of Year" Award

- Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry organized
   FIPI Oil & Gas Awards 2023.
- The accolade has been presented by Hardeep S
   Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, during a ceremony held in New Delhi.
- The FIPI Oil & Gas Awards annually recognize exceptional achievements and transformative initiatives in the energy sector, celebrating organisations that overcome challenges to excel in the industry.
- GAIL was founded as the Gas Authority of India Ltd. in August 1984
- GAIL became a Navratna in 1997 and is now one of the fourteen Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (2013)

## IREDA Bags Triple Honours at 14th PSE Excellence Awards

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has been honoured with three awards at the 14th PSE Excellence Awards ceremony, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in New Delhi.
- The company won Gold Awards in the Mini Ratna category for "Corporate Governance" and "Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability."
- Additionally, IREDA received the Silver Award for "Operational Performance Excellence."

### About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

- It is a Mini Ratna (Category–I) non-banking financial institution under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- established in 1987.
- Motto: ENERGY FOR EVER

#### **Gandhi Peace Prize**

Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award

#### Darasing Khurana Honored with Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award

- for his work towards raising awareness around mental health issues as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion'.
- Khurana is an Indian actor and philanthropist

## Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad presented Indira Gandhi Peace Prize



- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 was presented to classical pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian peace activist Ali Abu Awwad. Both of them were selected for their efforts towards a non-violent solution to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict.
- Daniel Barenboim: For using music as a tool to unite people and reduce cultural and political tensions.
- Ali Abu Awwad: For creating platforms like Roots that bring Palestinians and Israelis together for dialogue and understanding.
- Selected by an international jury headed by former Chief Justice of India TS Thakur.

#### **About the Award**

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development is an esteemed award that has been presented annually since 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- This award is named after Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India, to honor her vision and dedication to global peace, disarmament, and sustainable development.
- The first Indira Gandhi Award was given to 'Parliamentarians for Global Action' in 1986.
- The award carries a monetary reward of 25 lakh rupees.



#### Michelle Bachelet Wins 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development

- Michelle Bachelet founding director of UN Women, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and former President of Chile
- The prize honours her work to improve gender equality, human rights, democracy and development in difficult circumstances, also noting her contributions towards fostering India's relations with Chile.
- The international jury for the award was chaired by former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon

#### **About the Award**

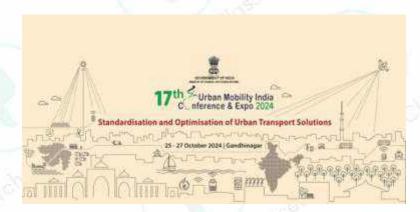
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   'Parliamentarians for Global Action' in 1986.
- The award carries a monetary reward of 25 lakh rupees.
- 2023 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development was awarded to Daniel
   Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad
- The jury shall consist of not fewer than five and not more than nine members named by the Chairperson
- The 1986 Indira Gandhi Prize was awarded to 'Parliamentarians for Global Action'



#### **Ministry Related**

- 1. 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI)
  Conference & Exhibition 2024
- 2. National Florence Nightingale Awards
- 3. National Geoscience Award
- 4. Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023
- 5. National Youth Award 2024
- 6. The 4th Wings India Awards 2024
- 7. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023
- 8. Best marching contingents & tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade 2024
- 9. Anubhav Awards
- 10. Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award, 2024

## Bhubaneswar wins the 'City with the Best Public Transport System' at 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024



- 17th UMI Conference & Exhibition 2024 has been organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through the Institute of Urban Transport (India) and with the support of Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
- 12 categories of awards were given
- Theme: "Standardisation and Optimisation of Urban Transport Solutions"
- Haryana as the venue of 18th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2025.

| SI. | Award Category  | Winner              |   |
|-----|---|---------------------|---|
| No. |   | City                | Organisation                                      |
| 1   | City with the Most Sustainable Transport System             |                     | Kochi Metro<br>Rail<br>Corporation<br>Ltd.        |
| 2   | 2 City with the Best<br>Public Transport<br>System          |                     | Capital<br>Region<br>Urban<br>Transport<br>(CRUT) |
| 3   | City with the Best<br>Non-Motorized<br>Transport System     | Srina<br>gar        | Srinagar<br>Smart City<br>Ltd.                    |
| 4   | City with the Best Safety and Security System & Record      | Gand<br>hinag<br>ar | Gandhinagar<br>Municipal<br>Corporation           |
| 5   | City with the Best<br>Intelligent Transport<br>System (ITS) | Surat               | Surat<br>Municipal<br>Corporation                 |
| 6   | City with the Most<br>Innovative Financing<br>Mechanism     | Jamm<br>u           | Jammu<br>Smart City<br>Ltd.                       |

|   | 7 | City with Best Record | Beng  | Bangalore    |
|---|---|-----------------------|-------|--------------|
|   |   | of Public Involvement | aluru | Metropolitan |
|   |   | in Transport          |       | Transport    |
|   |   | 200                   |       | Corporation  |
| 7 | 8 | Metro Rail with the   | Beng  | Bangalore    |
|   |   | Best Multimodal       | aluru | Metro Rail   |
| Š |   | Integration           | 1     | Corporation  |
|   |   |                       | 7 .   | Ltd.         |
|   | 9 | Metro Rail with the   | Mum   | Mumbai       |
|   |   | Best Passenger        | bai   | Metro One    |
|   |   | Services and          |       | Pvt. Ltd.    |
|   |   | Satisfaction          |       |              |

#### President presents National Florence Nightingale Awards to 15 Nurses at Rashtrapati Bhavan



- The National Florence Nightingale Awards were instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- 15 nurses were conferred the award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to duty and service to the community.
- The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted in the year 1973.
- Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, Cash Award of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a medal.

## Prez Murmu Confers National Geoscience Award to 21 Geoscientists



### National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement 2023

- Professor Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee, Indian National Science Academy (INSA) - the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- National Young Geoscientist Award 2023: Dr.
   Ashutosh Pandey, Assistant Professor, Pondicherry University.
- The American College of Physicians has conferred its prestigious "Distinguished Mentor of the Year" award to Dr Jitendra Singh in Lucknow.

The annual National Award is given in three categories:

- 1. National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement,
- 2. National Young Geoscientist Award and
- 3. National Geoscience Award.
- The Union Ministry of Mines instituted the National Geoscience Award 1966 as the National Minerals Award. Its name was changed to National Geoscience Award in 2009.

#### Government announces Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar to recognise science, technology contributions



- The objective of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is to recognize the notable and inspiring contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators, either individually or in teams, across various fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.
- The award ceremony will be held on 23rd August, in conjunction with National Space Day.

#### Indore, Surat 'cleanest cities' in India: Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023



- Organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred Swachh Survekshan awards 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- A total of 110 awards were bestowed
- "Theme for 2023 "Waste to Wealth"
- The theme for the Cleanliness Survey 2024 is "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle."
- Swachh Bharat Mission Anthem for 2024.
   Playback singer, Kailash Kher has lent his voice to the anthem 'Naya Sankalp Hai, Naya Prakalp Hai'.
  - 1. The **annual awards were launched in 2016** as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
  - 2. Swachh Survekshan has evolved into the world's largest annual survey

| Award<br>Category        | Winners  | Field/<br>Contribution                            |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Vigyan<br>Team<br>Award  | ISRO-Chandrayaan 3<br>Team   | Space science and technology                      |
| Vigyan<br>Ratna<br>Award | Professor G. Padmanabhan (Former Director of the Indian Institute of Science)  | Biological<br>sciences (Lifetime<br>achievements) |
| Vigyan<br>Shri<br>Award  | Anandharamakrishnan<br>C, Umesh Varshney,<br>Bhim Singh, Adimurthi<br>Adi, Syed Wajh Ahmad<br>Naqvi, Sanjay Behari,<br>Rahul Mukherjee | Various fields                                    |
| Vigyan<br>Yuva<br>Award  | Dr. Bappi Paul, Dr. Abhilash, Radha Krishnan Mahalakshmi, Purabi Saikia, Digendranath Swain, Prabhu Rajagopal, Prashant Kumar          | Young scientists in various fields                |

#### **Swachh Survekshan Award 2023**



| Award                                      | Winner   |  |
|--|--|--|
| All India Clean City Rank 1                | Indore (7 consecutive years) & Surat   |  |
| All India Clean City Rank 3                | Navi Mumbai  |  |
| Top 3 awards for Best<br>Performing States | 1 <sup>st</sup> Maharashtra,<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Madhya Pradesh<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Chhattisgarh |  |
| Cleanest Cantonment<br>Board               | Mhow   |  |
| Cleanest Ganga Town                        | Varanasi   |  |
| Best Safaimitra Surakshit<br>Shehar        | Chandigarh   |  |

## Bisathi Bharat from Anantapur District (AP) selected for National Youth Award 2024

 National Youth Award (NYA) conferred every year by Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for individuals and voluntary organizations serving in the arena of youth development.



The award will be presented at Nashik,
 Maharashtra, during the 27th National Youth Day to be observed on January 12, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

## 'Super-100' winners of Project Veer Gatha 3.0

 The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Education launched Project Veer Gatha 3.0 on July 13, 2023.



- It aims to share the stories and acts of bravery of Gallantry Award winners with students.
- 'Super-100' winners of Project Veer Gatha 3.0
   were felicitated on January 25, 2024 by Defense
   Minister Rajnath Singh along with Education
   Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi.
- A cash prize of Rs 10,000, a medal and a certificate
- The project was established in 2021 under the Gallantry Awards Portal (GAP).

#### The 4th Wings India Awards 2024



- Bangalore and Delhi Airports jointly bagged the best airport award in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- The awards were presented by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia
- Vistara bagged the Best Airline of the Year award
- Air India has been recognised for International Connectivity
- Alliance Air got recognition for Regional Connectivity
- Air India Express was declared a Sustainability Champion.
- GMR Group the Best Aviation Service Provider
- GMR for Aero Academy
- Skyways Air Services for cargo services
- Indian Oil Skytanking Pvt. Ltd for Fuel Services
- India Aims for 300 Million Domestic Air Passengers by 2030
- Wings India 2024 is the largest civil aviation event in Asia, taking place at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad, Telangana.
  - Wings India
    2024 is the
    largest civil
    aviation event
    in Asia, taking
    place at
    Begumpet
    airport in



Hyderabad, Telangana.

#### **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** announced 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023

- The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 9th January, 2024.
- 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role for sports promotion and development.

| S.<br>No. | Category  | Entity awarded for<br>Rashtriya Khel<br>Protsahan<br>Puruskar 2023 |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1.        | Identification and nurturing of budding / young talent          | Jain Deemed to be<br>University, Bengaluru                         |
| 2.        | Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility | Odisha Mining<br>Corporate Limited                                 |

#### **Best marching contingents & tableaux** awards for Republic Day Parade 2024

- Given by State in the Ministry of Defence Ajay Bhatt
- 16 tableaux from States and UTs, and 9 from Central Ministries and departments had rolled down the Kartavya Path



#### **Ministry Tableau Category:**

- **Judges Choice Best Tableau (Central** Ministries/Departments) - Ministry of Culture -(Bharat: Mother of Democracy)
- Popular Choice Best Tableau (Central Ministries/Departments) - Vibrant Villages (Ministry of Home Affairs)

#### **State/UT Tableau Category:**

#### Judge's choice category -

- First Odisha (Woman Empowerment in Viksit Bharat)
- Second Gujrat (Dhordo: A Global Icon Of Gujarat's Border Tourism)
- Third Tamil Nadu (Kudavolai System in ancient Tamil Nadu - Mother of Democracy)

#### ODISHA'S TABLEAU IN REPUBLIC DAY PARADE WINS FIRST PRIZE, ADJUDGED AS BEST-1



GUJARAT'S TABLEAU ADJUDGED THE BEST TABLEAU IN PEOPLE'S CHOICE CATEGORY

#### People's choice category -

- First Gujarat (Dhordo : A Global Icon Of Gujarat's Border Tourism)
- Second Uttar Pradesh (Viksit Bharat Samradh Virasat)
- Third Andhra Pradesh (Transforming School Education in Andhra Pradesh - Making Students Globally Competitive)

#### **Best Marching Contingent**

#### **Judges Choice:**

- **Best Marching Contingent** among the three services -Sikh Regiment Contingent
- **Best Marching Contingent** among CAPF/other auxiliary forces - Delhi Police Women Marching Contingent

# ublic Day Parade

REPUBLIC DAY

#### **Popular Choice:**

- **Best Marching Contingent** among the three services - Rajputana Rifles Regimental Marching Contingent
- **Best Marching Contingent** among CAPF/other auxiliary forces - CRPF Woman Marching Contingent

#### Water Digest World Water Awards 2023-24 Recognises Excellence in Water

The Water Digest World Water Awards 2023-24 is a global event that recognizes excellence in water management, held in



- partnership with UNESCO.
- The awards were presented by Union minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi.
- The Awards were supported by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga



- Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- The 2023-24 winners include:
- Noida Authority: Won in the "best STP" (sewage treatment plant) and "water reuse" categories
- Tata Steel's Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division (FAMD): Won in the "Excellence in Digitalisation" category

#### Education Ministry Invites Self-Nominations From Eligible Teachers For National Teachers' Awards 2024

 The Ministry of Education has invited self-nominations from the eligible teachers for National Teachers' Awards 2024.



 A total of 50 teachers will be selected

through the three-stage selection process at the District, State and National level this year.

The award will be conferred by the President
 Droupadi Murmu on the occasion of Teacher Day
 on 5th September in New Delhi.

## 7th Anubhav Awards Ceremony,2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

- Dr. Jitendra Singh conferred 5 Anubhav Awards and 10 Jury Certificates at 07th Anubhav Awards Ceremony, 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- Organized by Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW)
- for retiring/retired employees to showcase significant achievements made during their service period.
- DOPPW is organizing 7th Anubhav Awards
   Ceremony since its inception in 2016.
- out of 15 awardees, 5 were women

| Anι | ıbhav Awardee | es          | . ON          |
|-----|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| SI. | Awardees      | Designation | Mins./Deptt./ |
| N   | Name          | 1000        | Org           |
| 0   | (Smt./Sh.)    | 60,         |               |
| 1.  | T. Jacob      | Secretary   | UPSC          |
| 2.  | Aditi Das     | Additional  | Ministry of   |
|     | Rout          | Secretary   | Women and     |
|     | 1.0           | / /         | Child         |
|     | 300           |             | Development   |

| 3. | G.               | Technical  | DRDO        |
|----|------------------|------------|-------------|
|    | Nancharamm       | Officer-D  | The same    |
|    | a                | 1          | 0000        |
| 4. | Rajesh           | Deputy     | BSF         |
|    | Kumar Parida     | Commandant |             |
| 5. | Appan            | Junior     | Ministry of |
|    | Appan<br>Sridhar | Engineer   | Railways    |

## Women and Child Development Ministry Wins 2024 e-Governance Gold for Poshan

Tracker

 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has won the National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold) for its Poshan Tracker initiative.



 Mission Poshan 2.0 has made remarkable progress in

tracking the growth of millions of young lives (children of 0-6 years of age), through its Monthly Growth Monitoring initiative Poshan Tracker

 POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched by the government on March 8, 2018.

#### Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Chief Minister of Rajasthan Bhajan Lal Sharma presented Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award, 2024



- The Rajasthan State Pollution Control
   Board hosted the 5th International Day of Clean
   Air for Blue Skies or Swach Vayu Diwas on 7
   September 2024 in the pink city of Jaipur.
- 4th meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was also held in Jaipur on 7 September.
- It was chaired by Bhupendra Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The government of India launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to reduce air pollution in identified cities.

#### Winners of 2024 Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award

 This award was given to cities participating in the National Clean Air Programme for their performance in reducing air pollution and improving air quality in their cities.

## Category 1 Award (for cities with a population of over 10 lakhs)

 Winner Cites- Surat (Gujarat), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), and Agra (Uttar Pradesh);

### Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs)

Winner cities -Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh),
 Amravati(Maharashtra), and Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh);
 and

#### Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs)

 Winner cities - Raebareli(Uttar Pradesh), Nalgonda (Telangana), and Nalagarh (Himachal Pradesh).

### Maharashtra CM inaugurates 27th National Conference on e-Governance; ONDC receives Gold Award



- The Government of Maharashtra hosted the 27th Edition of the NCeG in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The theme "Viksit Bharat: Secure and Sustainable e-Service Delivery."
- The Conference is organised every year by the
  Department of Administrative Reforms and Public
  Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Ministry
  of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
  and respective State Government hosting the
  annual event.
- The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)
  has been awarded the Gold Award under the
  category "Application of Emerging Technologies
  for Providing Citizen-Centric Services" in the
  National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) during
  the 27th National Conference on e-Governance
  (NCeG).
- The objective of the award is to recognise and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives and to encourage innovation in successful e-Governance solution.

### 'National Anubhav Awards Scheme, 2025'

- In March 2015, PM Modi introduced the 'Anubhav' platform through the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare
- This is an online platform where retiring and retired employees of Central Government can share their work experiences with the government - those who make outstanding contributions receive awards.
- For 2025, the Government of India has introduced the National Anubhav Awards Scheme, which now includes employees from Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and Public Sector Banks.
   This change allows even more people to share their experiences.

## Odisha wins best state in 5th National Water Awards 2023

 Union minister of Jal Shakti CR
 Paatil announced the list of winners of 5th National



Water Awards, at Shram Shakti Bhawan New Delhi.

- The Department of Water Resources, River
  Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD
  &GR), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti announced
  the 38 winners, including joint winners
- in 09 categories viz Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best School or College, Best Industry, Best Water User Association, Best Institution (other than school or college), and Best Civil Society.
- In the category of Best State, the first prize has been conferred upon Odisha
- Uttar Pradesh securing the second position, and Gujarat and Puducherry jointly securing the third position.
- Each award winner will be conferred with a citation and a trophy as well as cash prizes in certain categories.

## Adarsh Karmayogi Awards by Mines Ministry

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the National Learning Week
   'Karmayogi Saptah'(कर्मयोगी सप्ताह) which spans from 19th October, to 25th October, 2024.
- 13 employees who completed over 100 courses on the iGOT Karmayogi portal, were felicitated "Adarsh Karmayogi Awards"



Yearbook 2024

 Mission Karmayogi National Program is a flagship programme of Government of India for training of civil servants, which intends to transform the Civil Services from 'Rule Based' to 'Role Based' way of functioning and Citizen Centric.

# President Murmu to confer National Panchayat Awards 2024



- The National Panchayat Awards Conferment Ceremony 2024, organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Panchayat Awards upon 45 awardees, selected across various categories, recognizing their exemplary contributions to the themes of sustainable and inclusive development,
- Hon'ble Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh will unveil a booklet titled 'Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats',

The National Panchayat Awards 2024 encompass categories such as:

- The Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar
- Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar

- Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar
- Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar
- Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar

## President Droupadi Murmu awards Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 exceptional children

- Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 7 boys and 10 girls awarded from 14 states and Union territories
- in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports and environment.
- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar organized by The Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India

#### **Eligibility**

- A child should be an Indian Citizen.
- A child above the age of 5 years and not exceeding 18 years (as of 31st July of respective year).
- The act/incident/achievement should have been within 2 years of the last date of receipt of application/nomination for the year of consideration.
- Number of Award will be 25, however, any relaxation to this maximum number may be permitted at the discretion of the National Selection Committee.
- Each awardee will receive a medal, certificate and citation booklet.

## Ashwini Vaishnaw confers 69<sup>th</sup> Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Award 2024



- Indian Railways honored 101 dedicated employees and officers with the prestigious 69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024 for their exceptional contributions to the Indian Railways, and 22 shields to the top-performing railway zones across various categories
- The award ceremony, themed "Mai Hoon Bhartiya Rail," was held on December 21, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

## **STATE AWARDS**

- 1. Assam Baibhav Award 2024
- 2. UP Gaurav Samman
- 3. Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024
- 4. Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024
- 5. Jeevandan Award
- 6. National One District One Product (ODOP) Awards 2023

#### **Assam Baibhav Award 2024**

- The Assam government has announced that it will confer the Assam Baibhav award, the state's highest civilian honor, to Member of Parliament and former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi.
- Ranjan Gogoi was the 46th Chief Justice of India. During his tenure as CJI, the Supreme Court delivered its ruling on the longpending <u>Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute</u> in 2019.
- Gogoi was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in March 2020 by the then President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Four personalities named joint winners of Assam Saurav Award:
- Archaeologist Kishan Chand Nauriyal
- Swimmer Elvis Ali Hazarika
- Sprinter Hima Das
- Tiwa dance exponent Nadiram Deuri.

17 eminent citizens will receive the Assam Gaurav Award – the third highest state honor.

## 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh selected for 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024'



- Government of India has instituted Subhash
   Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to
   recognize and honour invaluable contribution and
   selfless service rendered by individuals and
   organizations in the field of disaster management.
- For the year 2024, 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh, in the Institutional category, has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for its excellent work in Disaster Management.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd
  January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash
  Chandra Bose.
- Institutional Category cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate
- Individual category Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate

### 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh:

- was established in 1942.
- It is the sole airborne medical establishment of the Indian Armed Forces, recognized for its exceptional service in various global crisis.

- The 60 Parachute Field Hospital was **deployed to**Turkey after the 2023 earthquake.
- The primary mission includes Humanitarian
   Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations during natural calamities, nationally and internationally, both in time of peace and war.

## UP Govt to Honour Dr. Ritu and Naveen with 'UP Gaurav Samman'



- Chandrayaan-3 mission was led by Dr. Ritu
  Karidhal Srivastava, one of the senior scientists at
  the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Naveen Tiwari, a noted entrepreneur from Kanpur, who is regularly featured on covers of magazines like Forbes and Fortune

### Dr Pradeep Mahajan receives Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024



- Dr. Pradeep Mahajan, the Founder and Chairman and Managing Director of StemRx Hospital and Research Centre, along with StemRx Bioscience
   Solutions, has been awarded the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024.
- in recognition of his contributions to the field of regenerative medicine.
- The Maharashtra Bhushan is a highest civilian award presented annually by the Government of Maharashtra
- The Maharashtra Bhushan was first awarded in 1996

## Maharashtra Wins Best Agriculture State Award for 2024



15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee
has announced that Maharashtra has won the Best
Agriculture State Award for 2024.

## Key highlights of Maharashtra's agricultural innovations:

- Sustainable development policies focusing on environmental protection and food security
- Launch of the country's largest bamboo mission covering 21 lakh hectares
- Target to enhance irrigation capabilities across 17 lakh hectares through 123 projects
- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

#### **About the Agriculture Leadership Award**

- Instituted by Agricultural Today magazine in 2008
- Honors contributions of various stakeholders in agriculture
- Recognizes exemplary leadership in government, individuals, and organizations

### Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024: Nagaland Adjudged As Best State In Horticulture



- Nagaland has been adjudged as the best state in Horticulture in the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024 at the 15th Agriculture Leadership Conclave held in New Delhi.
- The award was given to the state for its outstanding work in introducing innovative programmes and policies for horticulture development, which has positively touched the lives of large number of farmers and the rural people in the State.
- The annual awards were instituted in 2008 for recognizing excellence and leadership roles played by individuals and organizations towards the development of Indian agriculture and bringing about rural prosperity.
- Nagaland has achieved G.I registration of three horticultural crops viz., Naga Mircha, Naga Tree Tomato and Naga Sweet Cucumber.

### Union Minister Giriraj Singh presents Handicrafts Exports Awards



- The awards given away by the Hon'ble Minister included the Top Export Award for 2019-20 and 2020-21, both were bagged by M/s C.L. Gupta Exports Ltd, Amroha (Uttar Pradesh);
- following which, senior and veteran exporter, Mr.
   Muzafar Hussain was honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.
- The Handicrafts exports during the year 2023-24 was Rs. 32,759 Crores (US \$ 3,956 Million) registering a growth of 9.13% in rupee term

### Andhra Pradesh receives Jeevandan Award



 For the first time, Andhra Pradesh received the Jeevandan Award in recognition of its services in organ donations and awareness campaigns.  The award was presented at an event organised on the occasion of National Organ Donation Day.

## National One District One Product (ODOP) Awards 2023

Given during Aatmnirbhar Bharat Utsav
There are a **total of 24 Awards across 3 categories** –
for Districts, States and Union Territories and Indian
Missions Abroad

### **Districts Awards (Agriculture)**

| Ran<br>k | District   | State      | Product | Awar<br>d |
|----------|------------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 1.       | Alluri     | Andhra     | Araku   | Gold      |
|          | Sitharama  | Pradesh    | Coffee  | 12/27     |
|          | Raju       |            |         | 800       |
| 2.       | Uttarkashi | Uttarakhan | Red     | Silver    |
|          | 1 1        | d          | Rice    |           |
| 3.       | Shopian    | J&K        | Apple   | Bronz     |
|          |            | 200        |         | e         |
| 4.       | Kandhama   | Odisha     | Turmeri | Bronz     |
|          | I said     | (D)        | С       | е         |

#### **Districts Awards (Non-Agriculture)**

| District   | State   | Product      | Award  |
|------------|---------|--------------|--------|
| Kakinada   | Andhra  | Uppada       | Gold   |
|            | Pradesh | Jamdani      | 6.00   |
|            |         | Saree        |        |
| Banda      | Uttar   | Shazar Stone | Silver |
|            | Pradesh | Craft        |        |
| Srikakulam | Andhra  | Ponduru      | Bronze |
|            | Pradesh | Cotton       |        |
|            | 20/65   | Sarees       | 1      |
| Kurnool    | Andhra  | Handloom     | Bronze |
|            | Pradesh | silk sarees  |        |

#### States (Category A)

| S.NO. | State         | Award  |
|-------|---------------|--------|
| 1.    | Uttar Pradesh | Gold   |
| 2.    | Gujarat       | Silver |
| 3.    | Maharashtra   | Bronze |
| 4.    | Punjab        | Bronze |
| 5.    | Rajasthan     | Bronze |

#### States (Category B)

| Rank | State       | Award  |
|------|-------------|--------|
| 1.   | J&K         | Gold   |
| 2.   | Uttarakhand | Silver |
| 3.   | Meghalaya   | Bronze |
| 4.   | Sikkim      | Bronze |

#### **Mission Aboard**

| Rank | State                           | Award  |
|------|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1.   | Consulate General of India,     | Gold   |
|      | Vancouver                       |        |
| 2.   | Consulate General of India, New | Silver |
|      | York                            |        |
| 3.   | High Commission of India,       | Bronze |
|      | Nicosia                         |        |

#### **NEWS in Brief**

Andhra Pradesh wins Indian Wind Power
 Association's Green Energy Champion Award for 2023-24

## M. Selvarasan receives Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Semmozhi Tamil Award



- CM MK Stalin presented the Kalaignar M
   Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award to M Selvarasan
   (former Tamil professor University of Madras)
- The award instituted by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, is given for the best contribution to classical Tamil studies by a researcher or a research institution
- It carries a cheque for ₹10 lakh, a citation plaque, and a bronze replica of the donor and former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.

# Manish Rajankar and Shalu Kolhe to receive 21<sup>st</sup> T. N. Khoshoo Memorial Award by ATREE

- The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) has announced Manish Rajankar and Shalu Kolhe as the recipients of the 21st T. N. Khoshoo Memorial Award.
- The award is in recognition of the critical work of the duo in terms of ecological restoration of waterbodies in the Vidarbha region and empowerment of the Dhivar community.
- Rajankar and Kolhe would receive the awards on December 3 at the Bangalore International Centre.

### APSRTC bags Skoch Award 2024 for Unified Ticketing System



- The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport
   Corporation (APSRTC) has bagged the Skoch Award
   2024 for its Unified Ticketing System (UTS) project.
- The APSRTC's Unified Ticketing system integrates ticketing, reservations, bus passes, and cargo services into a single platform, enhancing passenger convenience and operational efficiency.

# Cyberabad Commissionerate wins Data Security Council of India Excellence Award

- The Cyberabad Commissionerate of Telangana State Police received the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Excellence Award at the NASSCOM-DSCI Annual Information Security Summit in New Delhi.
- Cyberabad police was recognised for its innovative and sustained efforts in addressing cyber threats and ensuring cyber safety through its dedicated cybercrimes Unit

## Telangana police wins Digital Engineering Award for innovative use of GIS and AI during Ganesh Chaturthi

- Telangana Police have been honoured with the prestigious 'Top Sustainability Initiative' Award in the Challenger category at the Digital Engineering Awards held in Dallas, Texas.
- Recognised for their innovative use of GIS (Graphic Information Sysytem) and AI technologies, the award highlights their exceptional efforts during the 2024 Ganesh festival idol immersions.
- Awards organised by L&T Technology Services in partnership with ISG (Information Services Group) and CNBC-TV18

### Karnataka Police Wins Inaugural FICCI Drone Award 2024

- The Karnataka State Police (KSP) has has won in the category of training and capacity building.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) instituted the award to recognise innovative applications of drone technology by government and private organisations.
- The KSP was lauded for its Remote Pilot Training Institute (RPTI), established in 2023

## **MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS**

### 'Best Electoral Practices Awards' 2023

- Best Electoral Practices Awards' 2023
- 2. National Creators Award
- 3. National Youth Parliament Festival 2024
- Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Philanthropy Work
- 5. KISS Humanitarian Award 2021
- 6. Spice Award 2024
- 7. National Teachers Award 2024
- 8. Skoch National Award
- 9. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence 2024
- 10. Kalinga Prize





- A total 16 individuals and organisations were conferred the Election Commission's 'Best Electoral Practices
  Awards' for 2023.
- Chhattisgarh chief electoral officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale accepted the 'best-performing state award'.



## Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 will be given to 19 children



President of India, Smt. **Droupadi Murmu will confer** the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2024 to 19 exceptional children in an award ceremony which will take place **at Vigyan Bhawan on 22nd January, 2024.** The awards are conferred upon the children in the **age group 5 – 18 years**, for their **excellence in six categories** 

- 1. Art and Culture (7)
- 2. Bravery (1)
- 3. Innovation (1)
- 4. Science & Technology (1)
- 5. Social Service (4)
- 6. Sports (5)

There are 9 boys and 10 girls among the awardees

# First-ever National Creators Award in 20 categories



- PM Modi awarded young creators at the National Creators Awards 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi
- The National Creators Award is an effort to recognise excellence and impact across domains, including storytelling, social change advocacy, environmental sustainability, education, and gaming, among others.

| Category               | Award Recipient            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Social Media           | Keerthika Govindhasamy     |
| Storytelling           | (Keerthi History)          |
| Disruptor of the Year  | Ranveer Allahbadia         |
| Environmental          | Ms Pankti Pandey (ISRO Ex- |
| Advocacy               | Scientist)                 |
| <b>Creative Social</b> | Jaya Kishori               |
| Change                 | 000                        |

| Agriculture Impact           | Lakshya Dabas              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Cultural Ambassador</b>   | Maithili Thakur            |
| International                | Kiri Paul, Drew Hicks,     |
| Creators                     | Cassandra Mae Spittmann    |
| Travel Content               | Kamiya Jani (Curly Tales)  |
| Creation                     | -102                       |
| Tech Innovation              | Gaurav Chaudhary           |
| 340                          | (Technical Guruji)         |
| Swachhata                    | Malhar Kalambe             |
| Ambassador                   |                            |
| Heritage Fashion Icon        | Jahnvi Singh               |
| Awarded the Best             | Shraddha                   |
| <b>Creative Creator -</b>    | - Jugar                    |
| Female                       | 0.01                       |
| <b>Best Creative Creator</b> | RJ Raunaq                  |
| - Male award                 | /000                       |
| Culinary Excellence          | Kabita's Kitchen           |
| Celebrity Creator            | Aman Gupta (boAT CEO)      |
| Educational                  | Naman Deshmukh             |
| Excellence                   |                            |
| Health and Fitness           | Ankit Baiyanpuria          |
| Gaming Enthusiast            | Nischay (Triggered Insaan) |
| Micro Content                | Aridaman                   |
| Creator                      | 10                         |
| Nano Content                 | Piyush Purohit             |
| Creator                      |                            |

### **National Youth Parliament Festival 2024**



- Organised from 9th February 2024 to 6th March 2024 across the country.
- Theme 2024- 'Young Voices: Engage and Empower for Nation's Transformation'.
- Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana won the first prize

#### **National Youth Parliament Festival**

- NYPF is based on the idea given by the Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat Address in 2017.
- 1st edition of NYPF was organised in 2019.
- Objective: To hear the voice of youth in this age bracket of 18-25 who are allowed to vote but cannot contest in elections.
- Article 84 (b) of Constitution of India provides that the minimum age for becoming a candidate for Lok Sabha election shall be 25 years.

### Ratan Tata Awarded PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Philanthropy Work



Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.

## Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the year



- Given jointly to independent journalist Greeshma
   Kuthar, and Ritika Chopra of the Indian Express.
- The award was set up by the Media Foundation in 1980,
- Chameli Devi Jain, a freedom fighter and community reformer

## Ratan Tata Receives Prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021

 Industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.





- The award ceremony was held at his residence in Mumbai, marking a significant recognition of his commitment to social development and exemplary corporate leadership.
- Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran
- Initiated in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta (founder of KISS), the KISS Humanitarian Award is the highest honour of KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology) and KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences), Bhubaneshwar, Odisha

# Singareni CMD Balaram receives "Tree Man of Telangana" award



- Chairman and Managing Director of Singareni
  Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) N. Balaram has been
  honoured with "Tree Man of Telangana" award by
  the Green Maple Foundation.
- For his efforts of planting over 18,000 samplings individually and helping develop 35 mini-forests in six districts.
- The Green Maple Foundation presents the award every year to encourage measures for environmental protection by public sector and private companies.

# Agri-entrepreneur Sopna Kallingal secures Spice Award 2024

- Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation, Thrissur, received Spice Award 2024, instituted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research (Kozikode, Kerala).
- The award has been given to her for her initiatives in



enterprise diversification and integrated crop management strategies, **promoting a sustainable spice-based cropping system.** 

# Anant Darshan Shankar receives M.S. Swaminathan Environment Protection Award



- Established one of the largest conservation networks of wild medicinal plants.
- The Norman Borlaug 1998, Padmashri 2011

## NITC student wins awards for best thesis for her work on Nagpur city

M. Plan graduate
(2022-24) from the
Department of
Architecture and
Planning, National
Institute of
Technology, Calicut
(NIT-C) has won the
NIUA-NMCG (National
Institute for Urban
Affairs- National
Mission for Clean
Ganga) Best Thesis
Award in the



- postgraduate category for the year 2024.
- The year's theme focused on 'Re-imagining Urban Rivers'.
- Her work titled 'Enhancing Resilience and Imageability of Urban Areas through their Lake and River Assets – A Case of Nagpur'.

### President Droupadi Murmu presented National Teachers Award 2024 to 82 teachers in New Delhi

 The awards are presented on September 5 each year on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.



- Only regular Teachers and Heads of Schools with minimum ten years of services are eligible for these awards.
- Each award carries a certificate of merit, a cash award of ₹50,000 and a silver medal.

# Wokha SAATHI gets Gold Award and National Awards for e-Governance Scheme 2023-2024



- Wokha District Administration's innovative initiative, Wokha SAATHI (Smart AI-based Assistant for Timely Help & Interface) WhatsApp Chatbot, has been awarded the prestigious "Gold Award" in the National Awards for e-Governance Scheme 2023-2024 at the 27th National Conference on e-Governance held in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- It is the first time an initiative from Nagaland state received a Gold Award for its exemplary contribution to e-Governance.
- Wokha SAATHI WhatsApp Chatbot enables proactive Information Education Campaigns (IEC) through two-way communication between the government and citizens on a 24×7 basis.

## KSRTC bags Skoch National Award for heart related screening and treatment for employee's initiative

- Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, (KSRTC) has bagged the Skoch National Award for its implementation of "Sarige Sanjeevini" - heart related screening and treatment for employees initiative.
- SKOCH Group India is an independent think tank industry based in New Delhi established in 1997
- SKOCH awards instituted in 2003 for best governance, finance, technology and inclusive growth.

# 25<sup>th</sup> Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence 2024





- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the 25th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence, 2024
- to distinguished philanthropist, Smt. Rajashree Birla Ji, Chairperson of Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development at Vice-President's Enclave.

## National Award for Jani Master revoked after POCSO case

 The National Film Awards Cell under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting revoked the National Film Award for Best Choreography for Choreographer Shaik Jani Basha, popularly known as Jani Master, following the filing of a Protection

## of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case against him.





# Science and Technology Ministry withdraws support from Kalinga Prize



- The Science and Technology Ministry has withdrawn its contribution to the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science
- Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has protested the withdrawal and requested the restoration of support.

## About the UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science

- UNESCO's oldest award, instituted through a donation by Odisha's former Chief Minister
- instituted by his father legendary Biju Patnaik in 1952.
- The prize winner is selected by UNESCO's Director-General on the recommendation of a five-member jury
- The Science Ministry has been supporting this award since 2001.
- Award: Cash prize of US\$40,000 and a Kalinga Chair with an additional
- US\$5,000,UNESCO-Albert Einstein silver medal.

 UNESCO Kalinga Prize is the only international award from India in the field of popularisation of science

### Anil Pradhan wins Rohini Nayyar Prize

 Anil Pradhan, co-founder of Young Tinker
 Foundation, a non-profit organisation working on hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
 education in underserved areas, was awarded the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding
 Contribution to Rural Development



- The prize has been instituted in the memory of Rohini Nayyar by her family.
- Rohini Nayyar, an economist, served as an IAS officer in the Uttar Pradesh cadre, and worked with the erstwhile Planning Commission of India from 1987 to 2005.
- She passed away in 2021.
- The prize, comprising a cash award of Rs. 10 lakh, a citation and trophy,

# First edition of Chaudhary Charan Singh Awards Conferred



- Instituted by the Kisan Trust (founded by Chaudhary Charan Singh)
- For remarkable contributions to agriculture, rural development, and journalism.

- Kalam Ratna Award was presented to Ms. Neerja Chowdhury for her dedication to insightful journalism.
- Sewa Ratna Award was conferred upon Dr.
   Rajendra Singh, the "Waterman of India," for his pioneering efforts in water conservation.
- Krishak Utthan Award went to Dr. Firoz Hossain for advancing agricultural research and innovation.
- **Kisan Award** was bestowed upon **Mr. Pritam Singh** for his contributions to agricultural excellence.

Jaishankar Receives Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Award for Leadership

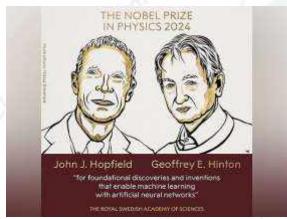


- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was awarded the Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award for Public Leadership by the South Indian Education Society (SIES).
- South Indian Education Society (SIES) is one of the oldest educational societies in Mumbai and was pioneered in 1932

### INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

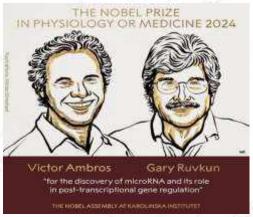
- 1. Nobel Prize in Physics 2024
- 2. Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
- 3. Nobel Prize in chemistry
- 4. Nobel Prize in Literature
- 5. Nobel Peace Prize
- 6. Companion of the Order of Fiji
- 7. Ramon Magsaysay Award
- 8. SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2024
- 9. International Mother Teresa awards
- 10. 2024 Pioneer of the Year Award
- 11. Gulbenkian Prize
- 12. Green Nobel
- 13. John Dirks Gairdner Global Health Award
- 14. World Press Photo of the Year award
- 15. World Literary Prize
- 16. EMMY Awards 2024
- 17. 81st Golden Globe Awards
- 18. International Sports Personality Award
- 19. PATA gold award 2024
- 20. Grammys 2024
- 21. 77th British Academy Film Awards
- 22. Pritzker Architecture Prize
- 23. Abel Prize
- 24. Erasmus Prize 2024
- 25. Oscar Awards 2024
- 26. Pulitzer Prize 2024
- 27. World Press Freedom Prize
- 28. Cannes 2024
- 29. Green Airports Recognition-2024 award
- 30. International Booker Prize
- 31. Gandhi Mandela Award
- 32. Miss India Worldwide 2024
- 33. Femina Miss India World 2024
- 34. MIDORI Prize

Nobel Prize in Physics 2024: John J. Hopfield, Geoffrey E. Hinton awarded for work on machine learning with artificial neural network



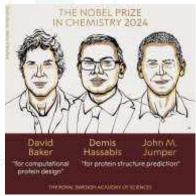
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics to John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton
- for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks

### 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine Awarded to Victor Ambros & Gary Ruvkun



- Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun have been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology 2024
- for the discovery of microRNA and its role in posttranscriptional gene regulation.
- They discovered microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation
- The prizes carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$900,000) and will be awarded on December 10.
- The six prizes awarded are given by four organisations:
  - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Chemistry; Physics; Economic Science
  - Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute Physiology / Medicine
  - Swedish Academy Literature
  - Norwegian Nobel Committee Peace

## Nobel Prize in chemistry awarded to David Baker, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for work on 'protein research'



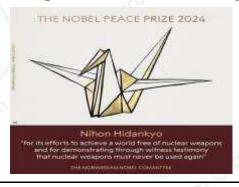
- The 2024 Nobel prize in Chemistry has been awarded to David Baker "for computational protein design"
- Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper "for protein structure prediction."
- the award honored research that made connections between amino acid sequence and protein structure.

# Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 goes to South Korean author Han Kang



- For her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.
- She is the first South Korean writer to win the award.

### Nobel Peace Prize 2024 awarded to Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo



- Nihon Hidankyo is the only nation-wide organization of A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Hibakusha).
- for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again
- Last year, the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to to Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi, who is currently imprisoned.
- In 2014, India's Kailash Satyarthi had won the award jointly with Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai.

### **Three share Economics Nobel Prize 2024**



- The Nobel memorial prize in economics has been awarded to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson
- for research into differences in prosperity between nations.
- The three economists "have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity,"
- The economics prize is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred highest honour – Companion of the Order of Fiji in capital Suva



- President Murmu addressed the Fijian Parliament where she recalled the 75 years diplomatic association between the countries.
- President Fiji Ratu Wiliame Katonivere
- Prime Minister of Fiji, Sitiveni Rabuka
- High Commissioner of India to Fiji, PS Karthigeyan.

## Mauritius confers honorary degree of doctor of civil law on president



- President Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest at the national day celebrations on March 12.
- The sixth Indian president to attend the Mauritian National Day as the chief guest since 2000.

# Japanese anime director Miyazaki won the Ramon Magsaysay Award



- Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki, considered one of the greatest animators and directors, has won the 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award. His masterpieces - "My Neighbour Totoro" and "Kiki's Delivery Service"
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, established in 1957, stands as one of the most prestigious honors in Asia.
- It was created in the memory of Ramon
   Magsaysay, the third president of the Philippines
- The award ceremony is scheduled to take place in Manila in November 2024



#### The 2024 laureates are:

- 1. **Miyazaki Hayao (Japan)** Renowned filmmaker and founder of Studio Ghibli
- 2. **Farwiza Farhan (Indonesia) -** Environmentalist and social justice advocate
- 3. **Karma Phuntsho (Bhutan) -** Former monk, scholar, and cultural preservationist
- Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong (Vietnam) -Physician and advocate for Agent Orange victims
- Rural Doctors Movement (Thailand) -Collective of healthcare professionals revolutionizing rural health

### SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2024 to Alexander Dunn

- Alexander Dunn (of the Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S.) has been awarded the prestigious
   2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.
- This honor will be presented at the International Conference on Number Theory, which will take place from December 20-22, 2024, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
- recognized for his outstanding contributions to analytic number theory
- The Award is instituted by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) in 2005.
- The award includes a cash prize of \$10,000
- presented annually to young mathematicians aged 32 and below
- for their contributions to areas influenced by Ramanujan's work.
- This Prize draws its inspiration from one of India's greatest mathematical minds, Srinivasa
   Ramanujan. Born on December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu

# Mike Pandey wins 2024 Jackson Wild Legacy Award



- Renowned Indian filmmaker and conservationist
   Mike Pandey has been awarded the 2024 Jackson
   Wild Legacy Award, one of the most prestigious
   global honours in wildlife and environmental
   filmmaking.
- at a ceremony in Maryland, USA

## ICMR Wins U.N. Award for NCD Control Efforts



- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been honored with the prestigious 2024 @UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award
- for its significant achievements in advancing multisectoral efforts to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health issues

## TN CM M.K. Stalin honoured with Asia HRD Lifetime Achievement award



 The award recognises and honours individuals or organisations who have contributed to the advancement in the field of human development and have impacted society, the business sphere and community.

## Prasanthi Ram, Indian Origin lecturer, won Singapore literature prize for English fiction for her short story - Nine Yard Sarees



### 24th International Mother Teresa awards



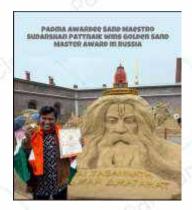
- The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards
   Ceremony took place at the Millennium Plaza
   Dubai, commemorating the 114th birth
   anniversary of the revered humanitarian.
- organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, was held outside India for only the second time.
- The awards, established after Mother Teresa's
   passing in 1997, recognized exceptional individuals
   who have made significant contributions in
   various fields including education, science,
   culture, sports, social work, medicine, industry,
   and politics in India.

# Top global ranking for RBI Governor recognition of his leadership



- Mr. Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally for the second consecutive year by the USbased Global Finance magazine.
- This is a recognition of his leadership at the RBI and his work towards ensuring economic growth and stability."

## Sudarsan Pattnaik won gold at International Sand Sculpture Championship



- Artist Sudarshan Pattnaik won the Golden Sand Master Award with a gold medal at the International Sand Sculpture Championship held in St. Petersburg, Russia
- He created a sand sculpture of Mahaprabhu
   Jagannath and his great devotee Balaram Das.
- Pattnaik is also a Padma Shri awardee (2014)

## **Greta Gerwig received 2024 Pioneer of the Year Award**



- Greta Gerwig, filmmaker of 'Lady Bird', 'Little
  Women', and 'Barbie', was honoured with the 2024
  Pioneer of the Year Award by the Will Rogers
  Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation.
- Gerwig's 'Barbie' made history as the first solo female-directed film to surpass \$1 billion in global box office earnings.

## Andhra Pradesh's natural farming model wins Gulbenkian Prize

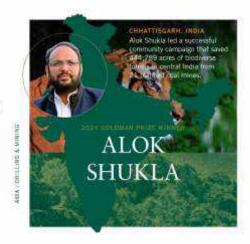


- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), a State government's initiative launched through Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) seven years ago, has won the 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity,
- an award instituted by Portugal-based Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF) and presented annually to individuals and organisations contributing to global food security, climate resilience and ecosystem protection.
- The APCNF is a Statewide programme supporting smallholder farmers to switch from chemically intensive agriculture to 'natural farming'

# MATTER bagged Clarivate South Asia Innovation Award 2024 in Automotive Category

- MATTER, a leader in India's electric mobility and energy sector, clinched the Clarivate South Asia Innovation Award 2024 in Automotive category.
- The company boasts an impressive portfolio of patents, focusing on cutting-edge solutions for thermal management, motor assembly, and energy storage.
- Till date MATTER has a portfolio of 250+ patent applications including 25 grants & 76 publications.
- Matter founded in January 2019 in Ahmedabad

# Alok Shukla wins Goldman Prize or 'Green Nobel' for Hasdeo Aranya campaign



- Alok Shukla, convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia
- Shukla has been declared winner for his **efforts to** save the forests of Hasdeo Aranya in Chhattisgarh.
- Alok Shukla led a successful community campaign that saved 4,45,000 acres of biodiversity-rich forests from 21 planned coal mines in Chhattisgarh

# RGIA bags 'Best Airport Staff in India and South Asia' award by Skytrax



- The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA),
   Hyderabad clinched the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' by Skytrax.
- The announcement took place during a ceremony held at the passenger terminal expo 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany.

## Skytrax World Airport Awards: Doha's Hamad is world's best airports



- Doha's Hamad International beat 12-time winner Singapore Changi.
- 5 Indian airports in Top 100: Delhi at 36th,
   Mumbai 95th, Bengaluru 59th, and Hyderabad
   61st, Manohar International Airport of Goa ranked
   92
- Only European and Asian airports made the top 10, with none in the US even breaking the top 20.

### World's Best 3 Airports of 2024:

- Doha Hamad
- Singapore Changi
- Seoul Incheon

## George Lucas to receive honorary Palme d'Or at 2024 Cannes Film Festival



- Hollywood veteran George Lucas will be felicitated with an honorary Palme d'Or at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.
- Lucas is best known for creating the long-running and smash hit franchises Star Wars and Indiana Jones
- The 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival will be held from May 14 to 25 in Cannes, France

## Prestigious John Dirks Gairdner Global Health Award for Dr. Gagandeep Kang

 India's Dr Gagandeep Kang, Director of Global Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation,

### has been selected for 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award



- for her achievements in global health research.
- It is the most well-recognised global health award.

## Kaushik Rajashekara Honored with International Fellowship by the Engineering Academy of Japan



- An award-winning Indian-origin professor at the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering has been elected as an International Fellow of the Engineering Academy of Japan.
- Originally from Karnataka, In 2022, Rajashekara received the most coveted prize in the field of international energy, the Global Energy Prize, by Global Energy Association.

### Reuters' Mohammed Salem wins 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award



 for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.

## India Today's AI anchor Sana wins global media award



- India Today Group's Al anchor Sana won two awards at the International News Media Association Global Media Awards held in London:
- 'Best Use of Al in Customer-Facing Products' category
- 'Best in South Asia for AI-Led Newsroom Transformation' award
- John McCarthy, the father of AI

# ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 team receives John L "Jack" Swigert Jr award at space symposium



- a top award from the US-based Space Foundation.
- This annual award honors a space agency, company, or consortium of organizations in the realm of space exploration and discovery.

# Kannada poet Mamta G. Sagar wins World Literary Prize



Mamta G. Sagar, a Bengaluru-based Kannada poet, writer, academic and activist, has recently won the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) for her contributions to the world of literature.

# Powerlifter Gaurav Sharma awarded honorary doctorate by US university for sports excellence



- Powerlifter Gaurav Sharma had won two gold medals at the 2016 World Powerlifting Championships in England.
- In 2007, he won four gold medals at the Commonwealth Championships in New Zealand.

## Indian Youth Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta Received 'Diana Legacy Award'



- Uday Bhatia, founder of Uday Electric, and Manasi Gupta, founder of Huesofthemind Foundation, received their awards from Prince William, the older son of Princess Diana, at an awards ceremony in London's Science Museum
- They were among 20 worldwide recipients of the Diana Legacy Awards, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Diana Award charity set up in memory of the late Princess of Wales.
- a prestigious accolade for exceptional young people from around the world for their social action or humanitarian work.

# IAA India to receive Earthday.Org's sustainability award

- In commemoration of Earth Day 2024,
   EARTHDAY.ORG, the world's largest environmental movement, has announced the recipients of its prestigious 2024 awards.
- The International Advertising Association (IAA)
  India Chapter is to receive the 'EARTHDAY.ORG's
  2024 Best Organisation Spearheading Sustainable
  Development' Award.
- For IAA's commitment to recognising and inspiring marketing and advertising companies to drive positive environmental action.

### **ISRO** gets Aviation Week Laureates Award



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has been honoured with the prestigious Aviation Week Laureates Award in for its achievements with the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- Since its inception in 1957, Aviation
   Week Network's Laureate Awards have honored extraordinary achievements in aerospace

### **EMMY Awards 2024**

 The 75th Primetime Emmy Awards were held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.



| Category                           | Winner(s)           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Drama Series                       | Succession          |
| Comedy Series                      | The Bear            |
| Limited or Anthology Series        | Beef                |
| <b>Reality Competition Program</b> | The Amazing Race    |
| Talk Series                        | The Daily Show with |
|                                    | Trevor Noah         |

# India-set 'To Kill a Tiger' nominated for best documentary feature at Oscars 2024



- The documentary is directed by Nisha Pahuja, a Toronto based film maker.
- It is set in a small Indian village.
- The film is a Canadian production and had its world premiere at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival, where it won the Amplify Voices Award for Best Canadian Feature Film.
- The 96th annual Academy Awards will be held on March 10 at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles

### 81st Golden Globe Awards



Best Motion Picture, Drama: Oppenheimer



Best Director: Christopher Nolan for Oppenheimer



Best Actor – Cillian Murphy for Oppenheimer



 Best Actress – Lily Gladstone for Killers of the Flower Moon



- Best supporting actor Robert Downey Jr. for Oppenheimer
- Oppenheimer won 5 awards in total (including Best Original Score)



• In the **television categories**, **'Succession'** series won the award for Best Drama.



The **Golden Globe Awards** are annual awards that honor excellence in American and international film and television.

The ceremony has been held **since 1944**It is **considered the second most important award** in the entertainment industry, after the Academy Awards and Emmy Awards

# Willem Dafoe honoured with first Hollywood Walk of Fame star in 2024

 The Hollywood Walk of Fame is a historic landmark which consists of five-pointed stars embedded in the sidewalks of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street in Hollywood, California.



 The stars are monuments to achievement in the entertainment industry, bearing the names of a mix of actors, directors, producers, musicians, theatrical/musical groups, fictional characters, and others.

## Dubai secures top spot in 2024 Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Awards for third consecutive year



## Dubai won **Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Destinations Awards 2024**

Dubai is the first city to accomplish such a feat in succession

Tripadvisor is the world's largest travel guidance platform

## **Endangered Alphabets Writing award 2024**

- Prasanna Sree Sathupati
  has been selected for the
  Endangered Alphabets
  Writing award for 2024.
- She is the only Indian and woman in the world winner's list to be receiving the award on the January 23.
- The award will be presented at an event in Vermont in the US.
- The Endangered Alphabets Writing award is a prestigious award given to people who work to revive traditional scripts.

### Gianni Infantino receives International Sports Personality Award in Dubai



- FIFA President received the award at Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Awards
- Award bestowed on innovators who use creativity to develop sport

# Sunil Bharti Mittal becomes first Indian citizen to be conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King



- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil
  Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian citizen to
  receive an Honorary Knighthood from United
  Kingdom's King Charles III.
- An honorary Knighthood is one of the highest honours granted by the British Sovereign to civilians, conferred upon foreign nationals in recognition of their exceptional contributions.

## Jana Small Finance Bank Sweeps 4 Awards At ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave



- At the prestigious 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards, Jana Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of:
  - > Best Small Finance Bank, India,
  - Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up),
  - > Best Performance on Asset Quality,
  - > Best Performance on Risk Management.
- Jana Small Finance Bank, erstwhile Janalakshmi
   Financial Services (JFS), is a scheduled commercial bank
- Headquartered in Bengaluru
- it started banking operations on March 28, 2018.

## Kerala tourism presented PATA gold award 2024



- Kerala Tourism was presented the globally acclaimed Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)
   Gold Award 2024 at a function in Bangkok
- for its online contest 'Holiday Heist' in the Digital Marketing Campaign category

## Beypore Responsible Tourism project in Kerala bags ICRT Gold award

The Comprehensive Responsible Tourism (RT)
 project being implemented by the Kerala Tourism
 in Beypore has won the Gold award of the

International Centre for Responsible Tourism, India Chapter, (ICRT India) for 2024.



- The award in the 'Employing and upskilling local community' category has been given
- This is the State's third consecutive year receiving this award.

## Shashi Tharoor conferred France's highest civilian honour

- France's highest civilian honour "Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- in recognition of Dr Tharoor's tireless efforts to deepen Indo-French ties, commitment to international peace and cooperation, and as a longstanding friend of France,

### Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee wins Romain Rolland Book Prize 2024 for Bengali translation



- Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee has won the 7th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize.
- For his Bengali translation of the French novel
   Stalin's Couch
- The French original, Le Divan de Staline, was written by Jean-Daniel Baltassat
- Instituted in 2017 by the French Institute in India, it recognises translations of French books into Indian languages, including English.

India won 9<sup>th</sup> GovTech Prize at the 2024 World Government Summit in Dubai for its "AI-Powered Government Services" category



- The award recognizes the remarkable efforts of the Ministry for Road Transport & Highways for its iRASTE project, which uses AI technology to improve road safety to prevent accidents.
- The GovTech Prize is an annual award established by the UAE government to recognize government bodies for their innovative solutions and its impact
- The 2024 World Government Summit took place from February 12–14, 2024 in Dubai.
- The award was distributed by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, crown prince of Dubai and received by Tadu Mamu, Consul at the Consulate General of India, on India's behalf.

Grammys 2024: Shankar Mahadevan, Zakir Hussain's group 'Shakti' wins Best Global Music Album award





- The 66th Annual Grammy Awards took place in Los Angeles, California.
- Shakti, a fusion music group comprising tabla maestro Zakir Hussain and singer Shankar Mahadevan, has won the 2024 Grammy Award for best global music album for 'This Moment'



 The album features founding member, guitarist John McLaughlin alongside Hussain, Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan and percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram.



Hussain won two more Grammys at the event:
 one for best global music performance for 'Pashto'
 and the other for best contemporary instrumental
 album for 'As We Speak' – along with
 Flutist Rakesh Chaurasia (nephew of legendary
 flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia)

| Category           | Winner                              |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Song of the Year   | Billie Eilish – What Was I          |
|                    | Made For? from Barbie               |
| Album of the Year  | Taylor Swift – Midnights (first     |
|                    | person to win this category         |
|                    | four times)                         |
| Record of the Year | Miley Cyrus - 'Flowers'             |
| Best Global Music  | Indian musicians Shankar            |
| Album              | Mahadevan and Zakir                 |
|                    | Hussain's fusion band 'Shakti'      |
| Best Contemporary  | As We Speak by Béla Fleck,          |
| Instrumental       | Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer          |
| Album              | featuring Rakesh Chaurasia          |
| Best Global Music  | " <b>Pashto,"</b> Béla Fleck, Edgar |
| Performance        | Meyer and Zakir Hussain             |
|                    | featuring Rakesh Chaurasia          |

### Nima Sarikhani bags 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' People's Choice Award



- An image of a polar bear sleeping on a small iceberg has bagged the 2023 Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.
- picture called the 'Ice Bed'
- Each year, this photography competition is organised by the Natural History Museum.

# 77th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) 2024



- The British Academy of Film and Television Arts, more commonly known as the BAFTAs
- were held on 18 February 2024, honouring the best national and foreign films of 2023, at the Royal Festival Hall within London's Southbank Centre.
- Deepika Padukone presents Best Non-English Film Award
- Oppenheimer won seven BAFTAs: including Best Film; Director for Christopher Nolan; Leading Actor for Cillian Murphy; Supporting Actor for Robert Downey Jr.
- Poor Things won five BAFTAs: including Leading Actress for Emma Stone

| Award           | Winner                             |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Best film       | Oppenheimer                        |
| Director        | Oppenheimer - Christopher<br>Nolan |
| Leading actress | Emma Stone - Poor Things           |
| Leading actor   | Cillian Murphy -                   |
|                 | Oppenheimer                        |

| Outstanding British film | The Zone of Interest |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Documentary              | 20 Days In Mariupol  |

Bina Agarwal and James Boyce awarded the first "Global Inequality Research Award"



- for their significant contributions to understanding global inequalities.
- The World Inequality Lab (WIL) and Sciences Po's Center for Research on Social Inequalities (CRIS) have joined forces for the first edition of the Global Inequality Research Award (or GiRA)
- aims to recognize every two years researchers from all disciplines who have made a significant contribution to the understanding of global inequalities.

# CMD of RK Swamy 'Srinivasan Swamy' bags IAA Golden Compass Award



- Srinivasan K. Swamy, CMD of integrated marketing services company RK Swami Ltd. has been presented with IAA Goden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.
- IAA International Advertising Association
- The award honours those who have significantly contributed to the world stage in the field of marketing, advertising and media.
- This is the first time this award is being bestowed upon an Indian industry leader.

## India receives 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Global Award for its Exemplary Efforts in combating these Diseases

India receives 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Global Award for its Exemplary Efforts in combating these Diseases

ALL INDIA RADIO MARCH 9TH, 2024



- The award was received by the ambassador
   Sripriya Ranganathan on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington.
- India's effort have resulted in 50 districts consistently not witnessing any measles case while 226 districts have not reported rubella cases over the past 12 months.
- Awarded by Measles and Rubella Partnership –
  which comprises a multi-agency planning
  committee, including the American Red Cross, Bill
  and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Global
  Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI),
  UNICEF and WHO.

## Riken Yamamoto of Japan declared winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize



- The award that is regarded internationally as one of architecture's top honors
- Yamamoto, is the 53rd Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate and the ninth from Japan, was honoured for his buildings that aim to foster community.

## Michel Talagrand Awarded the 2024 Abel Prize

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters
has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to

Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France.

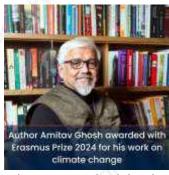


Michel Talagrand awarded the 2024 Abel Prize

for his groundbreaking corordactors to probability heory and functional analysis, with outstanding polications in mathematical physics and statistics.

- for his groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics.
- The Abel Prize recognises pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics
- The Abel Prize is named after Niels Henrik Abel, Norway's greatest mathematician throughout the times.

# Indian Writer Amitav Ghosh Awarded Prestigious Erasmus Prize 2024



- Indian author Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the prestigious Erasmus Prize 2024 by the
   Netherlands-based Praemium Erasmianum
   Foundation
- for his significant contributions to the theme "imagining the unthinkable" through his writings on the climate crisis and human interactions with nature.
- He won the Padma Shri in 2007; 54th Jnanpith award in 2018 (India's highest literary honor).

## Indian-British Writer's Book on Al Shortlisted for Women's Prize



Indian-British journalist and commentator
 Madhumita Murgia's book "Code Dependent:
 Living in the Shadow of Al" has been shortlisted
 for the 2024 inaugural Women's Prize for Non Fiction.

## Dr. Sultan Al Jaber Honored For Sustainable Energy Leadership



- Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President of COP28, was awarded the prestigious 'CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future' at the CERAWeek by S&P Global conference at Houston.
- COP 28 refers to the United Nations Climate
   Change Conference took place in Dubai, United
   Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

### Oscar Awards 2024



- **Since 1929**, the Oscars have recognized excellence in cinematic achievements.
- The 96th Academy Awards ceremony, which was presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), took place on March 10, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, US.
- Academy Awards 2024 were presented in 23 categories honoring films released in 2023.
- Jimmy Kimmel was the host for the fourth time.



| Category      | Winner                    |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Best Actor    | Cillian Murphy,           |
| 1000          | "Oppenheimer"             |
| Best Director | Christopher Nolan,        |
| S. Kelly      | "Oppenheimer"             |
| Best Picture  | "Oppenheimer"             |
| Best Actress  | Emma Stone, "Poor Things" |

| <b>Best Supporting Actor</b> | Robert Downey Jr.,         |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                              | "Oppenheimer"              |
| Best Supporting              | Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The |
| Actress                      | Holdovers"                 |
| Best Song                    | "What Was I Made For?"     |
|                              | from "Barbie"              |
| Best International           | "The Zone of Interest"     |
| Feature                      |                            |
| Best Animated                | "The Boy and the Heron"    |
| Feature                      |                            |
| Best Documentary             | "20 Days in Mariupol"      |
| Feature                      | 75.                        |
|                              |                            |

# Gina Justus Wins 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards For Middle East And North Africa



- Gina Justus has been named the regional winner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards.
- Justus, originally from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, has been working in the UAE since 2005 and was recognised for her outstanding mentorship and dedication to charity.
- The Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards is a global competition that honors exceptional primary and secondary school teachers.
- The public will now vote to determine the overall winner of the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards

### Lokesh Muni honoured with American President's Gold Volunteer Service Award



- Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award in recognition of his contribution to the public good and humanity.
- Acharya Lokesh Muni is the founder of a nongovernmental organisation, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharat and the World Peace Center in India.
- The American President's Volunteer Service Award was established in 2003 during George Bush's Presidency.
- Jain Acharya Lokesh received the Presidential award, a Certificate of Honour, a Golden Shield, and a citation bearing the signature of American President Joe Biden.

## Designer Bhavi Mehta wins Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2024 for 'The Book Beautiful'



- "The Book Beautiful" authored by Pradeep Sebastian, published by Hachette India.
- Mehta received a trophy, certificate, and a cash prize of INR 1 lakh.

### **Pulitzer Prize 2024 Winners Announced**



- Pulitzer Prizes for 2024 were conferred by Columbia University, USA on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- The awards are considered the most prestigious in the fields of journalism and arts
- It recognises work in 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories.

- The Pulitzer Prize was established by Joseph Pulitzer in 1904
- The first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded in 1917

### **Journalism Category**

| Category          | Winner                             |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Public Service    | Pro Publica (Joshua Kaplan,        |
|                   | Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex |
|                   | Mierjeski, and Kirsten Berg)       |
| Investigative     | Hannah Dreier (The New York        |
| Reporting         | Times)                             |
| International     | Staff of The New York Times        |
| Reporting         | 740,                               |
| Editorial Writing | David E. Hoffman (The              |
|                   | Washington Post)                   |
| Breaking News     | Photography Staff of Reuters       |
| Photography       | 1030                               |
| Feature           | Photography Staff of Associated    |
| Photography       | Press                              |
| Audio Reporting   | Staff of the Invisible Institute   |
| 1 8               | and USG Audio                      |

### **Book, Drama, and Music Category**

| Category      | Winner                               |  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Fiction       | Night Watch. by Jayne Anne           |  |
|               | Phillips                             |  |
| Drama         | Primary Trust. by Eboni Booth        |  |
| History       | No Right to an Honest Living: The    |  |
|               | Struggles of Boston's Black Workers  |  |
|               | in the Civil War Era. by Jacqueline  |  |
|               | Jones                                |  |
| Biography     | 1. King: A Life, by Jonathan Eig, is |  |
|               | a biography of American Black        |  |
| of our F      | civil rights activist Martin         |  |
|               | Luther King Jr.                      |  |
|               | 2. Master Slave Husband Wife:        |  |
|               | An Epic Journey from Slavery to      |  |
|               | Freedom by Ilyon Woo                 |  |
| Memoir and    | Liliana's Invincible Summer: A       |  |
| Autobiography | Sister's Search for Justice. by      |  |
|               | Cristina Rivera Garza                |  |
| Poetry        | Tripas: Poems by Brandon Som         |  |
| Music         | Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith). by    |  |
|               | Tyshawn Sorey                        |  |
| General       | A Day in the Life of Abed Salama:    |  |
| Nonfiction    | Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy.      |  |
|               | by Nathan Thrall                     |  |

- A special citation was issued to the late writer and critic Gregory Stephen Tate (Greg Tate), an American writer, musician, and producer.
- A special citation was also given to journalists and media workers covering the war in Gaza.





## Purnima Devi Barman receives 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024



- A wildlife biologist from Assam has been honoured with a leading UK wildlife charity award for conserving the endangered greater adjutant or Hargila (as called locally by community in Assam), one of the world's rarest storks.
- Dr. Barman received the trophy from charity patron Princess Anne – the Princess Royal, the sister of King Charles III, at the Royal Geographical Society award ceremony in London, United Kingdom.
- The birds are mainly found in the wetland areas of North -East, especially Assam. The population of the birds, which had dropped to around 450, has increased to over 1800 in the areas mainly due to the conservation efforts of Dr Purnima and her Hargila Army.
- Whitley Fund for Nature is a charity registered in the United Kingdom. It was established in 1993.

- The charity instituted the Whitley Gold Awards in 2007.
- The Whitley Gold Awards is given to grassroots conservation leaders from the global south for their efforts in mobilising the local community to find local solutions to the global biodiversity and climate crises.

### **Greater Adjutant Storks (Garuda)**



- Once found across South and Southeast Asia, the Greater Adjutant is one of the most threatened stork species in the world.
- There are only three known breeding grounds one in Cambodia and two in India (Assam and Bihar).

#### **Protection Status:**

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule IV

## Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize



- Palestinian journalists covering Gaza have been named as laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- Created in 1997, the annual Prize honours an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger.
- It is named for Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist

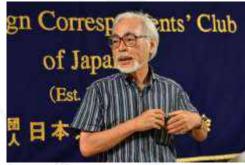
#### **UNESCO**

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- With 194 Member States, it contributes to peace and security by leading multilateral cooperation on education, science, culture, communication and information.
- Headquartered in Paris
- Director-General: Audrey Azoulay

## George Lucas, Meryl Streep & Studio Ghibli set to receive Cannes honorary Palme D'Or



- Hollywood actress Meryl Streep is set to be honored with a special Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival's opening ceremony on May 14
- In a first ever, the upcoming Cannes Film Festival will give an Honorary Palme d'Or for a group – Studio Ghibli -- well known for its brilliant animation cinema.



- The Japanese studio house has made movies as Spirited Away, My Neighbour Totoro and The Boy and the Heron (which won an Oscar this year).
- Director Hayao Miyazaki is one of the founders
- Star Wars' creator George Lucas will also get the Honorary Palme.



# NTPC gets global recognition for Talent Development, secures 3rd rank at ATD BEST Awards 2024



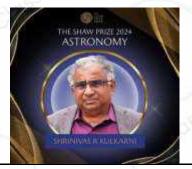
- NTPC has achieved a milestone by securing the 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Awards 2024, this being the highest ranking among all Indian companies.
- Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years.
- The ATD BEST Awards, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D).
- It honors organizations that leverage talent development as a strategic business tool and demonstrate enterprise-wide success through effective employee development practices.

### Mohanji Receives Prestigious 2024 Humanitarian Award



- Mohanji, renowned humanitarian and spiritual leader, was honored with a special recognition
- for his global humanitarian leadership at the 9th Conscious Companies Awards - in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### Indian-Origin Professor Shrinivas R Kulkarni Wins Shaw Prize in Astronomy



- The annual Shaw Prize in Astronomy will be awarded to US professor of astronomy Shrinivas
   R. Kulkarni, who is of Indian descent
- for his groundbreaking research on millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transitory astronomical events.
- "The Shaw Prize consists of three annual prizes:
   Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and
   Mathematical Sciences, each bearing a monetary award of USD 1.2 million.
- This will be the 21st year that the Prize has been awarded and the presentation ceremony is scheduled for, November 12 in Hong Kong.

Indian film 'Sunflowers Were the First
Ones to Know' wins La Cinef for Best Short
at Cannes 2024

India's 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know' wins La Cinef prize at Cannes 2024



- Indian filmmaker Chidananda S Naik's short film 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know' won the 1st prize in the 27th La Cinef category of the 77th Cannes Film Festival
- Chidananda S. Naik is a student at Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Cannes will give a grant of 15,000 euros for the first prize

Cannes 2024: Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine as Light' scripts history for India, wins Grand Prix



- Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine as Light bagged the Grand Prix, the second-highest award at the Cannes Film Festival.
- The only Indian film to ever win the Palme d'Or —
  then known as Grand Prix du Festival International
  du Film is Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar
  (1946).
- Mrinal Sen's domestic help drama Kharij won the Jury Prize in 1983.
- In 1994, Malayalam director Shaji N Karun's
   'Swaham' was the last film from India to compete
   for the Palme d'Or.
- American director Sean Baker's Anora won the Palme d'Or, the top prize at Cannes.



- Anasuya Sengupta, who hails from Kolkata, won Un Certain Regard Prize for Best Actress for her performance in The Shameless.
- Anasuya has created history by becoming the first Indian to win the award.
- The film, directed and written by Bulgarian filmmaker Konstantin Bojanov.
- Indian film Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know won the first place in the La Cinef Selection at this year's Cannes.
- The third prize of the La Cinef competition went to Mansi Maheshwari's animation film Bunnyhood.
   Maheshwari, born in Meerut and an ex-student of NIFT Delhi, made the film as a student of UK's National Film and Television School.

Made-In-India Cherrapunji Gin Secures Top Honour At Global Spirits Masters Competition



- Cherrapunji Eastern Craft Gin, a homegrown spirit from Meghalaya has won the top honor at the Global Spirits Masters competition.
- This gin outshined 110 brands from 55 countries to claim the top spot.
- It was featured at the London Wine Fair on May 21, 2024, in the United Kingdom, showcasing the flavors of Northeast India to the global spirits industry.
- Key ingredients include the GI-tagged Khasi mandarin from Meghalaya, Assam's GI Tagged kaji nemu (lemon) peel; among other ingrdients.



## KIA bags Green Airports Recognition-2024 award



- The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has bagged the silver award in the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific & Middle East 'Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024'.
- The KIA bagged the silver award in the category of airports handling between 15 million and 35 million passengers a year.
- The theme for the Green Airports Recognition 2024 is 'Biodiversity and nature-based solutions'.
- The recognised airports have been awarded in three categories – platinum, gold, and silver
- The airports are bracketed into four categories: over 35 million passengers a year, between 15 million and 35 million passengers, between 8 million and 15 million passengers, and less than 8 million passengers a year.
- The other Indian airports to win the GAR 2024 are:
  - New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (silver) in airports handling over 35 million passengers a year category and
  - Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh
     International Airport (silver) in airports
     handling less than 8 million passengers a year category.

Indian Army Major Radhika Sen Selected To Receive 2023 Military Gender Advocate Of Year Award



- The prestigious 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year award was conferred to Indian Army Major Sen by the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on International Day of the UN Peacekeepers (29 May)
- The award honours the efforts of a UN
  peacekeeper whose action promotes the principles
  of the United Nations Security Council resolution
  passed in 2000, which calls for the protection of
  women and children against sexual violence in
  conflict zones and sets gender-related
  responsibilities for the UN.

- Major Radhika, who is from Himachal Pradesh, was deployed with the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion in South Sudan in 2023.
- Sen is the second Indian peacekeeper to receive the honour after Major Suman Gawani, who served with the UN Mission in South Sudan and received the award in 2019.

# German author Jenny Erpenbeck wins International Booker Prize for Fiction for 'Kairos'

- Freenbeck and translator
  Michael Hofmann won the
  International Booker Prize
  for fiction for "Kairos," the
  story of a tangled love affair
  during the final years of
  East Germany's existence.
  - recognizes fiction from
    around the world that has been translated into
    English and published in the U.K. or Ireland.

Jenny

- The **50,000 pounds (\$64,000) in prize money** is divided between author and translator.
- Erpenbeck is the first German winner of the International Booker Prize, and Hofmann is the first male translator to win since the prize launched in its current form in 2016.

# Retired professor of victimology K. Chockalingam from Tamil Nadu has been selected for the esteemed Hans von Hentig award



- The award is instituted by the World Society of Victimology (WSV), which is a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization with Special Category consultative status with the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations) and the Council of Europe
- **Victimology** the study of the victims of crime and the psychological effects of their experience.

- Recognised for his significant contributions to the field of victimology, and will reportedly be the first Asian and Indian to be given this award.
- Mr. Chockalingam, was the founding member and head of the department of criminology of the University of Madras.
- The prestigious award will be presented to Mr.
   Chockalingam during the 18th WSV International

   Symposium on Victimology to be held at the
   National Forensic Science University of India,
   Gujarat, from September 1 to 5.

## Indian ship captain, crew win 'exceptional bravery' awards for Red Sea rescue



- Captain Avhilash Rawat and his crew from an oil tanker have received the 2024 International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.
- The annual awards ceremony will be held at IMO
   Headquarters in London on 2nd December 2024
   during the 109th session of the Maritime Security
   Committee
- The IMO, a specialised agency of the UN, regulates shipping and prevents marine pollution from ships.
- It was established in 1948 after a UN conference in Geneva and officially came into existence in 1958.
- It has 175 Member States, three Associate Members, India became a member in 1959.
- IMO celebrates World Maritime Day every last
   Thursday of September

## Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum Receives Prestigious Gandhi Mandela Award 2020

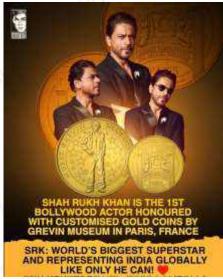


- The award was given on Nelson Mandela's 106th birth anniversary.
- The award is bestowed for promoting the values of Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, including community service and social development.
- The award is given for the promotion of peace and harmony.
- This year, the award has been given to Guatemalan human rights activist Rigoberta Menchú Tum, who has dedicated her life to advocating for Indigenous rights.
- Rigoberta Menchú's work has earned her numerous accolades, including the Nobel Peace
   Prize in 1992 and the Princess of Asturias Award in 1998.

## Rahaab Allana Honored with French Arts and Letters Insignia

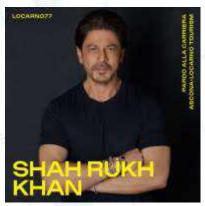
- Curator and author Rahaab Allana has been awarded the Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government for his significant contributions to contemporary South Asian photography.
- The prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to art, culture, and literature, or who have influenced the global arts landscape.

## Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan makes history, becomes first Indian actor to have gold coins dedicated to him at Paris' Grevin Museum



- The superstar has made history by becoming the first Indian actor to have a special coin dedicated to him at Paris' Grevin Museum.
- The Musée Grévin is a wax museum located in Paris on the right bank of the Seine.

# Shah Rukh Khan to receive career achievement award at Locarno Film Festival



- Shah Rukh Khan is set to receive the prestigious lifetime achievement award, the Pardo alla Carriera, or career leopard, at the 2024 Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland.
- He is also the first Indian personality to be honoured with the 'Pardo alla Carriere Ascona-Locarno Tourism'.
- He had Padma Shri from the Government of India (2005)

### Mike Leigh to receive Toronto Film Festival Tribute award

- British Writer-director Mike
   Leigh is to receive a Tribute
   Award at the 2024 Toronto Film
- Will receive the TIFF Ebert
   Director Award on September
- Leigh had previously received seven Oscar nominations, the Palme d'Or at Cannes, and the Golden Lion at Venice.



### Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Awarded 'Distinguished Mentor' by ACP



- by the American College of Physicians
- at the 9th Annual Conference of ACP India Chapter in Lucknow.

## Japanese woman, aged 116, set to become world's oldest person



- The title of the oldest living person now belongs to Japan's Tomiko Itooka, born on 23 May 1908, who is currently 116
- She was next in line for the title of world's oldest person after Maria Branyas Morera died in a Spanish
- Branyas became the world's oldest person in January 2023.
- Guinness World Records also issued a statement confirming that she passed away at the age of 117 years and 168 days.
- The oldest ever recorded was Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, who lived to be 122 years and 164 days old.

## **Dhruvi Patel wins Miss India Worldwide 2024**



 Dhruvi Patel, a Computer Information System student from the USA, has been declared the winner of Miss India Worldwide 2024, the longest running Indian pageant outside of India.

Rhea Singha crowned Miss Universe India 2024



- The 18-year-old **Rhea is from Gujarat** and will now represent India at Miss Universe 2024
- The 73rd Miss Universe pageant will take place in Mexico City on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

# Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh was crowned Femina Miss India World 2024 in Mumbai



She will go on to represent India at the Miss World contest.

The Miss World pageant is **one of the Big Four beauty pageants,** along with Miss Universe, Miss International, and Miss Earth

Recently, **Rhea Singha from Gujarat** crowned **Miss Universe India 2024** in Jaipur

## India's Rachel Gupta crowned first Miss Grand International 2024



- 20-year-old Rachel Gupta, a resident of Punjab, Jalandhar, has been crowned Miss Grand International (MGI) 2024.
- Miss Grand International 2024 was the 12th Miss Grand International pageant, held at the MGI Hall in Bangkok, Thailand, on 25 October 2024

### **IIFA Awards 2024**



- The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA)
   Awards 2024, took place in Abu Dhabi,
- celebrating the movies and talents of the Hindi film industry.

| CATEGORY                 | WINNERS                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Film                | Animal (total 5 awards) |
| Best Actor               | Shah Rukh Khan, Jawan   |
| Best Actress             | Rani Mukerji, Mrs       |
| 7/40),                   | Chatterjee vs Norway    |
| Best Director            | Vidhu Vinod Chopra,     |
| V                        | 12th Fail               |
| Best Story               | Rocky Aur Rani Kii      |
| 1                        | Prem Kahaani            |
| Outstanding Contribution | Jayantilal Gada, Hema   |
| to Indian Cinema         | Malini                  |
| Achievement on           | Karan Johar             |
| completing 25 years in   |                         |
| cinema                   | 1 - 55                  |

## 'The Night Manager' nominated at International Emmys in drama series category



- The Indian version of The Night Manager has received a nomination in the drama series category at the 2024 International Emmy Awards.
- It the only entry from India across 14 categories at the nominations
- The International Emmys, to be held in New York on November 25, will be hosted by Indian comedian Vir Das

## Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies' is India's official submission to Oscars 2025



- The jury of the Film Federation of India (FFI), the apex body that annually selects the Indian official entry for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.
- India was last nominated for Best International Feature at the Academy Awards for Lagaan (2001).
- The 97th Academy Awards are scheduled for 2025 in Hollywood, Los Angeles, US

### **Indian Academy Award Winners**

| Oscar<br>winners                                  | Category                                   | Year | Film                         |
|---|--|------|------------------------------|
| #1 Bhanu<br>Athaiya                               | Best Costume<br>Design                     | 1983 | Film: Gandhi                 |
| #2 Satyajit<br>Ray                                | Honourary<br>Award                         | 1992 | - X                          |
| #3 Resul<br>Pookutty                              | Best Sound<br>Mixing                       | 2009 | Film: Slumdog<br>Millionaire |
| #4 Gulzar   | Best Original<br>Song                      | 2009 | Film: Slumdog<br>Millionaire |
| #5 AR<br>Rahman                                   | Best Original Score and Best Original Song | 2009 | Film: Slumdog<br>Millionaire |
| #6 Kartiki<br>Gonsalves<br>and<br>Guneet<br>Monga | Best<br>Documentary<br>Short               | 2023 | The Elephant<br>Whisperers   |
| #7 MM<br>Keeravani<br>and<br>Chandrab<br>ose      | Best Original<br>Song                      | 2023 | Film: RRR                    |

### 76th Primetime Emmy Award



Primetime Emmy Awards celebrate the **best in American prime-time television** 

| Category                  | Winner        |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Outstanding Drama Series  | Shogun        |
| Outstanding Comedy Series | Hacks         |
| Outstanding Limited or    | Baby Reindeer |
| <b>Anthology Series</b>   | 16 C          |

### UNFPA Honors India's Leadership in Maternal Health and Family Planning

UNFPA Hanors India's Leadership in Maternal Health and Family Planning



- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has recognized India's extraordinary progress in advancing Maternal Health and Family Planning
- Commends India's monumental efforts in reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by an impressive 70% between 2000 and 2020
- Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA, felicitated Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary

## Red Panda Program of Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoo selected as finalist for WAZA Conservation Award



- World Association of Zoos and Aquariums for the 2024 WAZA Conservation & Environmental Sustainability Awards.
- Winner will be announced at 79th WAZA Annual Conference at Tarongo Zoo, Sydney, Australia on 7th Nov 2024.

### **MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2024**





- Vera Voronova from Kazakhstan and Ysabel Agustina Calderón Carlos from Peru have been selected
- They have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to conservation and sustainability.

- instituted by AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- The award ceremony will take place on October 29, 2024, in Cali, Colombia, during the high-level segment of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Each winner receives a **cash prize of \$1,00,000** and a commemorative plaque.

### Bibhab Talukdar Wins IUCN's Top Conservation Leadership Award



- Assam's eminent conservation scientist Bibhab Kumar Talukdar was awarded 'The Harry Messel Award' for Conservation Leadership by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- The award was presented to him during the 5th IUCN SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi.
- He has been associated with IUCN SSC since 1991 and became the Chair of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group in 2008.

#### **About Greater One-Horned Rhino:**



- Scientific Name: Rhinoceros unicornis
- The greater one-horned rhino, also known as Indian rhinoceros, is the largest of all rhinos
- found in India and Nepal, particularly in the foothills of the Himalayas.
- Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India, contains the largest population.
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

### Karnal artist Aditi Anand wins UK Illustration Award



- Aditi Anand, a 25-year-old artist from Haryana, won the Emerging Illustrator category at the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum's Illustration Awards for her artwork Marigolds.
- Marigolds, the artwork, addressing child labor in India, will be displayed at the V&A Museum in London until September 2025.

# Boman Irani wins Best Actor award at IFFSA Toronto film festival for The Mehta Boys



- Bollywood actor Boman Irani has been awarded the Best Actor Male in the feature film category at the International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA) Toronto Film Festival for his outstanding work in his latest film The Mehta Boys.
- Also, honoured with the South Asian Film
   Association(SAFA) award at the Chicago South
   Asian Film Festival on September 20,

## Francis Ford Coppola to receive AFI Life Achievement Award in 2025



- Francis Ford Coppola, the visionary director behind numerous cinematic classics, is set to receive the prestigious AFI Life Achievement Award at a ceremony on April 26, 2025, at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre.
- This honor marks the 50th installment of the award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the film industry.

## Ayodhya sets two Guinness World Records during Deepotsav 2024



- Ayodhya saw the setting of two Guinness World Records during the eighth edition of Deepotsav.
- One record was of most people performing aarti simultaneously and the other record was the largest display of oil lamps.
- Over 25 lakh earthen lamps were lit and 1,121 'vedacharyas' performed the 'aarti' together.
- events took place on 55 ghats, including Ram ki
   Paidi along with the Saryu river.
- With a total of 25,12,585, UP Tourism, Govt of UP,
   District Administration of Ayodhya, and Dr Ram
   Manohar Lohia Avadh University, are the new
   Guinness World Records title holder for the largest
   display of oil lamps

## Guinness World Records felicitates actor Chiranjeevi as most prolific star of Indian film Industry

 Film star Chiranjeevi Konidela was honoured with "The most prolific film star in Indian Film Industry-

- actor/dancer" by the Guinness World Records at an event in Hyderabad
- Chiranjeevi was bestowed with Padma Vibhushan in 2024, the second highest civilian honour awarded in India. He was previously honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2006.



Youth creates World Record for performance of largest-ever Kashmiri folk dance at 'Kashur Riwaaj' cultural festival



 Youth of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district created a world record by registering their names to the Universal Records Forum (URF) for the largest-ever Kashmiri folk dance performed by 10,000 young women at the 'Kashur Riwaaj' cultural festival.

#### Jaipur to Host 25th Edition of IIFA Awards

 International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards from March 7 to 9, 2025, at the JECC Sitapura. An annual awards ceremony for Indian Hindi



movies. Produced by Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt. Ltd

- The Rajasthan government has allocated a total budget of ₹100 crore for the event.
- The 2025 IIFA Awards will introduce the inaugural IIFA Digital Awards, recognizing achievements in digital entertainment, including films and OTT content.
- inception in 2000
- The Pink city, Jaipur (Rajasthan):
- declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2019
- founded in 1727 AD under the patronage of Sawai Jai Singh II.
- It also serves as the capital city of the state of Rajasthan.



### IFFCO MD US Awasthi Honored with ICA's Rochdale Pioneers Award



- The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) has announced Dr Udai Shanker Awasthi as the winner of the 2024 Rochdale Pioneers Award.
- Awasthi is the managing director of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), which is owned by 35,000 co-operative societies across the country.
- ICA president Ariel Guarco presented the award at the ICA Global Conference in New Delhi
- Awasthi is the second Indian citizen to receive the award, after the Father of white revolution,
   Verghese Kurien, the recipient of the 2001 Award.
- Established in 2000, the Rochdale Pioneers Award is the highest honour the ICA bestows.

### Ashoka University's Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji Awarded 2024 Pfizer Award



• For his acclaimed book, "Brown Skins, White Coats: Race Science in India, 1920–66".

# Manoj Bajpayee's 'The Fable' wins best film award at 38<sup>th</sup> Leeds International Film Festival

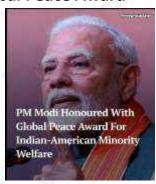
The Fable, directed by writer-director Raam
 Reddy, has made history as the first Indian film to

win the prestigious Best Film award in the main international competition (Constellation Features Competition) at the Leeds International Film Festival 2024.



 no Indian film has previously received this honour at the festival since its inception in 1987.

### PM Modi Honored with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 'Global Peace Award'



- The Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM), a newly formed non-governmental organisation, was launched in Maryland.
- The initiative aims to unite and promote the welfare of minority communities within the Indian American diaspora.
- During the event, PM Modi was honoured in absentia with the 'Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment.'

# International Emmy Awards 2024: 'Drops of God' wins Best Drama, India's 'The Night Manager' misses out



- 52<sup>nd</sup> International Emmy Awards, held in New York, celebrated the best television programming produced outside the United States in 2023.
- Vir Das, the first Indian to host the International Emmys.

- The event saw nominees from 21 countries across
   14 categories.
- India's The Night Manager was a strong contender in the Drama Series category.
- However, the award went to Apple TV's Drops of God (Les Gouttes de Dieu)

| CATEGORY            | AWARDS                       |  |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Best Drama Series   | Drops of God (France/Japan)  |  |
| Best Comedy Series  | División Palermo (Argentina) |  |
| Best Performance by | Timothy Spall in The Sixth   |  |
| an Actor            | Commandment (United          |  |
| 1000                | Kingdom)                     |  |
| Best Performance by | Chutimon                     |  |
| an Actress          | Chuengcharoensukying in      |  |
| /                   | Hunger (Thailand)            |  |

### Indian Chemical Council Wins 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award



- at a ceremony during the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at the Hague.
- This is the first time that the Award recognises the efforts of a chemical industry body.
- The Director-General of OPCW, Ambassador
  Fernando Arias, and the Mayor of the Municipality
  of The Hague, Mr Jan van Zanen presented the
  Award.
- OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons), with its Secretariat in The Hague
- In 2013, OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace
   Prize for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.
- To preserve the legacy of this achievement, the OPCW established the 'OPCW-The Hague Award' in collaboration with the Municipality of The Hague in 2014.

### The Hindu's reports win laurels at WAN-IFRA Asia Media Awards 2024 in Singapore



The Hindu Group's CEO, L.V. Navaneeth, receiving the award at the ceremony in Singapore. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- The package "Making Sense of the Electoral Bonds Data" won gold in the Best Breaking News Article category
- while "Kota's Crash Course", a special Ground Zero report on life in coaching centres in Kota, won silver in the Best Feature Article category.

### HMEL won dual honors at Asian Oil & Gas Awards 2024



- HMEL (HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited), a leading force in India's petrochemical and refining sector, has won two prestigious accolades at the Asian Oil & Gas Awards 2024, Singapore:
- for Health and Safety Initiative of the Year India
- Innovative Technology Initiative of the Year India
- HMEL is a joint venture between Hindustan
   Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Mittal

   Energy Investment Pte Ltd, Singapore part of the Lakshmi N Mittal Group.

# The Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award (HIPA) 2024



- With more than \$2,00,000 prize money, the HIPA is the richest photography competition in the world that has recognised top talents from the field of photography for nearly one and half decades.
- The award was founded by the Crown Prince of Dubai in 2011
- The Palestinian photographer Fatma Alzahra
   Shbair won first prize in the "Portfolio" category for a collection of scenes from the Gaza Strip

### Victoria Kjaer Of Denmark Wins Miss Universe 2024



- 73rd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in Mexico City
- Denmark's Victoria Kjaer Theilvig, 21, made history by becoming the first-ever winner from the country at the Miss Universe 2024 pageant.
- Mexico's Maria Fernanda Beltran finished as the runner-up
- India's Rhea Singha could not make it to the top 12.
- Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu: Won the Miss Universe title in 2021
- Lara Dutta in 2000; Sushmita Sen in 1994

#### Conan O'Brien will host the Oscars 2025



 97th Oscars, at the Dolby Theatre on March 2, 2025

### Guyana, Barbados to confer their top awards to PM Modi



- Guyana would confer its highest national award,
   "The Order of Excellence",
- while Barbados will award him the prestigious Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados.



#### Guyana

- Capital: Georgetown
- · Currency: Guyanese dollar
- Guyana is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, by Suriname (along the Courantyne River) to the east, by Brazil to the south and southwest, and by Venezuela to the west.



#### **Barbados**

- Barbados, island <u>country</u> in the southeastern <u>Caribbean Sea</u>,
- Capital: Bridgetown
- Currency: Barbadian dollar

### Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Honored with FABA Lifetime Achievement Award



Former Chief Scientist of the World Health
Organization (WHO) and Principal Adviser for the
National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at
the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, honoured with the

- Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) Lifetime Achievement Award.
- She delivered a lecture on 'Journey of TB and COVID: Lessons for Future Challenges' at the School of Life Sciences at the University of Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Institution of Eminence,
- This recognition is bestowed for her outstanding contributions to global health, specifically her pivotal role in coordinating the scientific response to the COVID-19 pandemic and setting up Covax

### Nigeria to honour PM Modi with GCON award



- Nigeria will confer PM Modi with its secondhighest national award, the 'Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger', making him the second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction.
- Queen Elizabeth is the only foreign dignitary who has been awarded with GCON in 1969.
- Nigeria's Highest National Award Grand
   Commander in the Order of the Federal Republic
- This will be the 17th such international award being conferred on PM Modi by a country.
- PM Modi is on a five-day visit to Nigeria, Brazil and Guyana
- This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Nigeria in 17 years.
- PM Modi was warmly welcomed by Minister for Federal Capital Territory Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, who presented him with the 'Key to the City' of Abuja.

| Award              | Country | Year |
|--------------------|---------|------|
| Grand Commander of | Nigeria | 2024 |
| the Order of the   |         | -102 |
| Niger              |         | -60  |
| The Order of       | Guyana  | 2024 |
| Excellence         |         |      |

| Barbados      | 2024   |
|---------------|--|
|               | 366  |
|               | 24 CA  |
| Dominica      | 2024   |
| 5             |  |
| Russia        | 2024   |
| 1000          |  |
| Bhutan        | 2024   |
| (O)           | /  |
| Greece        | 2023   |
|               | 1  |
|               | 1 -  |
| Palau         | 2023   |
|               | 5.9  |
| Papua New     | 2023   |
| Guinea        | 500  |
| Egypt         | 2023   |
| - 59          | ķ.   |
| France        | 2023   |
| -000          | 11   |
| Fiji          | 2023   |
| United States | 2020   |
|               |  |
| Bahrain       | 2019   |
|               |  |
|               |  |
| Maldives      | 2019   |
|               |  |
|               | 2019   |
|               | 7  |
| Palestine     | 2018   |
| 1.00          |  |
| (4.C)         | 1  |
| e -           |  |
| Afghanistan   | 2016   |
|               |  |
|               | _  |
| Saudi Arabia  | 2016   |
|               |  |
|               | Dominica  Russia  Bhutan  Greece  Palau  Papua New Guinea  Egypt  France |

### Dominica to Confer Highest National Honour to Prime Minister Narendra Modi



 Dominica's highest national award - the Dominica Award of Honour, upon Prime Minister Narendra

- Modi, in recognition of his contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic
- India had supplied 70,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine
- Sylvanie Burton, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, will confer the award during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit, scheduled to take place in Georgetown, Guyana from November 19 to 21, 2024



- Capital: Roseau
- Currency: East Caribbean dollar
- · President : Sylvanie Burton
- Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit
- Dominica, island country of the Lesser Antilles in the eastern Caribbean Sea.
- The country has been a member of the Commonwealth since independence in 1978.

### Coal India Ltd Receives Green World Awards 2024 in London



Coal India Limited (CIL) under the aegis of the Ministry of Coal, has been conferred with the esteemed Green World Environment Award in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category

- for exemplary work in the field of CSR i.e
   Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna for permanent curative treatment of more than 600 Thalassemia patients through stem cell transplant also known as Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT).
- CIL is a Maharatna company
- Established in November 1975.

## A R Rahman wins HMMA for Prithviraj Sukumaran's 'Aadujeevitham'



- A.R Rahman has won the prestigious Hollywood Music in Media Awards 2024 for the background score of Aadujeevitham: The Goat Life in the Independent Film (Foreign Language) category.
- An adaptation of Benyamin's 2008 best-selling Malayalam novel, the Malayalam film follows the real-life story of Najeeb, a Malayali immigrant labourer in Saudi Arabia.

### Indian musicians Ricky Kej, Anoushka Shankar earn nominations for 67<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards



- Ricky Kej and Anoushka Shankar are among the Indians nominated for the 67th Grammy Awards.
- Ricky Kej, a three-time Grammy winner, received his fourth Grammy nomination for his album Break of Dawn in the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album category.

- Anoushka Shankar, the renowned sitarist and composer, was also nominated in the same category for her album Chapter II: How Dark It Is Before Dawn
- Other nominees in this category are "Warriors of Light" by Radhika Vekaria and
- "Triveni" by entrepreneur & musician Chandrika Tandon, created in collaboration with flautist Wouter Kellerman and cellist Eru Matsumoto.
- The 2025 Grammy Awards are scheduled to take place on February 2, 2025, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

### Booker Prize 2024: British writer Samantha Harvey wins for space-station novel 'Orbital'

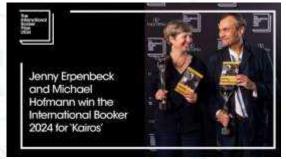


- awarded the £50,000 (₹53.7 lakh) prize
- Ms. Harvey, who has written four previous novels and a memoir about insomnia, is the first British writer since 2020 to win the Booker
- Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize is open to novels originally written in English and published in the U.K. or Ireland.
- Last year's winner was Irish writer Paul Lynch for post-democratic dystopia "Prophet Song".

#### Booker Prize Indian Winners -

- Arundhati Roy 1997 The God of Small Things.
- **Kiran Desai** 2006 -The Inheritance of Loss

#### **International Booker Prize -**



- 2024 Kairos by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated (from German) by Michael Hofmann
- Indian winner 2022 Tomb of Sand by Geetanjali
   Shree, translated by Daisy Rockwell

# FTII's student film 'Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know' qualifies for 2025 Oscars



- (Film & Television Institute of India) FTII's awardwinning Kannada short film 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know', directed by Chidananda S Naik, has qualified for the Oscars 2025 in the Live Action Short Film category.
- The short film won the first prize earlier this year at the Cannes Film Festival's La Cinef Selection.
- The 16-minute-long Kannada project is inspired by Indian folk stories and traditions

## Chennai-Born Caitlin Sandra Neil Crowned Miss India USA 2024

- Chennai-born Indian
   American Caitlin Sandra
   Neil was crowned Miss
   India USA 2024 at the
   annual pageant held in
   New Jersey.
- The pageant was organized by the India Festival Committee (IFC).

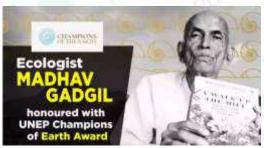


## Tom Cruise honoured with US Navy's highest civilian award



- Hollywood star Tom Cruise has been felicitated with the US Navy's top civilian honour, the Distinguished Public Service Award.
- for his "outstanding contributions to the Navy and the Marine Corps" through his work in Top Gun, Born on the Fourth of July, A Few Good Men and the Mission Impossible franchise.
- US Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro presented the medal to Cruise.

# 2024 UNEP Champions of the Earth Award to Madhav Gadgil



- India's veteran ecologist, Madhav Gadgil has been named as one of the six 'Champions of the Earth award' for 2024.
- Madhav Gadgil was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement category of the UNEP's 'Champion of the Earth' Award.
- It was established in 2005 and awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - UN's highest environmental honour.
- Madhav Gadgil was the Chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, set up by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest in 2010.
- It is the , recognises trailblazers at the forefront of efforts to protect people and the planet.
- Every year, UNEP honours individuals and organizations working on innovative and sustainable solutions to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.
- UNEP was set up by the United Nations in 1972.
- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

| S.No. | Winner and Nationalities  | Category                  |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| 1000  | Madhav Gadgil (India)   | Lifetime<br>Achievement   |
| 2     | Sonia Guajajara (Brazil's<br>Minister of Indigenous<br>Peoples)         | Policy Leadership         |
| 3     | Lu Qi(China)  | Science and Innovation    |
| 4     | Sekem organisation of<br>Egypt (It was founded by<br>Ibrahim Abouleish) | Entrepreneurial<br>Vision |
| 5     | Amy Bowers Cordalis<br>(United States of<br>America)                    | Inspiration and<br>Action |
| 6     | Gabriel Paun (Romania)  | Inspiration and Action    |

# Maria Victoria Juan from Philippines Wins Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024



- Awarded with USD 250,000 (INR 2 crore) at a prestigious award ceremony held in Bengaluru, India
- Launched in 2021, the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award recognizes the critical role of nurses in healthcare.

#### India honored with the ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024



- India has been honored with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024, presented by Dr. Mohammed Azman, President of ISSA, at the Regional Social Security Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) won
   4 merit awards.
- Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)
   received five Certificates of Merit for
   Communication channels, E-proceedings.

The five award categories and brief description about each is as follows -

 Communication Channels: - Reaching stakeholders through different Media

- 2. E-proceedings: A case on use of information and communication technology in justice delivery
- 3. Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 :- Ensuring last mile delivery of Services
- 4. Multilingual Call Centres: Effort towards an inclusive grievance redressal
- 5. Prayaas Prioritizing Pensioners

# Indian-origin Scottish Artist Jasleen Kaur wins Turner Prize for 'Alter-Altar' exhibition



#### **The Turner Prize**

- established in 1984, Turner Prize is one of the most prestigious art awards.
- Recognising the work of a British artist
- Indian-origin British artist Anish Kapoor won the prize in 1991.
- award that includes a cash prize of £25,000 (pound).

### Abathsahayeswarar Temple & BJPCI Project bag UNESCO Heritage Award



- Two Indian heritage conservation projects—
   the Abathsahayeswarar Temple
   Conservation Project in Thukkatchi, Tamil Nadu,
   and the BJPCI Conservation Project of Mumbai,
   Maharashtra—have won UNESCO's Asia-Pacific
   Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024.
- These two heritage conservation projects were among eight from the Asia Pacific region that won the 2024 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

 UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) announced the award winners at its regional office in Bangkok, Thailand

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation was established by UNESCO in **2000**.

#### **Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project**

- The Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project won the Award of Distinction in the UNESCO's Award category.
- Lord Dakshinamurthy (Lord Shiva) is the presiding deity of the Abathsahayeswarar (Apatsahayesvarar )Temple located in the Thukkatchi village in Thiruvarur District of Tamil Nadu.
- The 7th century Tamil Saivite work 'Thevaram' and one of the Paadal Petra Sthalams mentions the temple.
- The Temple was awarded the UNESCO Award of Distinction for using modern engineering expertise and the know-how of Hindu temple builders, sthapathi, for structural conservation.

#### **BJPCI Conversation Project**

- The BJPCI (Sir Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsee Charitable Institution) Conservation project bagged the Merit Award of UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024.
- The BJPCI school building, built in 1908 in Gothic style, is located in **Mumbai**, **Maharashtra**.
- It was built to promote education amongst the economically weaker sections of society.

### Vikas Khanna's New York restaurant wins Michelin 2024 Bib Gourmand Award



- Popular Indian chef Vikas Khanna won the Michelin 2024 Bib Gourmand Award.
- Restaurant in New York, Bungalow

### Ang Lee to Receive DGA Lifetime Achievement Award

- The 77<sup>th</sup> DGA Awards will take place on February 8
- Ang Lee, the celebrated Taiwanese American filmmaker, has been named the recipient of the

Directors Guild of America (DGA) 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award.



- Ang Lee has won two Oscars for Best Director,
- Brokeback Mountain (2005)
- Life of Pi (2012)
- Golden Globe Awards: Two-time winner of the Best Director category for, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000) & Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Indian Film "The Kumbaya Story" Wins tve Global Sustainability Film Award.





Film Awards

The Indian film "The Kumbaya Story" has gained international recognition by winning the Transforming Society Short Film category at the 13th tve Global Sustainability Film Awards (GSFA). The ceremony took place at the famous BAFTA venue in London.

- Produced by the Kumbaya Producer Co. Ltd
- "The Kumbaya Story" narrates the inspiring journey of resilient women who have transformed their lives through the art of weaving, culminating in the establishment of the Kumbaya Producer Company.

Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine as Light' wins best international film at New York Film Critics Circle



- Earlier this year, the film' won the prestigious Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival.
- Won Best International film at 2024 Gotham Awards

# Golden Globes 2025: Payal Kapadia earns two historic nods for 'All We Imagine As Light'



- The prestigious Golden Globe Awards 2025 has made history with the inclusion of Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light, which has secured two notable nominations.
- The film has been nominated for Best Motion
   Picture Non-English Language and Best Director
   (Motion Picture) nomination
- Kapadia becomes the first director from India to be nominated in this category at the Golden Globe Awards.
- Released theatrically in India on November 22, All We Imagine As Light has already received international acclaim.
- The film won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival.
- It has also earned other prestigious accolades, including the Jury Grand Prize at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and the Best International Feature at the Gotham Awards.
- it was awarded Best International Film by the New York Film Critics Circle.
- Notably, it has been shortlisted by France to compete in the Best International Feature Film category at the Academy Awards 2025.

### Here is the list of All Indians that have been nominated for Golden Globes:

| Name         | Year | Category      | Work    |
|--------------|------|---------------|---------|
| V. Shantaram | 1959 | Samuel        | Do      |
|              |      | Goldwyn       | Aankhen |
|              |      | International | Barah   |
|              |      | Film Award    | Haath   |

| Mira Nair     | 1989     | Best Foreign     | Salaam      |
|---------------|----------|------------------|-------------|
|               |          | Language         | Bombay!     |
|               |          | Film             | Bombay.     |
| Mira Nair     | 2002     | Best Foreign     | Monsoon     |
| IVIII a IVaii | 2002     |                  |             |
|               | · /      | Language<br>Film | Wedding     |
| AR Rahman     | 2009     | Best Original    | Slumdog     |
|               | Sec. (2) | Score            | Millionaire |
| SS Rajamouli  | 2023     | Best Foreign     | RRR         |
|               |          | Language         | 1 100       |
|               |          | Film             | 1           |
| MM            | 2023     | Best Song        | Naatu       |
| Keeravani     |          |                  | Naatu       |
|               | 1        |                  | (RRR)       |
| Chandrabose   | 2023     | Best Song        | Naatu       |
|               |          | . /              | Naatu       |
|               |          | _1050            | (RRR)       |
| Payal         | 2025     | Best             | All We      |
| Kapadia       |          | Director         | Imagine as  |
|               | - Co     | 100              | Light       |
| Payal         | 2025     | Best Non-        | All We      |
| Kapadia       |          | English          | Imagine as  |
|               |          | Language         | Light       |
|               | . /      | Film             |             |

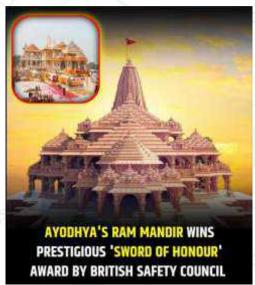
#### V. Mohan elected Honorary Fellow of International Diabetes Federation



- V. Mohan, chairman, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes
   Specialities Centre and Madras Diabetes Research
   Foundation, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation.
- this recognition was for individuals who had made outstanding contributions to the field of diabetes care, research, and advocacy.
- Dr. Mohan is one of the 17 individuals worldwide and two from India, alongside diabetologist A.
   Ramachandran, to receive the honour

### 'Ram Temple project' of the Shri Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya awarded the 'Sword of Honour' by the British Safety Council

 The 'Sword of honour' is one of the prestigious accolades in safety management, which is given after the British Safety Council conducts the audit of the process and practices, and finally does an on-site activity assessment.



 Earlier M/s Larsen & Toubro responsible for the construction of the temple were also awarded 'Golden Trophy' by the National Safety Council for safety measures taken in the construction of Ram Temple

# Indian Educationist Arun Kapur conferred Bhutan's Royal Honour



- Renowned Indian educationist Arun Kapur, who set up schools in India, Bhutan and Oman, has been conferred the 'Bura Marp' (red scarf) and 'Patang' (ceremonial sword) by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel at the 117th Bhutanese National Day celebrations in Thimphu's Changlimathang stadium on (December 17, 2024).
- The honour is rarely given to non-Bhutanese residents and comes with the honorific 'Dasho' title, otherwise used for senior officials.
- In 2019, Mr. Kapur was awarded the 'Druk
   Thuksey' for his work in setting up The Royal
   Academy school, and in developing the Bhutan
   Baccalaureate educational system.
- Earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Bhutan to be conferred the 'Order of Druk Gyalpo' for India's assistance to Bhutan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Christopher Nolan and Emma Thomas honoured by King Charles III**



- The Oppenheimer couple, director Christopher
   Nolan and producer Emma Thomas who were
   honoured with knighthood and damehood at the
   Buckingham Palace.
- King Charles of Britain bestowed the honour on the couple who have worked together on multiple films and all of them have been super successful in terms of critical acclaim and box office numbers.

### Indian Businessman Ravi Pillai Receives Bahrain's Topmost Award



- Bahrain's prestigious national honour the Medal of Efficiency.
- For contributions to the progress and development of the kingdom, making him the only foreign national to receive the title.
- King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the king of Bahrain, awarded the prestigious national honour to Pillai, chairman of RP Group
- Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the Government of India in 2008.
  - Dr. Pillai was conferred India's Padma Shri in 2010

## **Obituaries**

### **ART & CULTURE**

- Iconic Sarangi maestro Pandit Ram Narayan passes away
- 2. Malayalam writer Omchery N.N. Pillai passes away
- 3. Mother of Asian Cinema
- 4. Punjabi poet Surjit Patar passes
- 5. Ustad Rashid Khan
- 6. Writer Gurulinga Kapse
- 7. Mangey Khan
- 8. Shuntaro Tanikawa, Master of Modern free verse
- 9. Shri Sadhu Meher
- 10. Actor Atul Parchure
- 11. Kenneth Mitchell

Iconic Sarangi maestro Pandit Ram Narayan passes away in Mumbai



- Narayan joined All India Radio, Lahore in 1943 as a sarangi artiste
- Narayan was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 1976**, the **Padma Bhushan in 1991**, and the **Padma Vibhushan in 2005**.
- also felicitated with the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**, the **Kalidas Samman** by Madhya Pradesh government, and the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar.
- In 2007, a biographical film, titled "Pandit Ramnarayan Sarangi Ke Sang", was showcased at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Noted Malayalam writer Omchery N.N. Pillai passes away



- He won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award twice
   in 1972 for his play 'Pralayam', and in 2010, for his contribution to Malayalam literature.
- Aakasmikam, his memoir about his life and experiences in Delhi, won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2020.
- In 2022, he was honoured with the Kerala Prabha Award, the second-highest civilian award of the state government.

Film scholar Aruna Vasudev, 'Mother of Asian Cinema', passes away at 88



- an eminent Indian film scholar, critic, festival curator and painter.
- Her honours included the Officier des Arts et des Lettres, France's highest cultural award, and the first Satyajit Ray Memorial Award by FIPRESCI India.
- she founded NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema),
- She co-authored the books Being & Becoming, the Cinemas of Asia

#### Author Vijaya Bharathi passes away



- Renowned author and former director of Telugu Academy
- the first Dalit woman to be awarded a Ph.D. in Literature from Osmania University.
- works include books on Baba Saheb Ambedkar;
   Ramayana and Mahabharatha; translated versions of Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule (1983);

## Senior writer Manorama Bhat passes away



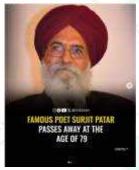
• She was a veteran Kannada writer and women's rights activist

# Researcher, historian and author P Thankappan Nair (91)died



Known as the "barefoot historian" of Kolkata

## Noted Punjabi poet Surjit Patar passes away at 79



He received top honours like Padma Shri in 2012 and the Sahitya Akademi Award.

### Yakshagana exponent Subrahmanya Dhareshwar passed away



- He had earned the fame of 'Bhagavata Shrestha' for his scintillating voice
- He was known for his experiments in the Yakshagana singing.

#### About Yakshagana:



- It is a traditional folk dance-drama that originated in the 16th century in the Karnataka.
- Yakshagana literally means, "song" of the yaksha (demi-gods/spirits).
- The mela or troupe consists of two main parts:
- Mummela (foreground actors)
- Himmela (singers and instrumentalists in the background).
- Yakshagana is performed in open-air theatres.
- Historically, men traditionally played all roles, but nowadays women are also involved in Yakshagana troupes.

# Pandit Hariram Dwivedi, an eminent of Hindi Litterateur from Varanasi Passes Away



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief
- His notable poetry collections Anganaiya and Jeevandayini Ganga (अंगनइया और जीवनदायिनी गंगा)

#### **Ustad Rashid Khan passes away at 55**



- Hindustani classical vocalist Utsad Rashid Khan passed away in Kolkata.
- Born in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh
- Rashid was the great grandson of Ustad Inayat
   Hussain Khan, the founder of Rampur Sehaswan
   gharana and a disciple of Bahadur Hussain Khan, a
   direct descendent of Mian Tansen.
- The Rampur-Sahaswan gayaki (style of singing) is closely related to the Gwalior gharana
- Padma Shri in 2006, the Sangeet Natak Akademi honour in 2007, and the Padma Bhushan in 2022.

### Noted Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passed away



In 2014, he was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his poem, 'Shahdaba'. However, he had returned the award, alleging 'intolerance' in the country.

#### **Kumar Shahani passes away**



- Kumar Shahani, Renowned filmmaker, popular for parallel cinema movement in India, passed away in Kolkata at 83
- His works: Maya Darpan (1972), Tarang (1984) and Kasba (1990)
- Born in Larkana in the Sindh region of undivided India, Shahani's family shifted to Mumbai after Partition

#### Writer Gurulinga Kapse is no more

 A native of Karnataka, Gurulinga Kapse had served as Chairman of Kannada Sahitya Academy.



He was known for his contribution to children's literature in Kannada.

### Noted Carnatic Musician K G Jayan Passes Away



- A Padmasree recipient (2019), Jayan was also awarded the Kerala Sangeetha Akademi
- He was the father of Malayalam film actor Manoj K Jayan

### Carnatic musician Kalpakam Raman no more



 Noted carnatic musician Kalpakam Raman passed away

# Sara Abraham, promoter of contemporary Indian art, passes away

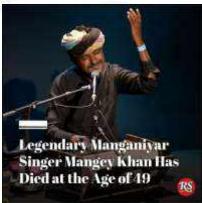


#### Poet Keki N. Daruwalla dies at 87



- Celebrated English poet and former IPS officer
   Keki N. Daruwalla died, He was 87.
- Daruwalla's first book of poetry, "Under Orion", was published in 1970.
- He received the Uttar Pradesh State Award for his second book, "Apparition in April".
- He also won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984 for 'The Keeper of the Dead'
- He returned this award in October 2015 in protest against Sahitya Akademi's failure "to speak out against ideological collectives that have used physical violence against authors".

Mangey Khan, the 48-year-old lead vocalist and harmonium player of the Rajasthani Sufi folk group Barmer Boys, passed away



- The Manganiyars are a Muslim community of folk musicians from the Thar Desert region of India and Pakistan
- They live in the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, India, and the districts of Tharparkar and Sanghar in Sindh, Pakistan.

### World-renowned Mridangam scholar Varadarao Kamalakara Rao passes away



- World-renowned Mridangam scholar Varadarao
   Kamalakara Rao breathed his last in Rajahmundry.
- He received the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- he received the President Medal from the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Kris Kristofferson, singer-songwriter and actor, dies at 88



 Kris Kristofferson, Golden Globe-winning actor of 'A Star Is Born' and "Me & Bobby McGee" singersongwriter, died

Ladakh: Legendary Poet and Scholar Haji Khawaja Abdul Hamid Tanveer Passes Away



Japanese poet Shuntaro Tanikawa, master of modern free verse, dies



- Translated the "Peanuts" comic strip and penned the lyrics for the theme song of the animation series "Astro Boy"
- In 1952 debut with book "Two Billion Light Years of Solitude"

### Veteran Folk Singer Dr. Sharda Sinha passes away in New Delhi



- Known as Bihar Kokila, Supaul-born Sinha was famous in her native state and parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh courtesy her folk songs sung on occasions like Chhath Puja and weddings.
- In the year 2018, Dr Sinha was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the field of art.

### South African Writer Breyten Breytenbach Dies



 Best known for "Confessions of an Albino Terrorist," his account of his imprisonment and the events leading to it.

# Manoj Mitra, veteran Bengali actor and popular theatre personality, passed away



## Demise of renowned dancer and cultural icon Kanaka Raju



- Gussadi folk dance master Kanaka Raju also known as Gussadi Raju.
- Kanaka Raju got Padma Shri in 2021
- Hailing from the Raj Gond tribe, Kanaka Raju popularised the rhythmic dance of Gussadi



- Gussadi dance: It is a folk dance in Telangana performed by Raj Gonds of the Gondulu tribes in the Adilabad district.
- Gonds Deepavali is the biggest festival for the Raj Gonds when the Gussadi dance is performed

# Sahitya Academy Award Laureate Father Francis D'Britto Passed Away



- Sahitya Academy Award laureate Father Francis
  D'Britto passed away at his home in Vasai of
  Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- In January 2020, he was elected President of the 93rd All India Marathi Literary Conference held in then Osmanabad (now Dharashiv).
- Among other works of literature, Fr. D'Britto is renowned for his translation of the Holy Bible (New Testament) into lucid Marathi titled 'Subodh Bible-Nava Karar', which became an instant bestseller with over three reprints.

# Amruta Someshwara, Scholar and Folklore Expert, Passes Away in Mangaluru, Karnataka



- He won many awards including Bhasha Samman award of (Kendra) Sahitya Akademi (2016),
   Gaurava Shree award of Karnataka Sahitya Academy (2020).
- Mr. Someshwara's three published volumes on Tulu dramas, Tulu paddanas (sung narratives) and Yakshagana prasangas

#### **Bhasha Samman award**

- Established by Sahitya Akademi in 1996.
- The award recognizes writers, scholars, editors, collectors, performers, and translators who have contributed to the development, modernization, or enrichment of their respective languages.

## Veteran artist A Ramachandran passes away in Delhi



- Born in Attingal, Kerala
- known for his monumental canvases, colourful oil and watercolour paintings.
- In 2002, he was elected a Fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi and received the Padma Bhushan in 2005.

### Renowned Litterateur & Padma Shri Awardee Usha Kiran Khan Passes Away



- She was a great writer who wrote several novels in Hindi and Maithili literature.
- Sahitya Akademi Award in 2012
- Padma Shri in 2015
- Her Maithili novel 'Bhamati:
   Ek Avismaraniya Premkatha',

for which she received the Sahitya Akademi Award

# PM condoles passing away of stalwart of Hindi and Odia cinema Shri Sadhu Meher



- He became the first from Odisha to win a national award for best actor, for his role in Shyam Benegal's Hindi film 'Ankur'.
- He also directed the first children's sci-fi (science fiction) Odia movie 'Babula' in 1985.
- For his lifetime contribution, the Odisha government had conferred the Jaydev Samman on Meher in 2011.
- Meher also received the Padma Shri in 2017.

#### **Ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas dies**



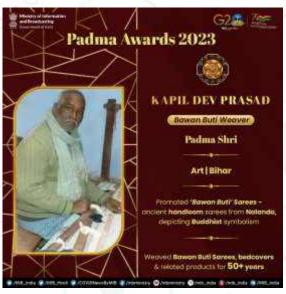
- Renowned ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas, best known for "Chitti Ayee Hai" and "Aur Ahista Kijiye Baatein".
- · He hailed from Rajkot, Gujarat
- In 2006, Pankaj Udhas was awarded Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award.

### Renowned Artisan and Padma Shri Awardee Kapildev Prasad Passed Away

- He got Padma Shri in 2023 for his contributions to the handloom industry and the revival of Buddhist art of weaving Bababuti sarees.
- Born in Basavan Bigha village, Nalanda, Bihar
- Bawan Booti, which literally translates to "52
  motifs," is a unique weaving technique that
  involves intricate hand embroidery on cotton or
  tasar cloth

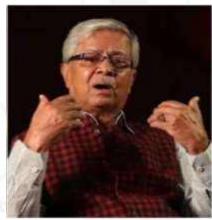


 52 similar motifs, each representing symbols from Buddhist religion and culture.



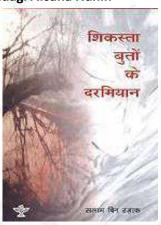


# Sahitya Akademi winner Urdu litterateur Salam Bin Razzaq passes at 83



 He won the Sahitya Akademi for Urdu literature for his short stories collection, 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan' in 2004.

- Awards: Sahitya Akademi Award, Ghalib Award, Maharashtra Urdu Sahitya Akademi Award.
- His Works: 'Nangi Dopahar Ka Sipahi', 'Muabbir', and 'Zindagi Afsana Nahin'



#### Author, storyteller Malti Joshi passes away



- Malti Joshi was conferred Padma Shri in 2018.
- She had over fifty collections of stories in Hindi and Marathi
- Several of Joshi's stories were adapted for television by Doordarshan
- Born in Aurangabad, Maharashtra

### Sarod Maestro Rajeev Taranath Passes Away in Mysuru



- Taranath, a distinguished exponent of Senia
   Maihar Gharana, was the seniormost disciple of Ustad Ali Akbar Khan.
- He was a scholar of English literature (he was referenced in the famous Arden edition of Shakespeare)
- He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi
  Award in 2000 and the Padma Shri in 2019.

 In Karnataka, he has been bestowed with the Rajyothsava award in 1996, Chowdaiah Memorial award in 1998, Sangeet Vidwan award in 2018 and Nadoja award in 2019.

Indian classical dancer Dr. Yamini Krishnamurthy, passed away at the age of 84.



- Krishnamurthy displayed unparalleled talent in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi
- She was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 1968
   and the Padma Bhushan in 2001, Padma
   Vibhushan in 2016, which are among the highest civilian awards of India.
- She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak
   Akademi Award in 1977.
- Krishnamurthy was born on December 20, 1940, in Madanapalli, in present day Chittoor district, of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Krishnamurthy published her autobiography, "A Passion For Dance" in 1995

Well-known Marathi actor Atul Parchure, known for his comic roles, died



#### **Actor Donald Sutherland dies at 88**

- well-known for his appearances in Pride and Prejudice, M\*A\*S\*H, The Hunger Games, and Ad Astra
- Sutherland was never nominated for an Academy Award but received an honorary Oscar in 2017. He did win an Emmy in 1995 for the TV film Citizen X and won two Golden Globes for Citizen X and the 2003 TV film Path to War.



'Captain Marvel' actor Kenneth Mitchell dies at 49



- Canadian actor Kenneth Mitchell is best known for his roles in "Captain Marvel" and "Star Trek: Discovery"
- Mitchell was suffering from ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis).
- ALS is a fatal disease that leads to progressive degeneration of nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain. There is no known cure for it.

Cinematographer Gangu Ramsay of iconic Ramsay Brothers dies at 83



 Cinematographer-filmmaker Gangu Ramsay, one of the seven Ramsay Brothers known for cult horror films died, He was 83.

Actor Bernard Hill, known for playing King Theoden in 'The Lord of the Rings', passes away



- Renowned British actor Bernard Hill has passed away
- He played Captain Edward Smith in the 1997 Oscarwinning film Titanic and King Théoden in the Lord of the Rings.
- Born on December 17, 1944, in Manchester, England.

### Fred Roos, 'Godfather Part II' producer dies at 89



 Fred Roos, the Oscar-winning producer of The Godfather Part II who helped launch the careers of numerous superstars from Jack Nicholson to Tom Cruise, has died.

#### Veteran actor Smriti Biswas dies aged 100



She was part of movies like Nek Dil, Aparajita,
 Hamsafar, Hamdard, Chitgaon, and Baap Re Baap.

### 'Crime Patrol' and 'Splitsvilla' actor Nitin Chauhaan dies at 35 in Mumbai



#### Veteran actor Vijay Kadam passes away in



#### Mumbai

 He was 67, In the 1980s and 1990s, Kadam earned acclaim for his stage performances in notable plays such as Turtur, Vichha Mazi Puri Kara, and Pappa Sanga Kunache.

12. Charles Cyphers, the distinguished actor known for his role as Sheriff Leigh Brackett in the beloved "Halloween" film series, has passed away at the age of 85.



### Legendary Gujarati Singer Purushottam Upadhyay Dies



| Static        | Details                         |  |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Date of Birth | August 15, 1934, Kheda, Gujarat |  |
| Major         | Composed for 20+ films and 30+  |  |
| Achievements  | plays                           |  |
| Awards        | Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, Padma  |  |
|               | Shri (2017)                     |  |

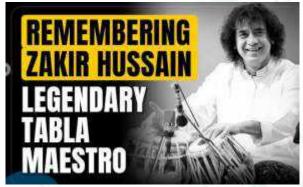
### Yakshagana 'bhagavatha' (singer) K. Leelavathi Baipadithya passes away



- Senior yakshagana 'bhagavatha' (singer) K.
   Leelavathi Baipadithaya of Mangaluru, who broke into the bastion of male 'bhagavathas' in yakshagana theatre, passed away.
- she is credited with being the first woman who toured along with professional yakshagana 'melas' (touring troupes) which performed allnight shows in the coastal belt.
- He was presented with the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award for 2023.

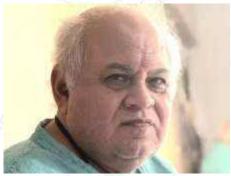
## Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passes away in San Francisco





- Hussain has received four Grammy Awards in his career, including three at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year.
- In February 2024, Hussain became the first Indian musician to win three Grammys at the same ceremony, earning awards for Best Global Music Album (For This Moment), Best Global Music Performance (for Pashto), and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album (for As We Speak).
- Received the Padma Shri in 1988, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.
- 2019 Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademy
- Born in Mumbai to Tabla Maestro Ustad Alla Rakha

# Singer, musician Pandit Sanjay Marathe passes away



Noted classical singer and harmonium artist
 Pandit Sanjay Ram Marathe died at a hospital in
 Maharashtra's Thane city.

### Baiga tribal artist and Padma Shri awardee Jodhaiya Bai passed away



- Madhya Pradesh's famous Baiga tribal artist
   Jodhaiya Bai, a Padma Shri recipient, died
- Received Padma Shri in 2023.

#### **About Baiga Tribe:**

- Classification: The Baiga Tribe is one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- They primarily reside in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Traditionally semi-nomadic, they practised slashand-burn cultivation, locally called "Bewar", and now depend mainly on minor forest produce.
- Tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture.
   Specific tattoos designated for different body parts and age groups.
- Tattoos are made using kajal derived from Ramtilla seeds (Niger seeds).
- The Baiga tribe is the first community in India to be granted habitat rights, reflecting their deep connection with forests.

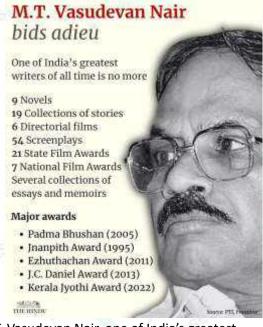
### PM Modi expresses grief over demise of filmmaker Shyam Benegal



- Suffering from chronic kidney disease for several years, at the age of 90
- born in Tirumalagiri, now in Telangana, in 1934
- His impressive body of work includes landmark series such as Yatra (1986) and Bharat Ek Khoj (1988).
- The 53-episode Bharat Ek Khoj, based on Jawaharlal Nehru's book Discovery of India.
- As Benegal directed some of his best movies —
   Ankur, Nishant (1975), Manthan (1976), Bhumika (1977), and Junoon (1979), Zubeidaa, Sardari Begum, and Mammo.
- Padma Shri in 1976 and the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

- In 2005, he was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema.
- Benegal also served as a Rajya Sabha MP from 2006 to 2012.
- 18 National Film Awards

## Padma Bhushan Awardee M. T. Vasudevan Nair passed away



- M.T. Vasudevan Nair, one of India's greatest
   Malayalam writers of all time, died in Kozhikode,
   Kerala.
- honoured with the Jnanpith Award in 1995, the Kerala government's Ezhuthachan Award in 2011, and the Padma Bhushan in 2005.
- In 1970 his book 'Kalam' won the Sahitya Akademi award for the best novel.

#### Bapsi Sidhwa, Parsi writer who took Partition to the world, dies at 86



- Celebrated Pakistan-born novelist and pioneer of South Asian literature
- Her notable novels: The Crow Eaters (1978)
   and Ice-Candy Man (1988), later retitled Cracking
   India.
- She also penned Water: A Novel (2006), which was based on the film Water (2005) written and directed by Deepa Mehta

### **POLITICAL MEMBERS**

- 1. Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare
- 2. Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi
- 3. BJP leader Prabhat Jha
- 4. Former Odisha Minister Samir Dey
- 5. Former Canadian PM Brian Mulroney

## Former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare passes away



- Shri Bhandare was a senior Congress leader from Maharashtra and a former Rajya Sabha member for three terms.
- He also practised as a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court and served as Governor of Odisha from August 2007 to March 2013.

#### Passing Away Of Former Gujarat Governor Dr Kamla Beniwal



- Congress veteran Kamla Beniwal, served as Rajasthan's Deputy Chief Minister (in 2003) and held the post of Governor in three states - Tripura, Gujarat and Mizoram.
- Born in 1927 in Jhunjhunu district Rajasthan, Beniwal took part in the freedom struggle in her youth.
- At the age of 27, she became Rajasthan's first woman minister

# Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi passed away at 72



- He was a senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader
- He became Deputy Chief Minister for the first time in 2005 under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar
- He was also one of the few leaders to have achieved the feat of being a **member of four legislative Houses** Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, the Bihar Assembly and Legislative Council.

### Former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passes away



- Born on December 2, 1937 in coastal Konkan region of Maharashtra.
- He was also elected as a member of Parliament and was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004
- Joshi Sir was the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra from the undivided Shiv Sena and held the post during 1995-1999.

### A founding leader of MDMK and threetime Erode MP A. Ganesamoorthy dies



He was elected to the Lok Sabha thrice.

# Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian have been killed in a helicopter crash



- A helicopter carrying Iranian president Ebrahim
   Raisi, the foreign minister, and other officials
   reportedly crashed in the mountainous northwest
   of Iran , as it was crossing mountain terrain in
   heavy fog
- Vice President Mohammad Mokhber will assume powers after Raisi's death.
- According to the Iranian Constitution, in case of the president's death or incapacity, the first vice president will take over until an election is held within a maximum period of 50 days.

Hamzah Haz, the vice president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004, has passed away. He died at the age of 84.



Capital: Jakarta

Currency: Indonesian rupiah

President: Joko Widodo



# Senior BJP leader Prabhat Jha passes away, He was 67



 He was elected as a Rajya Sabha member from MP in 2008 and remained in the Upper House till 2020.

### Veteran Congress leader, Nanded MP Vasantrao Chavan passes away in Hyderabad



 Veteran Congress leader and recently elected Member of Parliament representing Nanded constituency, Vasantrao Chavan, passed away at the age of 70.

#### Former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al-Hoss Dies at 94







- · He served as Prime minister of Lebanon four times.
- Capital: Beirut
- Currency: Lebanese pound

### Former Meghalaya Chief Minister Salseng C Marak passed away at the age of 82.



- Marak became the first chief minister of the state to complete a five-year term in 1993.
- He also held the office of the CM for the shortest time – 12 days – in 1998 when the Congress-led coalition collapsed.

### K. Natwar Singh, former External Affairs Minister, passes away



- India's former external affairs minister K Natwar
   Singh passed away at the age of 93
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1984.
- Singh, who was the foreign minister in UPA-I and also served as India's Ambassador to Pakistan besides holding other senior diplomatic positions.
- 'The Legacy of Nehru: A Memorial Tribute' and 'My China Diary 1956-88'. His autobiography is titled 'One Life is Not Enough'

### Former West Bengal Chief Minister, Buddhadeb Bhattacharya passed away in Kolkata at the age of 80.



- He was a former member of the CPI(M) Politburo.
- During 34 years of Left's rule in West Bengal.
- Buddhadeb Bhattacharya was the second and the last CPI(M) chief minister who was in office for 11 straight years from 2000-2011

# Veteran CPM leader MM Lawrence passes away



- Veteran CPI-M leader and former central committee member of the Left party, MM Lawrence passed away in Kochi.
- One of the first generation leaders of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI)

CPI(M) general secretary and former Rajya Sabha MP Sitaram Yechury passed away; he was 72.



Peru's former President Alberto Fujimori, who spent 16 years in prison for crimes against humanity, dies at 86







Senior BJP leader and sitting MLA from the Nagrota Assembly constituency in Jammu and Kashmir, Devender Singh Rana (59) passed away in Haryana's Fraidabad



 Rana was the younger brother of Union minister Jitendra Singh

### John Prescott, Ex-Deputy Prime Minister of Britain, Dies



- Elected as Labour's deputy leader in 1994, alongside Tony Blair's leadership.
- Represented Britain in key climate negotiations, including the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

# President Murmu expresses sadness over passing of former Odisha Minister Samir Dey

- Veteran BJP leader, former minister Samir Dey passes away
- elected to the Odisha
   Assembly thrice from the
   Cuttack segment between
   1995 and 2004.



### Mahendra Singh Mewar of erstwhile Mewar royal family dies at 83



Former BJP MP and member of the erstwhile
 Mewar royal family Mahendra Singh Mewar died in Udaipur.

- Mahendra Singh Mewar was a descendant of Maharana Pratap, the 16th-century Rajput king who ruled Mewar until he died in 1597.
- Mahendra Singh Mewar was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Chittorgarh seat in 1989 on a BJP ticket.

# Passing Away Of Vietnamese Leader Nguyen Phu Trong



- Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of Vietnam's ruling Communist Party and the country's most powerful politician, has died.
- Mr. Trong had dominated Vietnamese politics since 2011, when he was elected party chief.
- Capital: Hanoi
- Currency: Vietnamese dồng

#### Former Chile President Sebastian Pinera Dies





- Chile's capital Santiago
- currency Chilean peso
- President- Gabriel Boric

### Namibia's President Hage Geingob passes away – Acting President Nangolo Mbumba sworn-in





- Geingob who was serving his second term as President, was a liberation struggle icon and the chief architect of Namibian constitution
- Mr. Geingob had also been Namibia's first prime minister after the country gained independence from South Africa in 1990.

#### **About Namibia**



- Capital Windhoek
- Currency Namibian Dollar
- Namibia, a country in southwest Africa, is distinguished by the Namib Desert along its Atlantic Ocean coast.
- Namib Desert is a cold, arid coastal desert

## Former Canadian PM Brian Mulroney dies at age of 84



# PM Modi expresses grief over demise of former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala



- Former Haryana chief minister and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo Om Prakash Chautala passed away.
- Chautala was the chief minister of Haryana for a record five times and was the son of former deputy prime minister Devi Lal.

### Former Chief Minister of Puducherry M D R Ramachandran died



 Ramachandran was a two-time chief minister of the union territory - in 1980 and in 1990

## Former Karnataka CM S. M. Krishna passes away

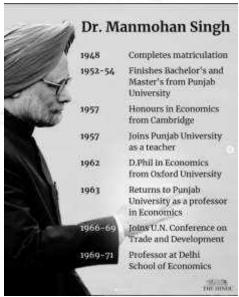


FORMER KARNATAKA CM SM KRISHNA PASSES AWAY AT 92

- SM Krishna, the former Karnataka chief minister credited with putting Bengaluru on the global map, passed away.
- He was 92.
- Krishna was an MLA and MLC as well as a member of both Lok Sabha and <u>Rajya Sabha</u> multiple times, even as he assumed a range of high public offices,

- including the posts of chief minister, governor and the external affairs minister.
- A Padma Vibhushan awardee and a Fulbright scholar

# Former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh passes away at 92



- The 14<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of India, passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on December 26, 2024.
- Born on September 26, 1932, in Gah village, West Punjab (now in Pakistan).
- Padma Vibhushan (1987)
- Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in 2017
- He joined the Government of India as an Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Commerce in 1971.
- Became the Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972.
- Dr Singh also worked as a Secretary in the Ministry of Finance –
- 15th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (1982-85);
- Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission;
- Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva, Switzerland from 1987 -1990.
- Advisor to the Prime Minister on economic affairs during the tenure of Chandra Shekar.
- As Finance Minister under former Prime Minister
   P.V. Narasimha Rao, he was the architect of economic reforms in 1991 that changed the the course of India's economic trajectory.
- Before being appointed as the Union Finance
   Minister in 1991 he held the post of the Chairman
   of the UGC.
- PM for two terms in the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government from 2004 to 2014.

- Singh was also the first and only Sikh to hold the office and the only prime minister of India to never win a direct popular election.
- He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1991-2024 and was its member for five consecutive terms.
- Authored the book India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964), a critical analysis of India's inward-oriented trade policies.





### **AWARD WINNERS**

- 1. P. Venugopal
- 2. Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Tsung-Dao Lee
- 3. Sahitya Akademi winner Farooq Nazki
- 4. Constitutional lawyer and jurist Fali S. Nariman
- 5. Peter Higgs
- 6. Padma Shri Awardee Kamala Pujari
- 7. Gandhian Shobhana Ranade
- 8. Novelist Ismail Kadare

### Passing of P. Venugopal: A Pioneer in Cardiac Surgery,



- Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. P. Venugopal, former Director of the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS)
  and a pioneer of cardiac surgery.
- conducted India's first heart transplant and led over 50,000 heart surgeries,
- Padma Bhushan in 1998

### PM Modi Condoles Demise of Padma Shri Awardee Organic Farmer, Pappammal



- passed away at age of 109
- renowned organic farmer and Padmashri Award winner Pappammal
- In 2021, she was given the Padma Shri award

### Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Tsung-Dao Lee Passed Away



- Chinese-American physicist Tsung-Dao Lee, who in 1957 became the second-youngest scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, died at age 97
- Robert Oppenheimer, known as the father of the atomic bomb, once praised Prof. Lee as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists of the time

### Professor Ved Prakash Nanda Passed Away



- Professor Nanda was a distinguished academic legal education.
- He was also a prominent member of the Indian diaspora in USA
- In 2018, he received the prestigious Padma Bhushan award.

Dr Nitya Anand, man who discovered India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli', dies at 99



- Dr Nitya Anand was also the former director of Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) and a Padma Shri awardee (2012).
- He was the brain behind the discovery of Centchroman', popularly known as 'Saheli.'

- It was the world's first and only non-steroidal, non-hormonal, once-a-week oral contraceptive pill.
- It was launched by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986.
- In 2016, Saheli was incorporated in the National Family Programme of India.

## Ameen Sayani, Renowned Radio Presenter And Voice Of Geetmala, Passes Away





- Ameen Sayani, a renowned radio personality known for his show "Binaca Geetmala" launched in 1952.
- has passed away at the age of 91.
- born on December 21, 1932
- Sayani received numerous awards and honours for his contributions to Indian broadcasting, including the Padma Shri, one of <u>India's highest civilian</u> <u>awards</u>, in 2009.

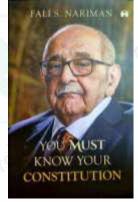
### Veteran journalist and Sahitya Akademi winner Farooq Nazki dies at 83



- Veteran broadcaster, poet and Sahitya Akademi winner Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki died in Katra
- held several important positions in All India Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan
- In 1995, Nazki was awarded the Sahitya Academi award in Kashmiri for his poetry book Naar Hyutun Kanzal Wanas (Fire in the eyelashes).

### Constitutional lawyer and jurist Fali S. Nariman passes away

- Constitutional lawyer, jurist and former Additional Solicitor General of India Fali S. Nariman passed away.
- He was a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1999



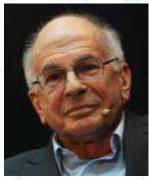
- Got Padma Bhushan in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2007
- His autobiography Before Memory Fades...
- Authored book God Save the Supreme Court

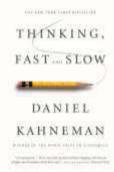
### Padma Shri Awardee Arun Sharma Passed away



- Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Dr Arun Kumar Sharma passed away at the age of 90.
- Sharma was senior-most team member which excavated the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site on order of Allahabad High Court
- and had submitted a report that a temple was demolished to make a mosque.
- Sharma was presented the Padmashree award in 2017 by late President of India, Pranab Mukherjee.

# Nobel Prize winner Daniel Kahneman, a pioneer of behavioral economics, dies





- Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist died at the age of 90.
- He won a Nobel Prize in economic sciences in 2002 for his insights into how ingrained neurological biases influence decision making

## Peter Higgs, who proposed existence of Higgs boson particle, has died



- Nobel prize-winning physicist Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of the so-called "God particle" that helped explain how matter formed after the Big Bang, has died at age 94
- Higgs predicted the existence of a new particle, which came to be known as the Higgs boson, in 1964.
- He theorized that there must be a sub-atomic particle of certain dimension that would explain how other particles — and therefore all the stars and planets in the universe — acquired mass
- The Higgs boson is the fundamental force-carrying particle of the Higgs field, which is responsible for granting fundamental particles their mass.
- Higgs won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work, alongside Francois Englert of Belgium, who independently came up with the same theory.

## World's oldest man, certified in Guinness World Record, passes away



- Venezuelan Juan Vicente Perez Mora, certified in 2022 by Guinness World Records as the oldest man in the world, died on at the age of 114.
- Perez was officially confirmed as the oldest man alive on February 4, 2022, when he was 112 years and 253 days old, according to Guinness.

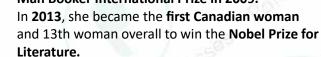
### Oscar winning producer Albert S Ruddy passes away at 94



Canadian American film and TV producer Albert S Ruddy, who won Oscars for 'The Godfather' and 'Million Dollar Baby', has passed away

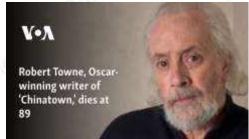
### Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro dies at 92

- Canadian author Alice
   Munro wrote short stories
   for more than 60 years,
   often focusing on life in
   rural Canada.
- Called "Canada's Chekhov," Munro won the Man Booker International Prize in 2009.





## Robert Towne, Oscar-winning writer of 'Chinatown,' dies at 89



 Chinatown is considered one of the greatest screenplays of all time.

# Jon Landau, Oscar-winning producer on 'Titanic' and 'Avatar', dies at 63

 Titanic became the first movie to cross \$1 billion in global box-office earnings and went on to win 11 Oscars, including Best Picture.



#### Demise Of Padma Shri Awardee Kamala Pujari

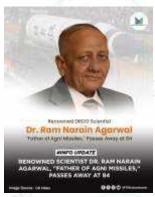
- Kamala Pujari, a tribal woman from Odisha known for her contribution to organic farming and preserving over hundreds of indigenous varieties of paddy.
- For her contribution to agriculture, she received the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019.
- She had been a leader in the participatory research programme started by the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation in Koraput in 1994 - which led to breeding of the high yielding and highquality rice variety, 'Kalajeera'. She has preserved

rare varieties of paddy like 'Tili', 'Machakanta', 'Ghnatia' and 'Phula'.



- Due to her efforts, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) declared Koraput a globally important agriculture heritage site (GIAHS) in 2012.
- Koraput was also selected by the UN for the Equator Initiative Award, which was presented to Pujari during the Earth Summit held at Johannesburg in South Africa in 2002.
- The Odisha government had honoured her with Best Woman Farmers award in 2004, while a girls' hostel of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology was named after her.

## Father of Agni Missiles, Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal Passes Away



- Renowned DRDO missile scientist Ram Narain Agarwal, widely celebrated as the Father of Agni Missiles, passed away in Hyderabad.
- The first Programme Director of the Agni missiles
- · earned the moniker "Agni Man".
- Dr Agarwal led India's Agni missile programme from its inception in 1983 until his retirement in 2005.
- He spearheaded the development of various versions of the Agni missile.
- Agni I: Range of 700-800 km.
- Agni II: Range more than 2000 km.
- Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km
- Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.
- Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

- He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 by the Prime Minister of India for his contributions to aerospace and the Agni missile.
- He also received the DRDO Technology Leadership Award and Chandrasekhara Saraswati National Eminence Award.
- He was honored with the Padma Shri in 1990 and Padma Bhushan in 2000 by the President of India.

### Gandhian Shobhana Ranade passes away at 99

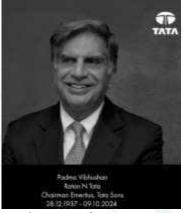
- Renowned social worker
   Shobhana Ranade, who met Mahatma Gandhi when she was 18, passed away in Pune
- Awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2011
- The Jamnalal Bajaj
   Foundation, awarded Ranade the Jamnalal Bajaj
   Award for Development and Welfare of Women and Children in 2011



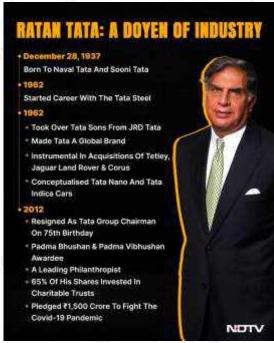
Harry Potter fame and an Oscar-winning actor Dame Maggie Smith passes away at 89

She won an Academy Award for The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie – Best Actress (1970)

### Doyen of Indian industry Ratan Tata passes away in Mumbai



- Ratan Naval Tata was born on December 28, 1937, in Bombay, to Naval and Soonoo Tata
- He obtained a degree in architecture from Cornell University.
- Ratan Tata joined the Tata Group in 1961



- Tata took over as the Chairman of Tata Sons in 1991
- He served as the Chairman of the major Tata companies, including Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Power, Tata Global Beverages, Tata Chemicals, Indian Hotels, and Tata Teleservices
- Tata's visionary business strategy led to landmark acquisitions like Toyota (UK), Corus (UK), and Jaguar Land Rover (UK)
- In 1998, Tata Motors introduced the Tata Indica,
   This was India's first indigenously designed
   passenger automobile

#### His contributions earned him numerous accolades

| Year | Award                | Awarding Body       |
|------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2000 | Padma Bhushan        | Government of India |
| 2008 | Padma Vibhushan      | Government of India |
| 2008 | Honorary Citizen     | Government of       |
| . 7  | Award                | Singapore           |
| 2014 | Honorary Knight      | Queen Elizabeth II  |
|      | Grand Cross of the   |                     |
| 400  | Order of the British |                     |
|      | Empire (GBE)         | 1 105               |
| 2016 | Commander of the     | Government of       |
|      | Legion of Honour     | France              |
| 2021 | Assam Baibhav        | Government of       |
|      | . 10                 | Assam               |
| 2023 | Honorary Officer of  | King Charles III    |
|      | the Order of         |                     |
|      | Australia            |                     |
| 2023 | Udyog Ratna          | Government          |
|      | 2/00                 | of Maharashtra      |

### Renowned Physicist and Gender Equity Proponent Rohini Godbole Passes at 71



- A Padma Shri recipient (2019)
- Godbole was among the members who submitted 'INSA Report: Access of Indian Women to Careers in Science', a first-of-its-kind document that dealt with issues that Indian women faced while pursuing science in college and as a career.

### Demise Of Prominent Media Personality & Eenadu Group Founder Ramoji Rao



- Ramoji Rao, the founder of Eenadu Group and Ramoji Film City, passed away on June 8 in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was 88.
- The government will perform Rao's last rites with state honours.
- In 2016, Rao received the Padma Vibhushan (second-highest civilian award in India), from then-President Pranab Mukherjee.
- He was also the head of the ETV Network of television channels.

#### Albania's world-renowned novelist Ismail Kadare dies



- internationally recognised after his novel "The General of the Dead Army" was published in 1963
- French President Emmanuel Macron awarded him the Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor title

### Renowned endocrine surgeon and Padma Shri Awardee Sivapatham Vittal passes away

- Sivapatham Vittal, regarded as the father of endocrine surgery in India.
- A recipient of the Dr. B.
   C. Roy award and the country's third highest civilian award, the
   Padma Shri.



## Demise of researcher Dr. Prithwindra Mukherjee



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the demise of Indian researcher and author Dr Prithwindra Mukherjee.
- Dr Prithwindra was conferred with Padma Shri 2020 for his work in the field of education and literature.

## Blood donation pioneer Kanta Krishen passes away

- Padma Shri Kanta Krishen, who spearheaded the voluntary blood donation movement in India, passed away
- She served as Secretary and later as President of the Blood Bank Society, established in 1964
- Under her leadership, Chandigarh became the fountainhead of the safe blood movement.



- awarded her the Padma Shri in 1972.
- She was instrumental in filing a Public Interest
  Litigation (PIL) through the organisation Common
  Cause, leading to the landmark 1996 Supreme
  Court judgment banning the buying and selling of
  blood in India.

# Tribal environmental activist Tulasi Gowda passes away



- Tribal environmental activist and Padma Shri awardee Tulasi Gowda, from Ankola in Uttara Kannada district (Karnataka), passed away
- · belonging to the primitive Halakki tribe
- She planted over 30,000 tree saplings in 14 years and took care of those saplings.
- In recognition of her work, she was conferred
   Padma Shri by then President Ram Nath Kovind in
   2021.

# Jimmy Carter, 39<sup>th</sup> US president, Nobel Winner, Passes Away At 100

 As the 39th President of the United States, he played a pivotal role in brokering peace in the Middle East during his tenure from 1977 to 1981.



 In 2002, Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his "decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development



Some Highlights of his career:

#### The Panama Canal

 During his first year in office, Carter went back on a campaign promise and decided to hand back management of the Panama Canal to the nation of Panama - which had been in U.S. military control since its construction at the start of the 20th century. • The signing of the canal treaties with Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos on September 7, 1977.



#### **Camp David Accords**

- In September 1978, Carter invited Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar Sadat to Camp David, the presidential retreat outside Washington.
- After 13 days of secret negotiations under Carter's mediation, two accords were signed that ultimately led to a peace treaty the following year.
- The Accords ensured that both Egypt and Israel achieved their primary goals: Egypt regained the Sinai Peninsula that Israel had captured during the Six-Day War in 1967, while Israel received its first formal recognition from an Arab state

### **SPORTS**

- 1. Bela Karolyi, gymnastics coach
- 2. England batter Graham Thorpe
- 3. Hockey player Rajagopal
- 4. Frank Duckworth, co-inventor of Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method
- 5. sports journalist Harpal Singh Bedi
- 6. Cricketer K Hoysala
- 7. marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptum
- 8. basketball player S.K. Subramaniam
- 9. India's oldest Air Force pilot Dalip Singh Majithia
- 10. Mohammad Shafi Pandit, first Muslim IAS officer

### Tennis Legend Luis Ayala Passes Away at 91



- played in two French Open finals, he won 46 singles titles in his career.
- he was a finalist at Roland Garros in 1958 and 1960,

Bela Karolyi, gymnastics coach who mentored Nadia, Mary Lou and courted controversy, dies



# Former Secretary General of NRAI Sethi passes away

- The former secretary general of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Baljit Singh Sethi passed away.
  - He served the NRAI as the secretary general from 1985 to 2009
- dia win its **first**
- His vision and dedication saw India win its first ever Olympic medal in shooting, and also the first ever individual Olympic gold.
- India's first Olympic medal in shooting was a silver medal won by Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore at the 2004 Athens Olympics
- Abhinav Bindra won India's first individual
   Olympic gold medal in the 10m air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

- National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was founded in 1951
- The first speaker of Lok Sabha G.V.Mavlankar was the founder and the first president of NRAI

# Former England batter Graham Thorpe passes away

- Former England batter and coach Graham Thorpe passed
- Thorpe played 100 Tests for England, scoring 16 centuries, before retiring in 2005



### Former Player And Ex-Federer Coach Peter Lundgren Passes Away

 Former Swedish tennis player Peter Lundgren, who also coached Roger Federer early in the Swiss player's career, has passed away at the age of 59.



Lundgren won three ATP titles and was ranked
 25th in the world at the peak of his career.

# Former Kerala hockey player Rajagopal passes away

 Former Kerala State hockey player A.V.
 Rajagopal passed away in Alappuzha. He was 73.



# Legendary Indian cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad passes



#### away in Vadodara

- Legendary Indian cricketer and former coach, and selector Anshuman Gaekwad passed away at the age of 71 in Vadodara,
- He represented India in 40 Tests and 15 ODIs from 1975 to 1987.

### Olympic Cyclist Daniela Chirinos Passes Away at 51



 Daniela Larreal Chirinos, a five-time Olympic cyclist who competed for Venezuela over the course of a decade, has died.

### Olympic silver medallist gymnast Poujade dies at 51



 French gymnast Eric Poujade, Olympic silver medallist on the pommel horse at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, died

### Frank Duckworth, co-inventor of Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, passed away

- Statistician Frank Duckworth
- His formula is used to determine results in raincurtailed cricket matches.
- The method was first used in international cricket in 1997 and was formally adopted by the ICC as the standard method for setting revised targets in



truncated games in 2001.

 The Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method is a formula used in cricket to calculate a fair target for the second team's innings when a match is interrupted by bad weather or other stoppages.

### Veteran sports journalist Harpal Singh Bedi passes away



- He served as the national Olympic contingent's press attache in 2012.
- The former sports editor of the United News of India (UNI) was among the major figures in Indian sports

# Varugeese Koshy, chess International Master and renowned trainer, died



- International Master, renowned trainer and a mentor to many aspirants, Varugeese Koshy, has died.
- He become India number two in the National Championship of the early nineties.

# England's spin legend Derek Underwood passed at the age of 78



 He was the most successful spin bowler in England's Test cricket history

### Franz Beckenbauer football player of Germany passed away at 78



- One of the greatest football player of all time
- Known in Germany as "the Kaiser" meaning "the emperor"

# Mario Zagallo, Brazil's World Cup winning player and coach, dies at age 92



- He was the first ever footballer to win the FIFA
   World Cup trophy as both player and coach
- The only person to ever win four World Cup titles
- He won two World Cups as a player, one as a coach and another as an assistant coach for Brazil

### Dattajirao Gaekwad, Nation's Oldest Test Cricketer, Passes Away At 95



- Born: 27 October 1928, Vadodara
- Died: 13 February 2024 (Age: 95)
- Gaekwad's cricketing journey began in 1948 when he made his Ranji debut for Bombay University.
- He made his Test debut when the Indian team toured England in 1952.
- He played 11 Tests for India between 1952 and 1961, captaining the national team in 1959 when it toured England.

### Karnataka Cricketer K Hoysala Passes Away



 Former Karnataka junior cricketer K. Hoysala passed away on February 23 after suffering a cardiac arrest following a match against Tamil Nadu. He was 34.

### Former South African allrounder and coach Mike Procter dies at 77

 Procter also served as an ICC match referee between 2002 and 2008.



#### Carl Weathers dies at 76



- Actor Carl Weathers, renowned for his iconic role as Apollo Creed in the "Rocky"movies.
- Sylvester Stallone pays tribute

### World marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptum dies in road accident



- World marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptum and his coach died in a traffic accident on February 12, 2024
- Kiptum, 24, set the world record at the Chicago Marathon in October with a time of 2:00:35 to surpass the record of 2:01:09

#### Legendary cricketer Ravi Achan dies



- Paliath Ravi Achan, 96, the legendary former Kerala cricket captain
- The first Kerala cricketer to register the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets.

# Former Asiad star Deanna Syme Tewari passes away



 She represented India at the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta and was a torch bearer – alongside hockey icon (late) Balbir Singh Sr. – at the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi.

### Former Football Coach T K Chathunni Passes Away At 80 In Kerala



### Mumbai Cricket Association President Amol Kale Passes Away Due To Cardiac Arrest In New York



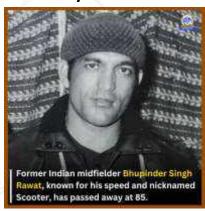
- Kale was elected as the MCA president in October 2022
- Kale was also a co-promoter of the Indian Street
   Premier League, a tennis-ball franchise cricket
   league launched earlier this year.

# Former basketball player S.K. Subramaniam passes away



- He was a basketball player, organiser, and referee.
- Served as the Secretary in Tamil Nadu Basketball
   Association (TNBA), Basketball Federation of India
   (BFI), and was an international referee.
- He's the only Indian to officiate in the basketball final between South Korea and China in the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi.

### Former Indian Midfielder Bhupinder Singh Rawat passed away



# Veteran Horse trainer S.K. Sunderji passes away



- Sunderji began his remarkable horse training career in 1985.
- One of his most cherished win Indian Derby (horse race) in 2018.

# Former top polo player HS Sodhi passed away



- Leading former Indian polo player and Arjuna awardee Harinder Singh Sodhi, has died due to age-related illnesses.
- Popular in polo circles as 'Billy' Sodhi.
- Harinder was the manager of the Indian equestrian team during the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

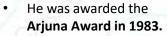
### Former Australia cricketer Ian Redpath dies



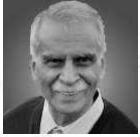
- In January 2023, Redpath was inducted into the Cricket Australia Hall of Fame.
- Earlier in 2024, the Geelong Cricket Club renamed their scoreboard in honour of the former Australia cricketer.

# Legendary India squash player Raj Manchanda, the Arjuna Award recipient and winner of 6

national titles died



 undisputed national champion from 1977 to 1982



### **Aussie Davis Cup great Fraser passes away**



- Neale Fraser, who won three Grand Slam singles titles and guided Australia to four Davis Cup titles
- He won 11 Major men's doubles titles, including at least two at each of the four Grand Slam tournaments

### **ARMY & POLICE**

### Indian Coast Guard Director-General Rakesh Pal dies



- 25th Director-General of Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal passed away of heart attack in Chennai. He was 59.
- ICG was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- HQ: New Delhi.

# Former Chief of Army Staff General Sundararajan Padmanabhan passed away



 General Padmanabhan also served as the Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee.

# Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, Former Indian Navy Chief, Dies At 90



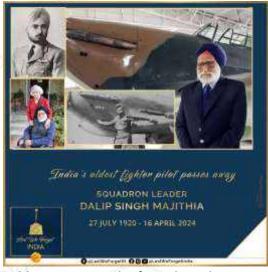
- He had commanded INS Beas during the 1971 India-Pakistan war.
- He had served as the 13th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)

### World War-II veteran Subedar Thanseia dies at 102



He was **from Mizoram** and had been part of the **Army's Assam Regiment** at the Battle of Kohima during World
War II

### India's oldest Air Force pilot Dalip Singh Majithia passes away



- The oldest surviving pilot from the Indian Air Force, Squadron Leader Dalip Singh Majithia, passed away at the age of 103
- Born on July 27, 1920, in Shimla, Squadron Leader Majithia joined the Indian Air Force (IAF) volunteer reserve in 1940 during World War II
- Squadron Leader Majithia served as the flight commander of the renowned No. 4 Squadron,
   'The Fighting Oorials,' from 1942 to 1943 in Burma.

Air Marshal R S Bedi, a veteran of 1965 and 1971 wars, passes away



# Telangana's Senior IPS officer Rajiv Ratan passes away



- · Reportedly after heart attack.
- He was serving as the Director General of Telangana Vigilance and Enforcement

# Mohammad Shafi Pandit, first Muslim IAS officer from Kashmir valley, passes away



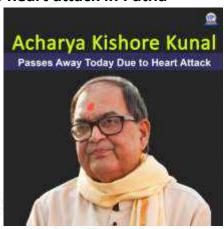
 He was the first Muslim from Kashmir to qualify the civil services examinations in 1969.

# Vijay Shankar, former CBI director passes away

- Shankar headed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from December 12, 2005 to July 31, 2008.
- He helmed Aarushi murder case and gangster Abu Salem extradition
- Served as inspector general in the Border Security Force (BSF)



Former IPS officer deputed as OSD on Ayodhya dispute Acharya Kishore Kunal dies of heart attack in Patna



- The 1972 batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre had also served as Patna Senior Superintendent of Police for two years (1983-84).
- Mr. Kunal was also appointed officer of special duty on the Ayodhya dispute during the time of former Prime Minister V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar.
- books: Ayodhya Revisited, Dalit Devo Bhava

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1. Demise of Birsa Munda's greatgrandson Mangal Munda
- 2. Acharya Laxmikant Dixit
- 3. Tribal Leader Lama Lobzang
- 4. Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar
- 5. Ice cream man of India
- 6. Keladi Dynasty
- 7. C.T. Kurien
- 8. Fashion Icon Rohit Bal
- 9. news anchor M.Ramachandran
- 10. Justice KS Puttaswamy
- 11. Malayalam actor Meghanathan
- 12. Former Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary P. Shankar

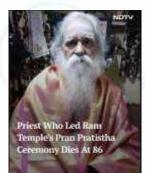
Demise of Birsa Munda's great-grandson Mangal Munda, He was 45



### Celia Lobo, opera diva and mother of choreographer Ashley Lobo, dies at 87



# Ayodhya Ram Mandir Pran Pratistha ceremony Chief Priest Acharya Laxmikant Dixit dies at 86



 Lord Ram's idol was consecrated at the Ayodhya temple on January 22, 2024

### Ramakrishna Mission Chief Swami Smarananda Maharaj dies



 Swami Smaranananda, 94, was the 16th President of Ramakrishna Mission, which was founded by Swami Vivekananda

### Prominent Tribal Leader Lama Lobzang Passes Away



- Prominent Buddhist Monk of Ladakh popularly known as LamaLobzang passes away. He was 94.
- A distinguished tribal leader, Lama Lobzang had served National Commission for SCs & STs for 19 years since 1984.

#### Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar passes away



- Known as one of the greatest Jain seers, Acharya Shri 108 Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj passed away at Chandragiri Teerth in Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district after undertaking 'sallekhna'.
- Sallekhna is a Jain religious practice involving voluntary fasting unto death for spiritual purification
- He was born on 10 October 1946 in Sadalga in Belgaum district of Karnataka

#### Digambara vs. Svetambara

- Digambara and Svetambara are the two main branches of Jainism.
- The Sanskrit words "Digambara" (sky-clad) and "Svetambara" (white-clad) describe the traditional practices of their members.
- Digambara Jains believe that Mahavir never married.
- Svetambara Jains believe that Mahavir was married to Yashoda and they had a daughter named Priyadarshani.

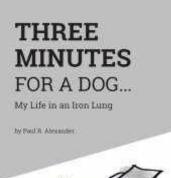
### Razia Baig of Qadir Ali Baig Foundation passed away at 73

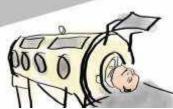


- Begum Razia Baig, a prominent figure in the world of theatre and chairperson of the Qadir Ali Baig Theatre Foundation, passed away in Hyderabad.
- Known for her pivotal role in the revival of theatre in the city alongside her husband Qadir Ali Baig, Begum Razia Baig leaves behind a legacy of theatrical excellence.

### Paul Alexander, The Man In The Iron Lung, Passed Away At 78







- Paul Alexander, from the US, spent over 70 years in an iron lung after contracting polio as a child and resultant paralysis & lung failure.
- He painted and wrote his memoir, Three Minutes for a Dog: My Life Inside an Iron Lung
- Recognized by Guinness World Records as the "longest iron lung patient"
- Polio (poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus.
- It **invades the nervous system** and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours.
- Polio mainly affects children under 5 years of age. However, anyone of any age who is unvaccinated can contract the disease.

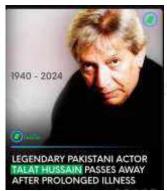
# Sudhir Kakar India's foremost psychoanalyst passed away



- Prominent French newsmagazine Le Nouvel
   Observateur once listed him among the world's 25 major thinkers.
- · Some of his famous works:

- The Inner World (1978) decoding how Hindu mythology affected Indians on a daily, intimate and societal level
- > The Indians: Portrait of a People
- Shamans, Mystics and Doctors: A Psychological Inquiry into India and its Healing Traditions
- The Kipling File

### Veteran Pakistani actor Talat Hussain dies at 83



 Talat Hussain, an acclaimed actor in radio, TV, theatre, and cinema, passed away

### 'Ice cream man of India' Raghunandan Kamath dies at 70



- Fondly known as the "Ice Cream Man of India", founder of Naturals Ice Cream Raghunandan
   Srinivas Kamath passed away .
- Kamath first founded the ice cream brand in Mumbai

# Keladi dynasty expert Gunda Jois passes away in Karnataka



 He was known for his research on the rule of the Keladi dynasty (1499 to 1763) and for collecting historical manuscripts related to the dynasty. His monumental work resulted in people calling him 'Keladi' Gunda Jois.  He has been honoured with many awards, including Rajyotsava award by the government of Karnataka

#### **About Keladi Dynasty**

- Nayakas of Keladi (1499–1763), also known as Nayakas of Bednore and Ikkeri Nayakas, were an Indian dynasty based in Keladi in present-day Shimoga district of Karnataka. Keladi Rameshwara temple is today in Sagar, Shivamogga district
- After the crushing defeat of the mighty
   Vijayanagara empire in the Battle of Talikota in
   1565 (from alliance of the Deccan sultanates),
   Keladi rose to become important ruling dynasty in post-medieval Karnataka.
- They ruled significant parts of Malnad region of the Western Ghats in present-day Karnataka, most areas in the coastal regions of Karnataka, and parts of northern Kerala, Malabar and the central plains along the Tungabhadra river.
- They ruled the region till Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore, conquered the region in 1763, dethroning Virammaji, the last queen of Keladi.

# Eminent Wildlife Biologist AJT Johnsingh Passes Away In Bengaluru

- One of the eminent wildlife field biologists and pioneers of wildlife conservation in the Country, A.J.T. Johnsingh passed away in Bengaluru
- His pioneering work in elephants in the early 1980s was instrumental for the Government of India to formulate Project Elephant.
- He also conducted an international conference bringing elephant experts across the world to Mudhumalai wildlife sanctuary.

# Indian Business Tycoon & Philanthropist Ram Buxani Passes Away In Dubai



# Subhash Dandekar, the Visionary Behind Camlin's Success Passes Away at 86



- Subhash Dandekar, the founder of iconic stationery brand Camlin died, at the age of 86,
- The company named Horse Brand was founded in 1931 by DP Dandekar and GP Dandekar.
- Under Subhash Dandekar, the company was renamed as Camlin and diversified from stationary items to art products

### C.T. Kurien, distinguished economist, no more



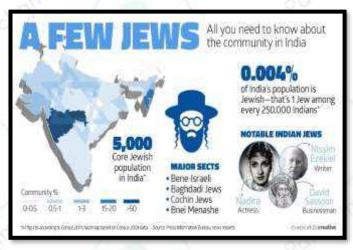
- C.T. Kurien, distinguished economist and former professor of Madras Christian College, is no more.
- Served as president of Indian Economic Association in 2000.

### Former YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki died



- Susan Wojcicki, the former YouTube CEO and one of Google's earliest employees, has passed away at the age of 56.
- Wojcicki, one of the most prominent women in tech, stepped down from her role at YouTube in 2023, a position she held for nine years.

### Last Paradesi Jewish woman in Kochi, Queenie Hallegua, dies at 89



 Only one Paradesi Jew – White Jews of European origin – remains in Kochi: Queenie's 65-year-old nephew Keith I Hellegua.



- 1. Nava Bharat media group chairman **Vinod Maheshwari** dies, He was 81.
- 2. Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) State secretariat member and former Minister for Local Administration **K. Kutty Ahammed Kutty**, 71, passed away





# Rachael Lillis, voice actor for Misty and Jessie from 'Pokémon', dies at 46



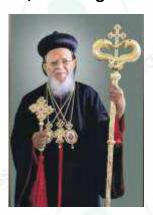
 Rachael Lillis, known for her iconic roles as Misty and Jessie from Team Rocket in Pokémon, has passed away at the age of 46.

### Pravin Gordhan, South African Anti-Apartheid Activist, Dies at 75.



- Pravin Gordhan, a prominent Indian-origin South African politician and anti-apartheid activist, passed away
- In 2010, Gordhan received the Pravasi Bhartiya
   Award, India's highest honour for overseas Indians.

The Catholicos of Jacobite Syrian Church Baselios Thomas I passed away at in Kochi, Kerala, at the age of 95.



## **Demise of BPL Group founder T P Gopalan Nambiar**



- Nambiar (94), the founder of Indian electronic company BPL Group, died.
- Popularly known as TPG, Nambiar is the father-inlaw of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

### **Economic Historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi Passes Away**

### 1936-2024



Amiya Kumar Bagchi acted as official historian of SBI from 1976 to 1998

Some of his books | Private Investment in India 1900-1939 (1972); The Evolution of the State Bank of India, Vol. I: The Roots 1806-1876 (2006); The Evolution of the State Bank of India, Vol. II: The Era of the

Presidency Banks and the Indian

 Expert in - Economic History, Macroeconomics, Development Economics

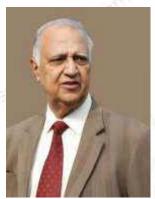
Economy 1876-1914 (1989)

Founder, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata

#### Notable works:

- Private Investment in India 1900-1939
- Deindustrialization in Colonial India
- Dialectics of Development and Underdevelopment (1972)
- Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendency of Capital

# PM Modi condoles demise of Giridhar Malviya



- Retired Justice Giridhar Malaviya, the grandson of Banaras Hindu University founder Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, died at his house in Prayagraj. He was 88
- Malaviya served as a judge at the Allahabad High Court from 1988 to 1998.
- In November 2018, he was unanimously elected as the **Banaras Hindu University Chancellor.**

# Thomas Kurtz, co-creator of BASIC computer language, dies



 Thomas E Kurtz, a pioneering mathematician at Dartmouth College and an inventor of the simplified computer programming language known as BASIC, died in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

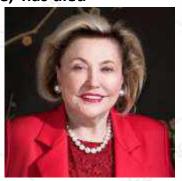
### Fashion Icon Rohit Bal Passes Away at 63



### Industrialist and Essar Group Chairman Shashikant Ruia passed away



### Barbara Taylor Bradford, million-selling novelist known for 'A Woman of Substance,' has died



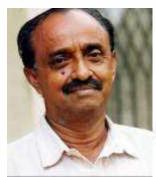
- British-American best-selling novelist.
- "A Woman of Substance," published in 1979
- In 2007, Queen Elizabeth II awarded her an OBE
   (The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

# Former Kerala Acting Chief Justice passes away



 V.P. Mohankumar, former Acting Chief Justice of Kerala and Acting Chairperson of the Kerala State Human Rights Commission, passed away.

# Popular radio news anchor M.Ramachandran passes away



 M.Ramachandran, former news anchor of All India Radio and one of the most identifiable voices in Malayalam radio history

### Only Mizo Top Grade Artist Of Akashvani Vanhlupuii Passes Away At 77



- Born in 1946 in Aizawl, Mizoram
- started recording for AIR in 1957.
- In 1969, she achieved Grade 'A' and subsequently the Top Grade Artist of AIR.

#### Noted journalist Vinay Vir passes away



He was the **Publisher and Editor of Daily Hindi Milap** 

### Print media veteran Naresh Mohan dies at 82

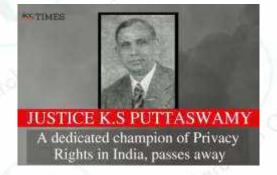


- Distinguished media veteran and former President of Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Naresh Mohan passed away.
- He also served as Executive President at
   Hindustan Times, chairman at United News of
   India and as member of the Press Council of India.
- Founded in 1939, INS acts as the central organisation for newspapers in India

### Demise of senior journalist and writer Umesh Upadhyay, He was 64.



Justice KS Puttaswamy, Key Figure in Right to Privacy Case, Passes Away at 98



- Former Karnataka High Court judge Justice K S
   Puttaswamy, who played a pivotal role in
   declaration of right to privacy as a fundamental
   right from the Supreme Court in 2017, passed
   away at Bengaluru, He was 98.
- Justice Puttaswamy was the lead petitioner who had moved the apex court in 2012
- challenging the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar scheme as being violative of the privacy right.
- In a landmark verdict in August 2017, a nine-judge bench through an unanimous verdict declared the right to privacy a fundamental right under Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution.

# Former Supreme Court Judge Justice HS Bedi Passes Away



- In 2006, he became Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court and was elevated to the Supreme Court on January 12, 2007.
- He retired on September 5, 2011.

# Malayalam actor Meghanathan dies at 60 due to lung-related illness



 He won the National Film Award for Best Actor in 1981, for his performance as Govindan in the film Oppol.

### S M Khan, Press Secretary to former President Dr Kalam, dies

- served as the CBI spokesperson from 1989 to 2002.
- also wrote a book titled "The People's President", narrating his experiences working with Dr Kalam.
   Khan



### SHEHZAD MOHAMMED KHAN (S.M. KHAN)

15 AUGUST 1957 - 17 NOVEMBER 2024

Burial and Last Rites will be held in his hometown **Khurja**, Uttar Pradesh

Time: 1:30pm
Date: 18th November 2024
Venue: Ahmed Saed Khan Rifah-E-Aam Inter
College, Khurja, District Bulandshahr
Uttar Pradesh

Journalist, author, activist and founder editor of the erstwhile Dalit Voice magazine V. T. Rajashekar passed away



He founded the Dalit Voice in 1981.

### Former Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary P. Shankar died



He had held the post for a brief period from 2001
 to 2002

 In September 2002, Shankar was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner, a position he held till 2006.

Isak Andic, founder of Spanish fashion giant 'Mango', dies



Urban designer, architect Ranjit Sabikhi, known for Delhi's Yamuna Apartments and Shimla's Oberoi Wildflower Hall, dies at 89



Charles Dolan, HBO founder and pioneering cable TV mogul, passes away



 Charles Dolan is known for founding HBO (Home Box Office) in 1972 and a year later creating Cablevision, one of the US largest cable operators.



### **Epigamia founder Rohan Mirchandani dies** of cardiac arrest

- Founder of Drums Food International, the firm behind popular Greek yogurt brand Epigamia, Rohan Mirchandani has passed away due to cardiac arrest.
- Mirchandani (42), who co-founded Drums Food International in 2013.

Osamu Suzuki, who led Japanese automaker into India, dies at 94



- Former President Chairman & CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation
- led Japan's Suzuki Motor for more than four decades and played a key role in turning India into a flourishing auto market

# Appointments

### **GOVT APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. Sanjay Malhotra as new RBI Governor
- 2. T Rabi Sankar as RBI Deputy Governor
- 3. Preeti Sudan as UPSC chairperson
- 4. New Governors In Multiple States
- 5. Dr. Arvind Panagariya as Chairman of Sixteenth Finance Commission
- 6. New Election Commissioners
- 7. **Kishor Makwana** Chairman of **National Commission** for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
- 8. Justice AM Khanwilkar new Lokpal
- 9. Bhushan Gagrani new BMC Commissioner
- 10. Kota Ravi now Assam Chief Secretary
- 11. Navneet Kumar Sehgal New Prasar Bharati Chairman
- 12. Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale sworn in as Judge of Supreme Court
- 13. Justice Dinesh Kumar appointed Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court
- 14. Justice Ritu Bahri the first women Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court
- 15. Justice S. Vaidyanathan sworn in as Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC
- 16. Kapil Sibal as President Supreme Court Bar Association
- 17. Om Birla (BJP) as Speaker of 18th Lok Sabha
- 18. Surama Padhy Elected as Odisha Assembly Speaker
- 19. PV Sindhu Brand Ambassador For Tobacco Control
- 20. Dr B N Gangadhar As Chairperson Of National Medical Commission
- 21. Rahul Navin as Director of Enforcement Directorate
- 22. Manu Bhaker as Brand Ambassador for Ports Ministry
- 23. Randhir Singh first Indian to be elected as OCA President
- 24. Justice Sanjiv Khanna 51st Chief Justice of India
- 25. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar as NCW Chairperson
- 26. Harsha Vardhan FICCI President
- 27. Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi Chief of BrahMos Aerospace
- 28. K. Sanjay Murthy as Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

### Sanjay Malhotra will be the new RBI Governor for a three-year term



- Revenue Secretary Mr. Malhotra will be the 26th RBI Governor.
- Mr. Malhotra was the Revenue Secretary to the Government of India.
- Mr. Malhotra was a 1990 Batch Rajasthan Cadre IAS Officer,
- Mr. Malhotra will replace Shaktikanta Das whose tenure ends on December 10
- Shaktikanta Das was appointed as the 25th Governor of the RBI on December 12, 2018, after the abrupt exit of Urjit Patel.

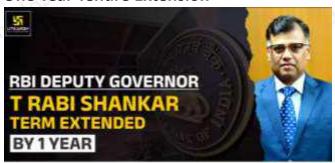
#### **About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- The Reserve Bank of India is India's central bank and regulatory body responsible for regulation of the Indian banking system.
- It is responsible for the control, issue and maintaining supply of the Indian rupee.
- Commenced operations on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton Young Commission.
- Though privately owned initially, it was nationalized on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1949 and since then fully owned by the Ministry of Finance

#### **Composition of the RBI**

- The overall direction of the RBI lies with the 21-member central board of directors, composed of:
  - One Governor;
  - Four Deputy Governors;
  - Two Finance Ministry Representatives (usually the Economic Affairs Secretary and the Financial Services Secretary);
  - > Ten government-nominated Directors; and
  - > Four Directors who represent local boards for Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi.
  - The first Governor of the RBI was the Australian Sir Osborne Arkell Smith. Sir C D Deshmukh was the first Indian to become Governor.

### RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar Gets One Year Tenure Extension



- from May 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.
- He was appointed as RBI Deputy Governor in May 2021 for three years.
- Besides the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the central bank has four Deputy Governors— M.D. Patra; M Rajeshwar Rao; J Swaminathan and T Rabi Sankar.
- In January this year, the Centre had extended the tenure of RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra by another year (with effect from January 15).

### Manoj Soni, UPSC Chairman Confirms Resignation



- Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
   Chairperson Dr Manoj Soni has resigned from the top post five years before his tenure that would end in 2029, citing "personal reasons".
- His resignation comes at a time when the commission has booked a criminal case against probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar for faking her identity to fraudulently avail attempts in the civil services examination

### Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan to Head UPSC from August 1



- Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan will take charge as the Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on August 1 under Article 316 A of the Constitution.
- Ms. Sudan is currently a member of the Commission. She will have a tenure till April 2025, when she turns 65.
- She will take over from Manoj Soni who resigned a few days ago due to "personal reasons".
- Mr. Soni resigned almost five years before his tenure ended in 2029. He was sworn-in as the Chairperson on May 16, 2023.
- Article 316 A A member of a Public Service
   Commission shall hold office for a term of six years
   from the date on which he enters upon his office
   or until he attains, in the case of the Union
   Commission, the age of sixty-five years, and in the
   case of a State Commission or a Joint Commission,
   the age of sixty-two years, whichever is earlier

The UPSC is a constitutional body as mandated under Article 315-323 Part XIV Chapter II of the Constitution of India.

 Appointment of Members: The Chairman and other members of the UPSC are appointed by the President of India.

- <u>Term of Office:</u> Any member of the UPSC shall hold office for a term of six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Reappointment: Any person who has once held the office as a member of a Public Service Commission is ineligible for reappointment to that office.
- Resignation: A member of the Union Public Service Commission may resign from his/her office by submitting the written resignation to the President of India.
- Removal/Suspension of Members: The Chairman or any other member of UPSC shall only be removed from his/her office by order of the President of India.

### Sheel Vardhan Singh appointed as UPSC member



- Sheel Vardhan Singh, the former Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), has been appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The commission can have a maximum of 10 members, each appointed for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65.

### Sanjay Verma takes the oath as a Member of UPSC



- The oath was administered by the UPSC Chairman Dr Manoj Soni.
- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has a chairman and ten members.
- The President of India appoints the Chairman and other members of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Each member serves for six years or until they reach the age of 65.

### Hansha Mishra Appointed as Director in UPSC

- Hansha Mishra has been appointed as Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Delhi
- Her tenure as Director in the UPSC will be for a period of five years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

#### **Union Public Service Commission**

- India's premier central recruiting body, which through the UPSC Exam, conducts the recruitment and examinations for All India services (Group A & Group B), such as the IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS, IFoS, etc.
- UPSC is an independent constitutional body in India. The Indian Constitution's Part XIV, Articles 315–323, covers the UPSC's composition, powers, functions, and the appointment and removal of its members
- The President of India appoints the Chairman & members of UPSC
- Ross Barker was the first chairman of UPSC
- Dr. Manoj Soni is the present UPSC Chairman.

### President Droupadi Murmu Appoints New Governors In Multiple States

- Rajasthan Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
- Telangana Jishnu Dev Verma
- Sikkim Om Prakash Mathur
- Jharkhand Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- Chhattisgarh Ramen Deka
- Meghalaya C H Vijaya Shankar
- Maharashtra C.P. Radhakrishnan
- Punjab Gulab Chand Kataria
- Assam and Manipur (additional charge) Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry K. Kailashnathan

### Governor of States (Article 153-162) - Part VI of the Indian constitution

- Article 153 There shall be a Governor for each state.
- Article 154 Executive power of State
- Article 155 The Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President
- Article 156 Governor shall hold office for a term of five years. The Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- Article 157 Qualification for appointment as Governor

(a citizen of India and has completed the age of 35 years).

Government of India constitutes
Sixteenth Finance Commission with Dr.
Arvind Panagariya as its Chairman



- Government of India, with the approval of the President of India, has constituted the Sixteenth Finance Commission, in pursuance to Article 280(1) of the Constitution.
- Dr Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, will be the Chairman.
- Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey has been appointed as Secretary to the Commission.
- The commission will recommend the tax revenue sharing formula between the Centre and the States for the five-year period beginning April 2026.



- October 2025 is the deadline set for the Commission to submit its recommendations, so that they can be incorporated in the Budget exercise for 2026-27.
- The Finance Commission usually takes about two years to consult stakeholders in the States and Centre and arrive at their conclusions.

### **Government appoints Members of the Sixteenth Finance Commission**

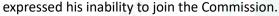
- The Sixteenth Finance Commission was constituted on 31.12.2023 with Shri Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog as its Chairman.
- The Sixteenth Finance Commission has been requested to make its recommendations available by October, 31, 2025.
- Covering an award period of 5 years commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.
- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union

and the States and amongst the States themselves.

| Shri. Ajay Narayan Jha    | Full time Member |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Smt. Annie George Mathew  | Full time Member |
| Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha | Full time Member |
| Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh    | Part time Member |

### **Govt appoints Manoj Panda as 16th Finance Commission member**

- The 16th Finance
   Commission, chaired by
   Arvind Panagariya, has
   four members.
- The appointment of Panda came after Niranjan Rajadhyaksha





| A SA |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Shri. Ajay Narayan Jha                   | Full time Member |
| Smt. Annie George Mathew                 | Full time Member |
| Shri. Manoj Panda                        | Full time Member |
| Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh                   | Part time Member |

#### **Finance commission**

- The Sixteenth Finance Commission was constituted on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 with Shri Arvind Panagariya as its Chairman.
- The Sixteenth Finance Commission has been requested to make its recommendations available by October, 31, 2025.
- Covering an award period of 5 years commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.
- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.
- The 15 Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India in November 2017, under the chairmanship of NK Singh.
- Its recommendations will cover a period of five years from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

### Rajiv Gauba to head central government committee on LGBTQ+ community

- The government of India has set up a committee on LGBTQ+ communities' welfare headed by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba.
- The committee has been set up by the government on the suggestion of the Supreme



Court in the Supriyo Chakraborty vs Union Of India Case.

In the Supriyo
 Chakraborty vs. Union
 Of India Case 2023,



the Special Marriage Act of 1954 was challenged because it did not permit same-sex marriage.

 The plaintiffs argued that this was against Article 14 of the fundamental rights, which provides for equal protection of law.

#### **Members of the Committee**

- The six-member committee will be headed by Union Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and include secretaries of important ministries.
- It includes Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Saurabh Garg as convenor and Secretary from the Home Affairs, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Law and Justice ministries.
- The committee's mandate includes recommending measures to eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals in accessing goods and services, ensuring their safety, preventing involuntary medical treatments or surgeries, and addressing discrimination in social welfare entitlements.
- The committee may also address any other issues deemed necessary for the protection and wellbeing of the LGBTQ+ community.
- LGBTQ+ is a collective term which represents a personal sexual orientation or identity. The term include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other identities. They are also sometimes called as Queer.

# Arun Goel quits as Election Commissioner ahead of polls



- According to a notification by the Law Ministry, his resignation has been accepted by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Mr. Goel's tenure was till 2027. He joined the EC on November 21, 2022.

- With his resignation, the Election Commission has been rendered with just one member — Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.
- Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey retired in February.
  - The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.
  - It consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

# Sukhbir Sandhu & Gyanesh Kumar appointed Election Commissioners

 Sukhbir Singh Sandhu from Punjab and Gyanesh Kumar from Kerala have been named as the new Election Commissioners by a panel chaired by Prime Minister Modi, committee member and Congress leader



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

 The vacancies had come up after the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey on February 14 and the sudden resignation of Arun Goel.

#### **Election Commission of India**

- Established in accordance with the Constitution on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950 (celebrated as National voters' day).
- Constitutional Provisions: Part XV (Article 324-329) of the Indian Constitution
- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it was made a multimember body.
- The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix.
- Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners

#### **Appointment of CEC & EC**

- It is governed by the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023
- The act replaced the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.

- The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha.

# Kishor Makwana assumes charge of Chairman National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)



- Makwana was a joint spokesperson of the Gujarat unit of the BJP.
- In re-constituted National Commission for Scheduled Castes, govt. ensures a place for Madiga member
- Madiga community is one of the most populous Scheduled Caste communities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

#### **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**

- Article 338 of the Indian Constitution deals with NCSC.
- The first Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set up in August 1978.
- The Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been replaced by
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes and
- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
- The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and three other Members.
- · appointed by the President

#### **Functions of the Commission**

- Enquiring into complaints relating to the deprivation of the rights and safeguards of the SCs.
- Taking part in and advising the central or state governments with respect to the planning of socio-economic development of the SCs.

# Sachidananda Mohanty appointed as Member, UGC



### Brajesh Mehrotra appointed as new Chief Secretary of Bihar



- The Bihar government appointed senior IAS officer
   Brajesh Mehrotra as the new chief secretary
- He succeeds Amir Subhani
- Bihar Capital: Patna;
- · Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar;
- · Governor Rajendra Arlekar
- Bihar Bird: House sparrow;
- Bihar Flower: Marigold;
- Bihar Formation: 22 March 1912.

# Government Appoints A S Rajeev, as Vigilance Commissioner

President Droupadi
 Murmu has appointed A S
 Rajeev as Vigilance
 Commissioner in the
 Central Vigilance
 Commission (CVC).



- Prior to this appointment,

  A S Rajeev was Managing Director & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra, a public sector bank.
- The CVC was set up through the Resolution of the Government of India
- On the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption formed under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Santhanam in 1964.
- It was given statutory status through CVC Act 2003.(Independence and autonomy in its functions.)
- The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is responsible to the Parliament.

- The Central Vigilance Commission became a three-member body, with the Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners.
- Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been Central Vigilance Commissioner since May 2023, Arvinda Kumar has been a Vigilance Commissioner since August 2022.

### Justice AM Khanwilkar to be new Lokpal of country



- Former Supreme Court judge, Justice A.M.
   Khanwilkar, has been appointed as the Lokpal chairperson by President Droupadi Murmu
- The Lokpal has been working without its regular chief after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term on May 27, 2022.
- Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty is currently the acting chairperson.

#### LOKPAL

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.
- These institutions are statutory bodies without any constitutional status.
- They perform the function of an "ombudsman" and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.
- The term Lokpal and Lokayukta were coined by Dr. L. M. Singhvi.
- Lokpal is a multi-member body, that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.
- The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.
- The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The selection committee is composed of the Prime Minister who is the Chairperson, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and One eminent jurist.

# Justice Satyendra Kumar Singh Sworn in as New Lokayukta of Madhya Pradesh



 Governor Mangubhai Patel administered the oath of office to the new Lokayukta at Raj Bhavan.

### President of India nominates Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu to Rajya Sabha

- Satnam Singh Sandhu is an educationist and philanthropist. He is the founder and chancellor of Chandigarh University
- The institute found a place in QS World Rankings
   2023, first among private universities in Asia.
- As per article 80 of the Indian Constitution, 12 members are nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President of India for a six-year term for their contributions to arts, literature, education and social service.

### Prez Murmu nominates philanthropist Sudha Murty to Rajya Sabha



 President Droupadi Murmu has nominated educator, author, and philanthropist Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha.

#### Rajya Sabha

- **Article 80** of the Constitution have provisions for members of the Rajya Sabha.
- Rajya Sabha should consist of not more than 250 members - 238 elected and 12 nominated by the President.
- Minimum age to be a member 30 years
- Each member is elected for a term of 6 years.



- One third of the members retire every second year and are replaced by newly elected members.
- Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

# Punjab governor Banwarilal Purohit resigns



- Banwarilal Purohit cited personal reasons behind his resignation.
- Also stepping down as the administrator of the Union territory (UT) of Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.
- Purohit took charge as the Punjab Governor in September 2021, after serving as the Tamil Nadu governor for 4 years.

# Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan Resigned



- Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned as the Governor of Telangana and the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- Soundararajan was appointed as the Governor of Telangana in September 2019
- In February 2021, she was given the additional charge of L-G of Puducherry, after incumbent Kiran Bedi resigned.

# Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan given additional responsibilities of Telangana, Puducherry



### Pashupati Kumar Paras Resigns From Union Cabinet



- Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party President, Pashupati Kumar Paras has resigned as the union cabinet minister.
- Kiren Rijiju given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

### ICAI elected Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as their new President

- ICAI Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal replaced Aniket S. Talati
- He has assumed charge as the 72<sup>nd</sup> President of ICAI



CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal President, ICAI

#### Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

- A statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, viz. The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
- Established in: 1949.
- Formulation of Accounting Standards; and Standard Auditing Procedures.
- under the administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

# ECI orders appointment of Bhushan Gagrani as new BMC Commissioner



 The Election Commission of India (ECI) directed the Maharashtra government to appoint Bhushan Gagrani as the new Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

- He is currently serving as the Additional Chief Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office
- Mr. Gagrani took over from Iqbal Singh Chahal.
- BMC, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, is the governing civic body of Mumbai, the capital city of Maharashtra. The BMC is India's richest municipal corporation.

### Appointments Committee Approves Key Appointments in Ministries

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved following appointments:

- Apurva Chandra appointed the Health Secretary
- Sanjay Jaju has been appointed as the new Information and Broadcasting Secretary in place of Mr. Chandra.
- Ashish Kumar Bhutani will be Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation.
- Anil Malik will take over as Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Sumita Dawra will take over as Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Vijay Kumar named Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- P Daniel will be Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission
- Rashmi Chowdhary will be Secretary, Central Information Commission

#### **Other important Secretaries**

- Cabinet Secretary Rajib Gauba
- Principal Secretary to the PM Pramod Kumar Mishra
- Secretary to the President Rajesh Verma

### CSIR DG N Kalaiselvi gets two-year extension

- Nallathamby Kalaiselvi, the first woman Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- CSIR was established -September 1942



# Kota Ravi now Assam Chief Secretary



### New Standing Committee for Inter-State Council Names Amit Shah as Chairman

### What is the Inter-State Council?

The ISC was constituted to facilitate Centre-State and Inter-State cooperation in India.



- It was established under Article 263 of the Constitution, which empowers the President of India to establish an ISC for better coordination between States.
- The Sarkaria Commission (1988) recommended making the ISC a permanent body, leading to its formal establishment in 1990 through a Presidential Order.

#### Composition of the Council:

- The PM serves as the Chairperson.
- Members include Chief Ministers (CMs) of all States, CMs of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly, and 6 Union Ministers of Cabinet rank, nominated by the Prime Minister, are also part of the ISC.
- In 1996, the Council decided to set up a Standing Committee for continuous consultation and processing of matters for consideration of the Council.
- Accordingly, a Standing Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Home
   Minister and has been reconstituted from time to time with the approval of the Chairman of the Council.

# Sheyphali Sharan takes charge as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau

Sheyphali B. Sharan has assumed charge upon superannuation of Manish Desai.



### **Rahul Singh Appointed New CBSE Chief**

- Rahul Singh has been appointed Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- He will succeed Nidhi Chhibber, who has been named Advisor in the Niti Aayog.

#### **Other Appointment**

 Rajeev Kumar Mital, has been appointed as Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

### Former IAS Officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal Takes Charge As New Prasar Bharati Chairman



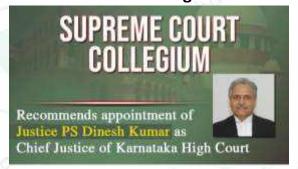
- The post is being filled after a gap of 4 years.
- A Surya Prakash completed his term as Chairman in 2020.

# Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale sworn in as Judge of Supreme Court



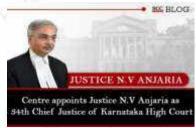
- Justice Varale was the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court before his elevation to the Supreme Court
- There are currently 34 judges (including the Chief Justice). The maximum possible strength is 34.
- The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution
- According to the Constitution of India, the judges of the Supreme Court must retire at the age of 65.

# Justice Dinesh Kumar appointed Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court



- At present Justice Kumar is the acting Chief Justice of the HC after Justice P.B. Varale was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- Justice Kumar will have a tenure of less than a month as he retires on February 24

# Justice Anjaria takes oath as 34th Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court



- Justice Nilay Vipinchandra Anjaria, 58, took oath as 34th Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka
- Governor Thaarwar Chand Gehlot administered oath to him at Raj Bhavan.
- Born on March 23, 1965 at Ahmedabad in Gujarat,
- Justice Anjaria was serving as the senior most judge of the High Court of Gujarat.

# Justice Ritu Bahri takes oath as the first women Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court



- The oath was administered by Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (Retd).
- Previously, she served as a senior judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

## Rajendra Prasad Gupta Appointed as Rajasthan's New Advocate General



 Advocate General of State acts as the highest law officer in the State.

- He is responsible for advising the State Government on legal matters referred to him by the Governor.
- This is a Constitutional post and authority duly appointed under Article 165 of the Constitution of India.
- Under this article, the Governor of each
   State shall appoint a person who is qualified to
   be appointed as a Judge of a High Court to be
   Advocate General for the State.
- Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra.
- On India level highest law officer is the Attorney General

# Justice Vijay Bishnoi sworn in as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court



- Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice.
- Article 217 The Chief Justice of High Court is appointed by the President after Consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the State Concerned.

# Justice S. Vaidyanathan sworn in as Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC

- He succeeds Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee who superannuated in November last year.
- Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath



### Other recently appointed Chief Justices to the High Courts

- Justice Ritu Bahri took oath as the first women
   Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court
- Justice Vijay Bishnoi new Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

- Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh appointed as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.
- Justice Arun Bhansali appointed as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court
- Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava appointed as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court

# Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi sworn in as judicial member, Lokpal of India



- Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey also took oath of office as member, Lokpal.
- The oath was administered by Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar, Chairperson, Lokpal of India.
- Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, before joining as Judicial Member, Lokpal of India, was serving as the Chairperson of 22nd Law Commission of India. Before that, he was Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- A Lokpal is an anti-corruption authority or body of ombudsman who represents the public interest in the Republic of India.
- The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson and 8
   Members out of whom 50% are Judicial Members.
   The Chairperson and the Members are appointed by the President of India
- Retired Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose was the first Lokpal of India

Justice Aniruddha Bose Retires from Supreme Court, Appointed Director of National Judicial Academy, Bhopal



### Former Judge Najmi Waziri to Head Committee for Delhi Forest Protection



- The Delhi High Court recently appointed its former judge, Justice Najmi Waziri as the head of the internal departmental committee tasked with protection of forests in the national capital
- Justice Waziri is known as the "Green Judge" because of orders passed by him to increase the green cover in the city.

#### **Static Info**

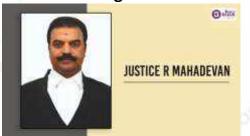
- As per latest India State of Forest Report ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country.
- Largest forest cover in India: Madhya Pradesh > Arunachal Pradesh > Chhattisgarh > Odisha > Maharashtra
- The states from the North eastern region of the country have the highest percentage of forest cover w.r.t. total geographical area of the state:
   Mizoram (84.53%) > Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%)
   > Meghalaya (76.00%) > Manipur (74.34%)
   > Nagaland (73.90%).

# Ajay Seth gets additional charge of Revenue Secretary

- Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth.
- Outgoing revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the next Reserve Bank of India governor.



### Justice R. Mahadevan to be Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court



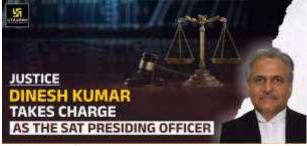
- Appointed by President Droupadi Murmu
- Justice Mahadevan will take charge as the Acting Chief Justice from 24th May, upon the retirement of the current Chief Justice SV Gangapurwala.

### **Kapil Sibal elected Supreme Court Bar Association President**



 Senior advocate Kapil Sibal was elected President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). He would be serving the SCBA for the 4<sup>th</sup> time as its President.

# Justice P S Dinesh Kumar takes charge as the SAT Presiding officer



- The Finance Ministry has appointed P S Dinesh Kumar, a retired judge, as the presiding officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) for four
- Kumar is a former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court.
- SAT hears and disposes of appeals against the orders of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India, and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority along with appeals against the stock exchanges and depositories.

### Jethabhai Bharwad elected NAFED Chairman unopposed

 Jethabhai Bharwad, who is the Deputy Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly has been elected Chairman of major agri cooperative National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).



### National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)

- An apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India.
- It was founded on 2 October 1958 to promote the trade of agricultural produce and forest resources across the nation.
- With its headquarters in New Delhi, NAFED has four regional offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata

# Senior IPS Officers A.Y.V. Krishna & N. Venu Gopal Appointed As Additional Directors In CBI

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Mr. Krishna been inducted as the additional director of CBI for a tenure up to August 6, 2028.
- Mr. Venu Gopal has been appointed as additional director, CBI for a tenure up to May 24, 2027

#### CBI

 It is India's premier investigative agency, responsible for addressing serious crimes and ensuring national security.



- It operates under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The CBI was formally established in 1963
- However, its origins trace back to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) formed in 1941 to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Department of India during World War II.
- The CBI is not a statutory body but derives its power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

 The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).

### DRDO chief Samir V Kamat gets one-year extension



- from June 1, 2024, till May 31, 2025, or until further orders.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi
- Formed: 1958

### Sanjaya Kumar Mishra Takes Oath as 1<sup>st</sup> President Of GST Appellate Tribunal



- Former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the first President of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), New Delhi.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman administered the oath of office to Justice Mishra.
- The GSTAT is the Appellate Authority established under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017
- GSTAT is set up as a crucial body for resolving GSTrelated disputes. It will ensure swift, fair, judicious and effective resolution to GST disputes, besides significantly reducing the burden on higher courts.

#### **Tribunals**

• It is a quasi-judicial institution that deals with the resolution of disputes pertaining to

- administration, taxation, environment, securities,
- A quasi-judicial body is a non-judicial body which can interpret law. It serve as an alternative to the traditional court system.
- It is comprised of members who have specialized expertise in the subject matter over which they have jurisdiction.
- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals.
   The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is titled 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles-
- Article 323A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

### Om Birla (BJP) elected as Speaker of 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha



#### **Election for Speaker of 18th Lok Sabha**

- By convention, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha are chosen by consensus between the ruling and opposition parties. However, this time, the ruling NDA and the Congress Party-led INDIA block failed to reach a consensus.
- The Opposition candidate was K. Suresh of the Congress Party.
- Also Rahul Gandhi appointed as Leader Of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

#### **About Om Birla**

- A three-time member of Lok Sabha, Om Birla was elected from the Kota constituency of Rajasthan in the 2014,2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- He became the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha in 2019 and has been re-elected for the second time as the speaker of the Lok Sabha
- He is the fifth person to hold the office of Lok Sabha speaker twice.
- According to Article 93 of the constitution, members of the Lok Sabha are to elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker from among the members of the House. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected by a simple majority.

#### Facts about the Lok Sabha Speaker

- Ganesh Vasudev Mavlankar was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Five persons have been the Lok Sabha Speaker twice: Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Balram Jakhar, G.M.C Balayogi, and Om Birla.
- Dr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy is the only Lok Sabha Speaker to be elected as the President of India.
- Meira Kumar of the Congress (Indira) party is the first woman to be the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Longest tenure as a Speaker: Balram Jakhar over 9 years

# Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Resigns Following Defeat Of His Party In Assembly Elections



- In Odisha, the victory of BJP in the state Assembly elections where the party won 78 of the 147 seats.
- Following his party's defeat, BJD Chief and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik submitted his resignation to Governor Raghubar Das at the Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.
- Mr Patnaik is the longest serving chief minister of Odisha who served for five consecutive terms spreading over 24 years and three months.
- He first took the oath of chief minister of Odisha on 5th of March in 2000.

### Mohan Charan Majhi Sworn In As First BJP Chief Minister Of Odisha



 BJP MLA from Keonjhar Mohan Charan Majhi, who belongs to the tribal Santhal community, took oath as Odisha's Chief Minister

- The party has picked two Deputy CMs, K V
   Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, who will become
   the first woman Deputy CM of the state.
- Governor, Odisha Shri Raghubar Das

### Surama Padhy Elected as Odisha Assembly Speaker



- Senior BJP leader Surama Padhy was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly.
- Ms. Padhy is the second woman to become Speaker of the Odisha Assembly after Pramila Mallick of BJD.
- Chief Minister : Mohan Charan Majhi
- Deputy Chief Ministers : K.V. Singh Deo, Pravati Parida

### Sikkim Krantikari Morcha leader Prem Singh Tamang was sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim for the second time



 Oath administered by Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya

### Tesam Pongte Elected as the New Speaker of Arunachal Pradesh Assembly



- Tesam Pongte was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 8th Arunachal Pradesh Assembly elected from the Changlang North Assembly segment
- CM Pema Khandu
- GOVERNOR: Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

### N Chandrababu Naidu took Oath Of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister For Fourth Time

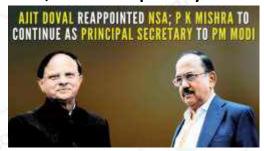


- Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Telugu Desam Party supremo, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth term
- Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan was sworn in as the deputy Chief minister.
- Andhra governor : S Abdul Nazeer

# MLA C. Ayyanna Patrudu Elected Speaker of Andhra Assembly

- Telugu Desam Party's
   Narsipatnam MLA C. Ayyanna
   Patrudu was elected
   unanimously as the Speaker of
   the 16th Andhra Pradesh
   Legislative Assembly
- Chief Minister of Andhra
   Pradesh: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Governor of Andhra Pradesh: S. Abdul Nazeer

### Govt approves re-appointment of NSA Ajit Doval, PM's Principal Secy P K Mishra



- Re-appointment of P K Mishra as the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
- Ajit Doval as the National Security Advisor (NSA).

### Intelligence Bureau Chief Tapan Kumar Deka & NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal Receive One-Year Extensions



#### Intelligence Bureau

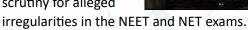
- Administrative control Ministry of Home Affairs.
- An internal intelligence agency of India that is used to gather information from within India.
- the IB is particularly tasked with intelligence collection in border areas, following the 1951 recommendations of the Himmatsinhji Committee (also known as the North and North-East Border Committee).

#### **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

- A standalone entity of the Government of India with the mission of promoting and protecting human rights.
- Established on 12th October 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- · Chairperson Arun Kumar Mishra

# Pradeep Singh Kharola Takes Additional Charge Of NTA's DG

- National Testing Agency (NTA).
- Subodh Kumar Singh, the previous NTA DG, has been removed
- The "top leadership" of NTA is under scrutiny for alleged irregularities in the N



 Since 2022 he is serving as the Chairman of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)

DG of NTA amid NEET

#### What is National Testing Agency NTA?

- Established in November 2017 under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- An autonomous body tasked with conducting various entrance examinations for admissions to higher educational institutions.
- NTA conducts exams such as NEET, JEE, CTET, GATE, GPAT, GMAT, CAT, UGC-NET and CSIR-UGC NET.

 The agency is chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by the education ministry, currently chaired by Pradeep Kumar Joshi, a former chairman of UPSC.

### PV Sindhu Appointed Brand Ambassador For Tobacco Control



- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, hosted an event to commemorate World No Tobacco Day 2024.
- This year's topic is "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference".
- · Apurva Chandra The Union Health Secretary

# IAS officer Sujata Saunik becomes Maharashtra's first female Chief Secretary



Meet Sujata Saunik, Maharashtra's First Woman Chief Secretary

The 1987 batch IAS Officer took charge of Chief Secretary of Maharashtra becoming the First Woman in the states' 64 year old history to hold the position.

### Maushumi Chakravarty Assumes Charge Of Director General Of Akashvani News

Ms. Chakravarty
 assumed the charge
 after superannuation
 of Ms. Vasudha Gupta
 as Principal DG.

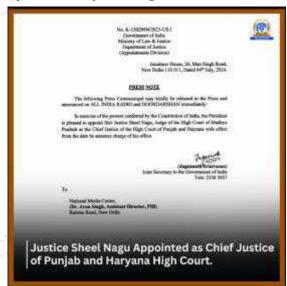


### Dhirendra Ojha Appointed As Director General Of PIB

 Mr Ojha will replace Sheyphali Sharan



### Judge Of Madhya Pradesh High Court Sheel Nagu Appointed As Chief Justice Of Punjab & Haryana High Court



# Justice A. Muhamed Mustaq appointed Acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court

 With effect from July 5 in view of the retirement of Chief Justice
 A.J. Desai on July 4.



# Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi takes oath as 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court



 Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office to Justice Sarangi at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi.

### Justice N Kotiswar Singh becomes first Supreme Court Judge from Manipur



- Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice N Kotiswar Singh took oath of office and became the first judge to have been elevated to the Supreme Court from Manipur.
- Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court R
   Mahadevan was also sworn in as judge of the apex
   court.
- Supreme court has attained its full strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice of India.
- Every judge of the Supreme Court is appointed by the President of India after consulting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers and procedures of the Supreme Court

#### **Number of Judges:**

- The original Constitution of 1950 envisaged a Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and 7 puisne Judges, leaving it to Parliament to increase this number.
- Considering the increase in workload, Parliament increased the number of Judges from 8 in 1950 to 11 in 1956, 14 in 1960, 18 in 1978, 26 in 1986, 31 in 2009, and 34 in 2019 (current strength).

### Dr B N Gangadhar Appointed As Chairperson Of National Medical Commission



Professor Dr. Soumya Swaminathan appointed as the Principal Advisor at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme



 Swaminathan is a former Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization and has also served as the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) previously.

# Ex R&AW chief Rajinder Khanna appointed new additional NSA



- Rajinder Khanna has been promoted to additional National Security Adviser.
- T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor have been appointed as new Deputy NSAs.
- Ajit Doval NSA

### Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak elected as the President of ICMAI

- CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, a Fellow Member of ICMAI with over 30 years of professional experience, has been elected as the 67th
   President of ICMAI for 2024-2025.
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is a professional accountancy body in India under the ownership of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Gol.

### Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak Elected New President of ICMAI



- for the 2024-25 period.
- Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)
- He will succeed Ashwin Dalwadi, who was the president for the 2023-24 period.
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India comes under the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

# Jharkhand CM Champai Soren resigns from his post; JMM President Hemant Soren becomes CM

### Hemant Soren resigns, loyalist Champai Soren is new Jharkhand CM

Soren resigned after he was questioned by ED over an alleged money laundering case linked to land deals



- Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) executive president Hemant Soren return as CM of Jharkhand.
- Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan

## Gaurav Gogoi re-appointed Congress's Deputy Leader in Lok Sabha



 Gaurav Gogoi continues as Congress's Deputy Leader in Lok Sabha; Kodikkunnil Suresh remains Chief Whip.

- Chief Whip Parties appoint a senior member to issue whips (written order that party members be present for an important vote)
- Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi
- Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge

#### Types of whips:

- One-line whip: A one-line whip, underlined once, is usually issued to inform party members of a vote, and allows them to abstain in case they decide not to follow the party line.
- Two-line whip: A two-line whip directs them to be present during the vote.
- Three-line whip: A three-line whip is the strongest, employed on important occasions such as the second reading of a Bill or a no-confidence motion, and places an obligation on members to toe the party line.

### Senior IAS Officer T.V Somanathan Appointed Cabinet Secretary



- The central government has appointed senior IAS officer TV Somanathan (1987-batch IAS officer, Tamil Nadu Cadre), current Finance Secretary, as the new Cabinet Secretary for a twoyear term.
- He will take over India's top bureaucratic position from August 30 when incumbent Rajiv Gauba's extended tenure ends.

### IAS Officer Rajesh Kumar appointed next Defence Secretary

- Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs- Deepti Gaur Mukherjee
- Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs-Katikithala Srinivas
- Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs- Chandra Sekhar Kumar
- Secretary to the President Deepti Umashankar (after Rajesh Verma's superannuation on August 31)

#### Other important Secretary positions

- Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba (to be replaced by T. V. Somanathan on August 30)
- Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla (to be replaced by Govind Mohan on August 22)
- · Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri

# Deepti Gaur Mukherjee assumes charge as Secretary to Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)



- She has succeeded Manoj Govil
- Prior to this appointment, Mukherjee was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Health Authority.

# Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan appointed New Union Home Secretary

The Appointments Committee
 of the Cabinet approved the
 appointment of Culture
 Ministry Secretary Govind
 Mohan as the next Union
 Home Secretary.



- He will take over as Home
   Secretary on the completion of the tenure of Ajay
   Kumar Bhalla on August 22.
- Mr. Bhalla was appointed the Union Home Secretary in August 2019. He has had the longest tenure in the crucial post considered next to the country's top bureaucrat — the Cabinet Secretary.

### Rahul Navin has been appointed as Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Rahul Navin was appointed as the full-time director of the federal Anti-Money laundering agency.
- for a period of two years
- His predecessor Sanjay Kumar Mishra.

#### **About Enforcement Directorate**



- It is a domestic law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crimes in India.
- The origin of the ED goes back to May 1956, when an "enforcement unit" was formed, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- In 1957, the unit was renamed as the Enforcement Directorate.
- Nodal Ministry: Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

#### **Objectives of the ED**

- The prime objective of the Enforcement
   Directorate is the enforcement of three key Acts of
   the Government of India namely:
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA),
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), and
- Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

### Manu Bhaker Appointed Brand Ambassador for Ports Ministry



- India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) appointed Manu Bhaker, the double Olympic medal winner in shooting, as a brand ambassador.
- Bhaker is the daughter of a Marine Engineer.

### Chandra Lal Das appointed Secretary of Steel Ministry



- Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Chandra Lal Das has been given additional charge of the Secretary of the Steel Ministry.
- The additional charge was given following the superannuation of Steel Ministry secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha.

# IAS officer Amrit Lal Meena appointed as new Chief Secretary of Bihar



 He has succeeded outgoing Chief Secretary Brijesh Mehrotra.

### Dr. Grinson George Appointed Director of ICAR-CMFRI



 Grinson George, former head of the Marine Biodiversity and Environment Management Division at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has assumed charge as Director of the CMFRI.

# Satish Kumar named new Chairman and CEO of Railway Board



- Mr. Kumar will replace Jaya Verma Sinha, is the first lady Chairperson of the Railway Board, will retire on August 31.
- Mr. Kumar will assume charge from September 1, till the date of his super annuation and his reemployment on contract basis, from January 1 till August 31, 2025.

# Justice D. Krishnakumar appointed Chief Justice of Manipur High Court



Recommends appointment of Justice D. Krishnakumar as next Chief Justice of Manipur HC

- The incumbent Chief Justice of the High Court, Justice Siddharth Mridul, demits office on 21<sup>st</sup> november upon attaining the age of 62.
- Justice D. Krishnakumar presently serving as a judge of the Madras High Court

# Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed Finance Secretary

and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

 He is currently serving in the Finance Ministry as the Secretary in charge of two key domains the Departments of Public Enterprises (DPE), and Investment



Senior IAS officer Manish Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the new chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh



 replacing incumbent chief secretary Dharmendra, who has been transferred to the national capital.

### Jarken Gamlin sworn in as Arunachal Pradesh's new Chief Information Commissioner



- Major General Jarken Gamlin (Retd) has been sworn in as Arunachal Pradesh Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC).
- He was administered the 'Oath of Affirmation' by Governor Lt. General K.T. Parnaik (Retd) in Itanagar.
- CIC is a statutory body constituted under section
   12 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- Similar to CIC, SIC is also a statutory body constituted under section 15 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- The main objectives of CIC and SIC are to receive and inquire into complaints from any citizen (Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005).

# Tripura Guv Indra Sena Reddy Nallu sworn in as Acting Governor of Mizoram

 Indra Sena Reddy Nallu, Governor of Tripura was sworn in to take additional charge as the Governor of Mizoram



- Gauhati High Court judge Justice Nelson Sailo administered the oath
- incumbent Mizoram governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, on leave due to health issues.

### Kalikesh Singh Deo Elected National Rifle Association of India president

 Kalikesh, a former MP from Odisha, was taking care of NRAI as senior vice-president after the resignation of Raninder Singh last year



- Last year, the Sports
   Ministry had issued a directive that heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years
- National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was founded in 1951 with a view to promote and popularize the shooting sports in India.
- 1st President of National Rifle Association of India
   G V Mavlankar
- 1st Secretary General of National Rifle Association of India – K G Prabhu

# The Centre notified the appointment of Chief Justices in 8 High Courts



- Manmohan Delhi HC Chief Justice
- Rajiv Shakdher Himachal Pradesh HC Chief Justice
- Suresh Kumar Kait Madhya Pradesh HC Chief Justice
- Indra Prasanna Mukerji Meghalaya HC Chief Justice
- Nitin Madhukar Jamdar Kerala HC Chief Justice

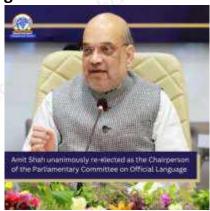
- Tashi Rabstan J&K and Ladakh HC Chief Justice
- Shriram Kalpathi Rajendran Madras HC Chief Justice
- M S Ramachandra Rao Jharkhand HC Chief Justice

### Atishi named new Chief Minister of Delhi; Kejriwal resigned



- Aam Aadmi Party legislators in New Delhi have elected State Minister Atishi Marlena Singh as the new Chief Minister-designate in place of Arvind Kejriwal, who gave his resignation to Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena
- She was elected from Kalkaji constituency
- She will be the third woman Chief Minister of the Union Territory after Sushma Swaraj and Sheila Dikshit.

### Amit Shah Re-Elected as Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language



- Mr. Shah served as the Chairperson of the committee from 2019 to 2024.
- In the past 10 years, the committee had tried to ensure that Hindi became a friend of all local languages and did not compete with any language.
- In 1976, the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language was constituted under the provisions of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963.
- The committee comprises 30 members of Parliament, of which 20 are from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

# Mallika Srinivasan, Chairperson of PESB, granted one-year extension beyond retirement age of 65



- Srinivasan is the first private sector specialist, who has been appointed as the head of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)
- Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited
- PESB is a non-statutory body that advises the government on appointments to the highest posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

### Randhir Singh becomes first Indian to be elected as OCA President

Veteran sports
 administrator Randhir Singh
 became the first Indian to
 be elected as the president
 of the Olympic Council of
 Asia (OCA).



- tenure will run from 2024 till 2028,
- Mr. Singh has been the OCA acting president since 2021
- was also a member of the IOC between 2001 and 2014

# Rajesh Verma assume charge as CAQM chairperson



- Rajesh Verma took charge as chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas.
- He had served as Secretary of President Murmu prior to his superannuation of 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2024
- He succeeds Dr M M Kutty.

### Jitendra J Jadhav Appointed as Director General of Aeronautical Development Agency

who steered the Initial
Operational Clearance (IOC)
for the Tejas fighter aircraft,
has taken over as the
Director General of
Aeronautical Development
Agency (ADA)



- ADA is a department of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India's Ministry of Defence.
- The ADA was established in 1984 in Bangalore to oversee the development of the country's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) program.

#### CJI Chandrachud names Justice Sanjiv Khanna as successor

Justice Khanna
 will be the 51st
 Chief Justice of
 India and will
 have a tenure of
 6 months in
 office before
 retiring on May 13, 2025.



- With CJI Chandrachud set to retire on November
   10
- Justice Khanna had enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983.
- He was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court on January 18, 2019.
- He is presently the Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority
- Justice Khanna been part of Constitution Bench rulings, like the one upholding the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, and that striking down the 2018 electoral bonds scheme.

# Vipin Kumar Assumes Role as Chairman of Airports Authority of India



- Previously serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education
- Airports Authority of India is a statutory body under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- It was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April, 1995, by merging the erstwhile National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India.

## Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar appointed 9<sup>th</sup> NCW Chairperson



- National Commission for Women (NCW).
- During her tenure as Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (2016-2021), she spearheaded initiatives like "Sakshama" (support for acid attack survivors), "Prajwala" (linking self-help groups to central government schemes), and "Suhita" (24x7 helpline service for women).

#### **National Commission for Women**

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is an autonomous and statutory body established under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, to protect and promote women's rights in India.
- The First Commission was constituted on January 31, 1992, with Ms. Jayanti Patnaik as the Chairperson.
- NCW has a chairperson, five members, and a member-secretary
- Term: three years.

### Vikram Dev Dutt assumes charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Coal

- Shri Dutt previously served as the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- He succeeds Shri VL Kantha Rao, who currently serves as the Secretary of the Ministry of Mines and holds additional charge of the Ministry of Coal.



IAS Rajesh Kumar Singh appointed as Defence Secretary



- Before being named for this post, Mr. Singh was holding the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry from April 24, 2023 to August 20, 2024.
- Assumed the charge of the Officer on Special Duty (Defence Secretary-designate) on August 20.

### Deepak Agarwal Appointed as Managing Director of NAFED



- for a period of five years.
- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was established on the Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 1958.

# SC allows Justice Jayant Nath to continue as DERC chairperson beyond retirement age



 former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Jayant Nath, to continue as Chairperson of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory (DERC) Commission

### Justice BR Gavai appointed Executive Chairman of NALSA

- Supreme Court judge B R Gavai has been nominated as the executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- The chief justice of India is the patron-in-chief of NALSA, the seniormost judge after the CJI is its executive
- Justice Sanjiv Khanna patron-in-chief

### What is the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)?

- NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- The prime objective of NALSA is the speedy disposal of cases and reducing the burden on the judiciary.

#### **Constitutional Provisions:**

- Article 39A provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society and ensures justice for all.
- Articles 14 and 22(1) of the Constitution also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before the law and a legal system that promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity for all.

### Mara Kocho Set to be Next Managing Director of NEHHDC

 Mara Kocho is set to be next Managing Director (MD) of North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC), a PSU under the Ministry of Ministry of



Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

 Presently, he is serving as Chief Engineer (Elect.) in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

### Harsha Vardhan Agarwal to Take Over as FICCI President from Nov 21



- Emami Limited Vice Chairman and Managing Director Harsha Vardhan Agarwal has been elected as the Ficci president for 2024-25.
- Agarwal is currently serving as the Senior Vice President of FICCI.
- He will succeed Mahindra & Mahindra's Group CEO and Managing Director Anish Shah on November 21.

### Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjiv Khanna sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India



- · succeeding Justice D Y Chandrachud.
- President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice Khanna
- Elevated as a Supreme Court judge on January 18, 2019, Justice Khanna will superannuate on May 13, 2025, after a tenure of a little over six months.
- He is among the few judges who were elevated to the Supreme Court even before becoming the Chief Justice of any high court.
- Justice Sanjiv Khanna held the post of chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Service Committee from June 17 to December 25, 2023 and is currently the executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority.

#### **Constitutional Provisions for Judicial Appointments**

| Articles    | Constitutional Provisions                   |
|-------------|---|
| Article 124 | Supreme Court judges should be              |
|             | appointed by the <b>President</b> after     |
|             | consultation with such judges of the        |
|             | High Courts and the Supreme Court           |
|             | as the President may deem necessary.        |
|             | The CJI is to be consulted in all           |
|             | appointments except his or her own.         |
| Article 217 | High Court judges should be                 |
|             | appointed by the President after            |
|             | consultation with the CJI and               |
|             | the <b>Governor</b> of the state. The Chief |
|             | Justice of the High Court concerned         |
|             | too should be consulted.                    |

#### **Qualifications of Supreme Court judge:**

- should be a citizen of India.
- He/She should: Have been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession or
- Have been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession,
- or be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

#### About Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- The CJI and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- Appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the seniormost Judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.
- The Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs would seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of the next Chief Justice of India –
- He then will put up the recommendation to the Prime Minister who will advise the President in the matter of appointment.
- A judge of the Supreme Court serves until they reach the age of 65 years

#### Removal:

- He/She can be removed by an order of the President only after an address by Parliament has been presented to President.
- This should be supported by a special majority of each House of Parliament

**Grounds of Removal**: Proved misbehavior or Incapacity (Article 124(4)

### Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi Appointed Chief of BrahMos Aerospace

- Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi has been appointed as the new Chief of BrahMos Aerospace, effective December 1, 2024.
- He succeeds Atul Dinkar
  Rane, who has held the position since 2021.
- BrahMos Aerospace, headquartered in New Delhi, was established as a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.
- The name "BrahMos" is derived from the Brahmaputra River in India and the Moskva River in Russia, symbolizing the collaboration between the two nations.
- The BrahMos missile, an Indo-Russian joint venture, has a range of 290 km (The BrahMos missile's range has been extended over time)
- and is the fastest cruise missile in the world with a top speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound).
- It is a **two-stage** (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second) missile.
- It is a multiplatform missile i.e., it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions

### Justice Manmohan Recommended for Supreme Court Judge Appointment



- The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief
  Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna recommended
  Justice Manmohan, the Chief Justice of the Delhi
  High Court, for appointment as apex court judge
- would fill one of the two pending vacancies in the Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned judicial strength of 34.
- The two vacancies arose with the retirements of Chief Justice Khanna's predecessor, Justice D.Y.
   Chandrachud, and Justice Hima Kohli.

The Election Commission of India approved the appointment of senior IAS officer R Alice Vaz as the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Delhi, ahead of the assembly elections

### Supreme Court appoints Amici Curiae to examine carbon emission rules

- The Supreme Court has appointed two lawyers as Amici Curiae to assist it in examining the legal regime that regulates carbon emissions.
- a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra said
- Amicus curiae is a Latin term that means "friend of the court". It refers to an individual or organization that is not a party to a legal case but can assist the court by providing information, expertise, or insight that is relevant to the case.

# Ashwini Bhide Appointed As Principal Secretary To Maharashtra CM Fadnavis

Chief Minister
 Devendra Fadnavis
 appointed Mumbai
 Metro Rail
 Corporation (MMRC)
 chief Ashwini Bhide as
 principal secretary in
 the CM secretariat.



### K. Sanjay Murthy has been appointed as the next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.



- President Droupadi Murmu appointed K. Sanjay Murthy as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- Will replace Girish Chandra Murmu's tenure.
- Mr. Murmu was appointed CAG in August 2020.
   He completes his term on November 20, 2024.

#### Comptroller and Auditor General of India

- Under Article 148, The Constitution of India provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- CAG is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.

| Articles    | Description                                    |
|-------------|--|
| Article 148 | Appointment: There shall be a                  |
| A STORY     | Comptroller and Auditor General                |
|             | (CAG) of India who shall be appointed          |
|             | by the President                               |
| Article 149 | Duties and powers to be determined             |
|             | by Parliament: The CAG shall perform           |
|             | such duties and exercise such powers           |
|             | as may be prescribed by or under any           |
|             | law made by Parliament.                        |
| Article 150 | Form of accounts of union and                  |
|             | states: The accounts of the union and          |
|             | of the states shall be kept in such form       |
|             | as the President may, on the advice            |
|             | of the CAG, prescribe.                         |
| Article 151 | Reports of CAG: The reports of the             |
|             | CAG relating to the accounts of the            |
|             | union shall be <b>submitted to the</b>         |
|             | <b>President</b> , who shall cause them to be  |
|             | laid before each House of Parliament.          |
| **          | Certification of net                           |
| Article 279 | proceeds: He ascertains and certifies          |
|             | the net proceeds of any tax or duty.           |
|             | His certificate is final. The 'net             |
|             | proceeds' means the proceeds of a              |
|             | tax or a duty minus the cost of                |
|             | collection.                                    |
| Comptroller | <b>Tenure:</b> He holds office for a period of |
| and Auditor | six years or up to the age of 65 years,        |
| General of  | whichever is earlier.                          |
| India       | Resignation: He can resign any time            |
| (Duties,    | from his office by addressing the              |
| Powers,     | resignation letter to the President.           |
| and         | Removal: He can be removed by the              |
| Conditions  | President on the same grounds and in           |
| of Service) | the same manner as a judge of                  |
| Act, 1971   | the Supreme Court.                             |
| 200         | Condition of service: His salary and           |
|             | service conditions are determined by           |
|             | Parliament and can't be varied to his          |
|             | disadvantage after his appointment             |

### K. Vijayanand is new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh



### Dr. Sandip Shah Appointed A Chairperson of NABL



- National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- NABL works to improve the quality of testing and calibration services, ensuring trust in the products and services used by consumers, businesses, and regulators.
- The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a premier autonomous body set up by the Government of India
- QCI has launched a marquee campaign—Gunvatta
   Se Atmanirbharta: India's quality movement.

# IAS officer Arunish Chawla appointed as Revenue Secretary in Ministry of Finance



 Chawla previously served as secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

### Former SC judge V. Ramasubramanian appointed as 9<sup>th</sup> NHRC Chairperson

- President Murmu appointed retired Supreme Court Justice V. Ramasubramanian as the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission.
- Retired from Supreme Court on June 29, 2023

President Murmu also appointed Priyank
 Kanoongo and Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi
 (Retd.) as Members of the NHRC.



- The post of the NHRC Chairperson has been lying vacant since the completion of the term of the 8th Chairperson of NHRC, Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra on 1 June 2024.
- Justice (retd) V Balasubramanian will succeed Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, who was performing the duty of acting chairperson of the NHRC.
- NHRC is an independent statutory body, established on October 12, 1993, under Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- Every state government has also set up the State Human Rights Commission under the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993.

#### **NHRC Composition**

It consists of a **chairperson and five members**. The composition is as follows:

- The chairperson should be either a retired Chief
   Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.
- Members include:
  - Judge of the Supreme Court- serving or retired:
  - Chief Justice of a High Court- serving or retired;
  - three individuals (with at least one being a woman) who possess knowledge or practical experience in human rights.

### In addition to these full-time members, the commission includes seven ex-officio members :

- 1. The National Commission for Minorities
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- 4. The National Commission for Women
- The National Commission for Backward Classes (BCs)
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

#### **NHRC** Appointment

 The appointment of the chairperson and members is carried out by the President of India based on the recommendations of a sixmember Selection Committee.

#### **Selection Committee**

- The Prime Minister heads the Selection Committee.
- Members are; the Union Home Minister; the Speaker of the Lok Sabha; the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha; the Leader of the Opposition of Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

#### Terms of the NHRC Chairperson and Members

- Three years or seventy years whichever is earlier.
- **eligible for reappointment (**if not attained seventy years of age).
- They can resign by addressing a letter to the President.

### Himachal, Uttarakhand High Courts get new Chief Justices



- Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia appointed as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court
- Justice Narender G. was appointed as the head of the Uttarakhand High Court
- Justice Sandhawalia is at present a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Narendar G. is a judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts are to be appointed by the President under clause
   (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution

#### 5 Indian states got new Governors

- Mizoram Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati as Governor of Odisha (Raghubar Das resigned)
- Union Minister General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.)
   new Governor of Mizoram
- Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan now Governor of Bihar.
- Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as Governor of Kerala.
- Former Home secretary Ajay Bhalla new Governor of Manipur



Imp. Constitutional Provisions Related to the Governor

- Article 153: There shall be a Governor for each state.
- A single person can be appointed as the Governor for two or more states (recommended by the Sarkaria Commission).
- Article 155. Appointment of Governor by the President
- Article 156. Term of Office of Governor five years
- Article 157. Qualifications for appointment as Governor - citizen of India and has completed the age of thirty-five years.
- Article 158. Conditions of Governor's office Governor shall not be a member of either House
  of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of
  any State
- Article 163: There is a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor

# Suman Berry Appointed Chairman of EAC-PM with Additional Charge



- NITI Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery has been given additional charge as the chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
- He replaced Bibek Debroy, who died on November 1.
- EAC-PM is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the prime minister.

### **PSU APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. Amit Garg Becomes HPCL CMD
- 2. Manoj Kumar Dubey CMD of IRFC Limited.
- Sushil Kumar as Chairperson of Deendayal Port Authority
- 4. Sushil Sharma as CMD of SJVN Limited
- 5. Sanjay Nayar New ASSOCHAM President

#### Amit Garg Likely to Become HPCL CMD



- HPCL's Director (Marketing) Amit Garg is set to be the new Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan
   Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
- Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG).
- incorporated on 5 July 1952, with the name Standard Vacuum Refining Company
- Renamed to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd in the year 1974.
- HPCL is an amalgamation of the erstwhile foreign oil companies ESSO and Caltex, which were taken over by the Government of India in 1974 and 1976 respectively.

### Indian Oil Welcomes Arvindar Singh Sahney as New Chairman





- Indian Oil Corporation, the nation's largest oil firm.
- Sahney, is currently Executive Director (Business Development - Petrochemicals), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC).
- Currently, Satish Kumar Vaduguri (Director, Marketing, IOC), is holding the additional charge of chairman

### Manoj Kumar Dubey Appointed CMD of IRFC Limited.



- Public Sector Undertaking Indian Railways
   Financial Corporation appointed Manoj Kumar
   Dubey as the CEO, Chairman, and Managing
   Director of the company for five years.
- IRFC is a Schedule 'A'/Miniratna Public Sector Enterprise
- was set up in December 1986

### A K Saxena Assumes Additional Charge as CMD in RINL

- Shri AK Saxena, CMD, MOIL assumed additional charge of the post of CMD at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam steel plant.
- a Navaratna PSE under the Ministry of Steel.
- Visakhapatnam Steel Plant fondly called Vizag Steel.
- RINL was established in 1982

## Brijendra Pratap Singh Appointed CMD of NALCO.

 Brijendra Pratap Singh is set to be the next Chairman & Managing Director of National Aluminium



- NALCO, a 'Navratna' company, was founded on 7<sup>th</sup>
   January, 1981
- Headquartered in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

V Satish Kumar, director (marketing) at IOC, given additional charge as Chairman of



**Indian Oil Corporation Limited** 

### Satish Jha Appointed Next CMD of Eastern Coalfields Ltd.



- Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL)
- ECL is the largest coal producer in West Bengal

# Raj Kumar Chaudhary appointed as CMD of NHPC Ltd

- Raj Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Limited.
- Prior to his current appointment, Chaudhary held the critical position of Director (Technical) at NHPC.
- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
- Founded- 7 November 1975
- Headquarters- Faridabad
- Owner- Government of India (70.95%)

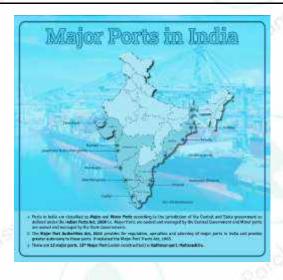
### Sushil Kumar appointed as Chairperson of Deendayal Port Authority



Singh has been appointed in place of SK Mehta

#### Deendayal Port

- Deendayal Port (previously called Kandla port) is situated in the Kandla Creek and is 90 kms from the mouth of the Gulf of Kachch in Gujarat.
- It is a protected natural harbour.
- It is recognized as one of the major ports in India.
- It was constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving western India, after the partition of India from Pakistan left the port of Karachi in Pakistan.
- Deendayal Port is hub for major imports like petroleum, chemicals and iron also export grains, salt and textiles.



# Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has appointed Manoj Jain as the new Chairman and Managing Director

- Bharat Electronics Limited
   (BEL) is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence,
   Government of India.
- It manufactures electronic products and systems for the Army, Navy and the Air Force.
- Established in 1954
- Headquarter Bangalore



# Atul Kumar Chaudhary Appointed Secretary of TRAI

- succeeding V Raghunandan
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- TRAI Chairperson: Anil Kumar Lahoti
- Founded: 20 February 1997



## Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain Assumes the charge of CMD in IRCTC

Indian Railway
Catering and
Tourism
Corporation Ltd.
(IRCTC):



- It is a **Mini** 
  - Ratna Category-I (conferred in 2008)
- Central Public Sector Enterprise that is whollyowned by and controlled by Ministry of Railways.
- Incorporated 1999

### ISMA Appoints Deepak Ballani as New Director General





- Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA)
- ISMA HQ: New DelhiISMA Established: 1932

# Rajendra Prasad Goyal Assumes Additional Charge As Chairman And MD Of NHPC Limited



Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC
has taken over the additional charge of the post of
Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited
on 1st March 2024.

#### **About NHPC Limited**

- NHPC Limited (formerly known as National Hydroelectric Power Corp.) is a Government of India Mini Ratna Category-I Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power.
- It was incorporated in the year 1975 under the Companies Act, 1956,
- with the objective of developing hydroelectric power in the country.
- Headquartered Faridabad, Haryana

### Sushil Sharma Appointed CMD of SJVN Limited





About SJVN

- Miniratna Company
- Formerly Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN Limited)
- It is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in hydroelectric power generation and transmission.
- It was incorporated in 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri
   Power Corporation, a joint venture between the

- Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- Recently SJVN Limited has won two prestigious awards at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024, instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.

## Joyshree Das Verma Becomes New President of FICCI Ladies Organisation

- FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) was established in 1983, as a division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which is the apex body of industry and commerce in India
- FLO is the oldest womenled and women-centric business chamber of South East Asia.

#### Sanjay Nayar Appointed as New ASSOCHAM President





- He has replaced Ajay Singh, Co-Founder of lowcost airline SpiceJet
- Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) is the country's oldest apex chamber.
- ASSOCHAM works as a conduit between the industry and the Government, representing the interests of trade and commerce

## Meenesh Shah Elected as Chairman of NCDFI



- National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)
- NCDFI is a national-level apex dairy cooperative

## Santhosh Kumar Jha to be new CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation



- It is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways
- Headquartered at CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai

# Nidhi S Jain (IA&AS) is appointed as CVO of Cotton Corporation of India

- She has been appointed CVO (Central Vigilance Officer) for an initial period of 3 years
- Cotton Corporation of India -Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1970



### FICCI appoints Jyoti Vij as new director general

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) announced the appointment of Jyoti Vij as its director general.
- FICCI President: Anish Shah
- Headquarters: New Delhi



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### Government appoints Robert J Ravi as CMD, BSNL

Robert Jerard
Ravi new
Chairman and
Managing
Director of
Bharat Sanchar
Nigam Limited
(BSNL)



He replaced P K Purwar

#### **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**

- Central public sector undertaking under the ownership of Department of Telecommunications, which is part of the Ministry of Communications
- · Headquartered in New Delhi.
- It was incorporated on 15 September 2000

### **SECURITY & DEFENSE**

- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi as Chief Of Army Staff
- Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani next Vice Chief of Army Staff
- 3. Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh as Chief of Air Staff
- 4. DG Paramesh Sivamani new Director General of Indian Coast Guard
- 5. B Srinivasan as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)
- 6. Preeti Rajak Indian Army's First Female Subedar
- 7. Suman Kumari BSF's 'first woman sniper
- Capt. Supreetha first woman officer to be deployed at Siachen Glacier
- 9. DGP Rajwinder Singh Bhatti appointed CISF Chief
- 10. Rashmi Shukla Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police
- 11. Alok Ranjan as the head of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- 12. Arti Sarin becomes 1st woman DGAFMS

### Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi To Be Next Chief Of Army Staff



- The Centre appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi as the next Army Chief.
- Lt Gen Dwivedi will now take over the new appointment from the afternoon of June 30, 2024.
- Lt Gen Dwivedi served as Director General
  Infantry and General Officer Commanding in
  Chief (Headquarter Northern Command) from
  2022-2024, before getting appointed as the Vice
  Chief of the Army Staff.

- The government extended the tenure of current Army chief General Manoj Pande who was to retire on May 31, by a month.
- The Army chief retires on completion of three years in the appointment or on attaining the age of 62, whichever is earlier.

#### **Indian Navy Chief & Vice Chief:**

• Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi; Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

#### **Indian Air Force Chief & Vice Chief:**

• Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari; Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh

### Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani to be next Vice Chief of Army Staff

- Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, currently heading the Army's Central Command, has been appointed as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff
- succeeding Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi who will become Chief of the Army Staff upon Gen Manoj Pande's retirement.



Gen Manoj Pande retires on June 30.

### Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi Takes Over As Chief Of Naval Staff



- Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has taken over as the Chief of the Naval Staff.
- He has succeeded Admiral R Hari Kumar.
- Mr Tripathi has served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.
- He commanded the Indian naval ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.
- Admiral Tripathi is a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Nausena Medal for devotion to duty.

### Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh appointed as next Chief of Air Staff



- He is currently the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- He will take over the top post on September 30 when Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari retires on superannuation.
- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh had served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Central Air Command before taking over as the Vice Chief on February 1, 2023.

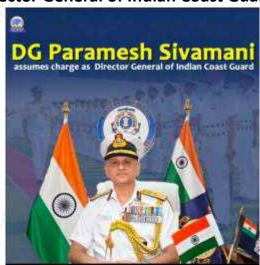
| Position                 | Person                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chief of Defence         | General Anil Chauhan      |
| Chief of the Army        | General Upendra Dwivedi   |
| Chief of the Naval Staff | Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi |

### Air Marshal SP Dharkar Steps into Vice Chief of Air Staff Position



- He succeeds Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh who became the Chief of Air Staff on September
   30
- Air Marshal Dharkar has served as the first Director General of the Defence Space Agency.

### DG Paramesh Sivamani takes over as 26th Director General of Indian Coast Guard



- DG Paramesh Sivamani was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in September 2022, and was subsequently posted at the Coast Guard Headquarters in the national capital.
- He was given the additional charge of Director General Coast Guard in August 2024, after the untimely death of then Director General Rakesh Pal due to heart attack

#### **About Indian Coast Guard:**

- History: it was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India.
- Parent ministry: It operates under the Ministry of Defence
- HQ: Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) is located at New Delhi.

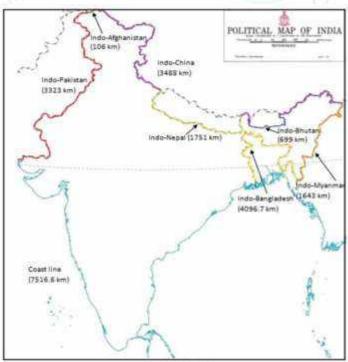
## Amrit Mohan Prasad Appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Previous SSB chief
 Daljit Singh
 Chaudhary was
 appointed as the DG
 of Border Security
 Force (BSF)



#### Other 6 CAPF (paramilitary):

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF),
- Border Security Force (BSF),
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP),
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF),
- Assam Rifles (AR),
- National Security Guard (NSG)



International Land Border

(Source: Survey of India)

#### **About SSB:**

- The SSB was established in 1963 as the Special Services Bureau, in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression in 1962.
- It came under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs in January 2001.
- In June 2001, the SSB was declared a Lead Intelligence Agency for Indo Nepal and assigned the Indo Nepal border.
- Later, SSB was also assigned Indo Bhutan border (March 2004).

# Senior IPS officer B Srinivasan was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)

- Till August 31, 2027
- B Srinivasan will replace Anish Dayal Singh (CRPF Director General), who was given the



additional charge of the DG of National Security Guard (NSG)

- The then NSG Director General Nalin Prabhat was appointment as a special DGP of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- B Srinivasan is currently the Director of Bihar Police Academy, Rajgir, Bihar.

#### **About NSG:**

 The National Security Act was enacted in 1986 and the National Security Guard (elite counter terrorism force) came into existence on 22 September 1986.

- One of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of the government of India.
- Under Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Motto: Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha

### Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera assumes charge as DG of Assam Rifles



- Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera, AVSM, SM, has officially assumed the role of the 22nd director general of the Assam Rifles – the oldest paramilitary force in India, often referred to as the "Sentinels of the Northeast".
- Founded: 1835
- Headquarters: Shillong, Meghalaya

#### Sanjeev Raina Appointed ITBP Additional Director General



- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- Only the second time when a non-IPS officer has been elevated to this post in the force.
- The first time was in 2020. MS Rawat was the first officer
- Sanjeev Raina has been with the ITBP for more than 30 years. He is serving as an Inspector General (IG) at the ITBP's central sector headquartered in Bhopal
- Now posted as the ADG (western command) of the ITBP, which is headquartered in Chandigarh
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), established in 1962
- It is one of India's Central Armed Police Forces.
- Its main job is to secure the Indo-Tibetan border, which stretches for 3,488 km.

### Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh Assumes Command as Flag Officer of Western Naval Command

Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, AVSM, NM took charge as the Flag Officer Commandingin-Chief of the Western Naval Command (WNC).



- He succeeded Vice
   Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
- Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh was earlier the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

Navy has three Commands, each under the control of a Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief



- Vice Admiral V Srinivas Southern Naval Command in Kochi
- Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar Eastern Naval Command in Vishkhapatnam

# Vice Admiral AN Pramod Appointed Director General Naval Operations



### Vice Admiral V Srinivas Takes Charge of Southern Naval Command in Kochi



 He succeeded Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi as the 30<sup>th</sup> Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOCINC) of the Southern Naval Command.

### Preeti Rajak Becomes Indian Army's First Female Subedar



- She is also the 1st Meritorious Sportswoman in Shooting discipline enrolled in the Indian Army as a Havildar.
- She joined the Indian Army in the Corps of Military Police on December 22, 2022, based on her proven performance in Trap Shooting.
- At the 19th Asian Games 2022 held at Hangzhou in China, from 21st Sept to 1st October,2023, Rajak won the silver medal in the trap women team event.
- She was promoted to the rank of Subedar.

# Suman Kumari becomes BSF's 'first woman sniper'



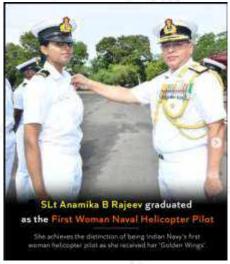
 Sub-inspector Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force.

- Recently completed 8-week sniper course at Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) in Indore and achieved 'instructor grade'.
- The course is considered to be among the toughest trainings of the force, after the commando training.

#### **Border Security Force**

- Raised on 1st December 1965, after the India-Pakistan war.
- K F Rustamji was the founding father and the first chief of BSF.
- BSF is one of India's four border patrol forces and one of seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
- Border patrol forces Assam Rifles (which guards the Indo-Myanmar border), Border Security Force (BSF, which guards the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP, which guards the Indo-China border), and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB, which guards the Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Nepal borders).
- The Force Headquarters is in New Delhi.
- It works under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Indian Navy gets its first woman helicopter pilot

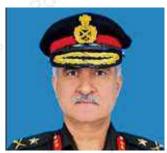


- Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev became the Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot during a passing out parade held in the naval air station INS Rajali at Arakkonam in Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu
- A total of 21 officers were awarded the prestigious 'Golden Wings' by Vice Admiral Rajesh
  Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
  Eastern Naval Command.
- Lt Jamyang Tsewang, the first Commissioned Naval Officer from Ladakh also successfully graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot.

### Abhijit Kishore Appointed Chairperson of

- COAI Cellular Operators Association of India
- Telecom industry association COAI named Vodafone Idea's COO Abhijit Kishore as its chairperson, effective June 2024.

### Maj Gen Jagdeep Singh Cheema takes over as ADG NCC Directorate



- Major General Jagdeep Singh Cheema assumed charge as 13th Additional Director General (ADG) of National Cadet Corps (NCC)
- will oversee the NCC Directorate PHHP&C, which comprises eight Group HQ located in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh

# Vice Admiral CR Praveen Nair took over as Commandant, Indian Naval Academy



· He succeeds Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty.

# Mysuru's Capt. Supreetha becomes first woman officer to be deployed at Siachen Glacier

- Captain Supreetha C.T., who hails from
  Mysuru, has become
  the first woman officer
  from the Corps of
  Army Air Defence, to
  be operationally
  deployed at Siachen
  Glacier.
- Joined the Indian Army as a Lieutenant in 2021



### Indian Armed Forces Gets The First Woman Director General Of Medical Service (ARMY)



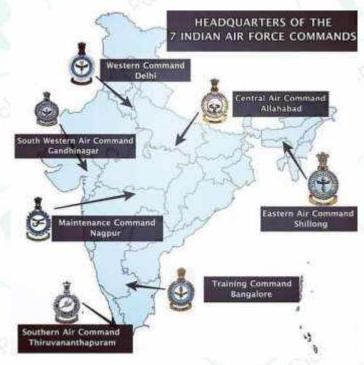
- Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of the Director General of Medical Services (Army) on 1 August 2024.
- She is the first woman to hold this prestigious post in the Indian Army's Medical Services.
- Director General Armed Forces Medical Services:
   Lt Gen Daljit Singh

# Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Takes Over As Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of

#### Central Air Command

- on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.
- He is succeeding Air Marshal RGK Kapoor.





### Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai, Sm, Vsm Assumes Charge As Director General Medical Services (Navy)

- She is the first woman to be elected as Colonel Commandant of the Army Medical Corps.
- Lieutenant
   General Sadhna
   Saxena Nair is
   the first woman



- to be appointed as the Director General Medical Services (Army) in India
- Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin became the first woman to serve as the Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)

# DG SSB Daljit Singh Chawdhary takes over additional charge of Director General, BSF



- Daljit Singh Chawdhary, the Director General of Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB), took over the additional charge of Director General Border Security Force.
- Previous BSF Director General Nitin Agarwal was sent on premature repatriation to his parent Kerala cadre with immediate effect.
- He assumed the charge of DG SSB on January 23, 2024

### Bihar DGP Rajwinder Singh Bhatti appointed CISF Chief, Daljit Singh Chaudhary new BSF DG



- Rajwinder Bhatti has been appointed as the Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force till his superannuation on September 30, 2025
- Daljit Chaudhary, who is currently the chief of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), will lead BSF till his superannuation on November 30, 2025

### Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh Takes Command Of NDA

- Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh assumed the appointment of Commandant, National Defence Academy from Vice Admiral Ajay Kocchar in Pune.
- NDA is a prestigious military academy that trains officers for the Indian Armed Forces, including the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Location: Khadakwasla, near Pune, Maharashtra.
- Motto: Seva Paramo Dharma (Service Before Self)

# Air Commodore Vikassheel Singh Saini assumes command of Air Force Station, Hakimpet



- succeeding Air Commodore Pankaj Jain.
- Recognised for his exemplary service, Air Commodore Saini was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal by the President of India on 26 January 2018.

# Kailash Makwana to be new DGP of Madhya Pradesh



- He will replace incumbent DGP Sudhir Saxena, who is set to retire on November 30.
- currently chairman of the MP Police Housing Corporation.
- He will take over as the new DGP of the state on December 1.

#### Meghalaya gets first woman DGP



- Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya, a hill State dominated by three matrilineal ethnic communities.
- She's the first woman to ever become the DGP in any of the state police forces in the Northeast.
- Ms. Nongrang belongs to the Khasi community and is currently the Director General of Meghalaya Civil Defence.
- The Khasis are a matrilineal community. The other two matrilineal communities of the State are Garos and Jaintias.

# IPS Officer 'Love Kumar' Appointed as IG in Special Protection Group

- It is an elite force, specifically raised for the protection of the country's Prime Minister, former PMs (1 year) and their immediate family.
- It was started in 1985 in the wake of the killing of PM Indira Gandhi in 1984.
- The SPG Act 1988 provides for the constitution and regulation of the SPG



### Rashmi Shukla becomes Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police



 Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Shukla was heading the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) – the border guarding force and served as the Additional Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

### Maharashtra govt reinstates Rashmi Shukla as Director General of Police



- The Maharashtra government has reinstated IPS officer Rashmi Shukla as Director General of Police (DGP) after the conclusion of the assembly polls.
- Sanjay Kumar Verma had taken over as the state's top police officer earlier after Shukla was removed from the DGP's post on the Election Commission of India's directive ahead of the elections.

## IPS officer Anurag Agarwal appointed head of Parliament security



He is currently an inspector general in CRPF and has been appointed on deputation basis as Joint Secretary (security) for 3 years.

### Surendra Singh Yadav is new Chandigarh DGP



- The Union ministry of home affairs (MHA)
   appointed IPS officer Surendra Singh Yadav as the
   Chandigarh director general of police (DGP).
- Yadav will replace Praveer Ranjan
- Ranjan has been appointed as additional director general in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- He is yet to be relieved from Chandigarh.

### Senior IPS Officer Sadanand Vasant Date Appointed As Director General Of NIA



NIA - National Investigation Agency.

#### **Other Appointments**

- Rajeev Kumar Sharma appointed as Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
- Piyush Anand has been appointed as Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).





### Senior IPS Officer Anurag Kumar Appointed as Joint Director of CBI

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- He is presently posted as IG in the Bureau of Police Research & Development
- Director of CBI Praveen Sood

## **Government terminates CRPF DIG Khajan Singh**

 Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and former sports officer of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Khajan Singh Tokas, an Arjuna Awardee



Arjuna awardee CRPF DIG found guilty of sexually harassing colleagues, MHA approves his dismissal

and former Olympian swimmer, was dismissed from his role as CRPF DIG, following sexual misconduct charges substantiated by an internal CRPF probe.

 Khajan Singh, an Arjuna Awardee, won a silver medal at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games in the 200metre butterfly event

### Lt Gen Devendra Sharma takes over as new GoC-in-C, ARTRAC, Shimla



 Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma took over as the 25th General officer commanding-in-chief (GoC-in-C) of the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) in Shimla

#### HS Dhaliwal appointed as new DGP of Andaman and Nicobar Islands



· succeeding Devesh Chandra Srivastva.

Shalini Singh takes charge as DGP of Puducherry following the retirement of DGP B. Srinivas from service.

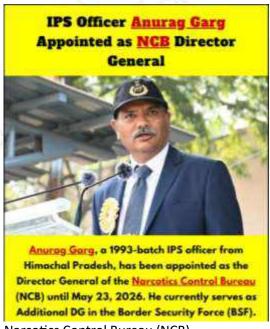


# MHA appoints DGP R R Swain as full-time DGP of Jammu and Kashmir



 The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) appointed the Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain, who was holding additional charge of DGP J&K as the full-time DGP of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

### IPS Officer Anurag Garg takes over as New NCB Director General



- Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
- He was previously working as an Additional DG in the Border Security Force (BSF)
- appointment on deputation until May 23, 2026, or until further orders.
- The post of NCB head was being held in an additional capacity by CRPF DG Anish Dayal Singh following the retirement of incumbent S N Pradhan in August.

#### Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

 nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



- November, 1985, under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).
- It has its headquarters located in Delhi.

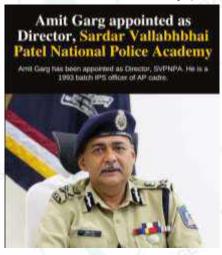
# Senior IPS officer Alok Ranjan appointed as the head of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- for a tenure up to his superannuation on June 30, 2026
- He succeeds his service, batchmate Vivek Gogia

- an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws.
- It was established in 1986
- under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)



Amit Garg appointed the head of Hyderabad-based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)



- for a term up to his retirement on October 31, 2027
- SVPNPA -The institute trains Indian Police Service officers before they are sent to their respective state cadres to carry out their duties. The academy is in Shivrampalli, Hyderabad, Telangana

# SDGP Nalin Prabhat to take additional charge as DGP of J&K Police from Oct 1st



- on August 15, 2024, was appointed as Special Director General Police (SDGP) of the Jammu & Kashmir Police.
- He will succeed R.R. Swain (IPS), who will retire upon attaining superannuation on September 30

**National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** 

#### Arti Sarin becomes 1st woman DGAFMS

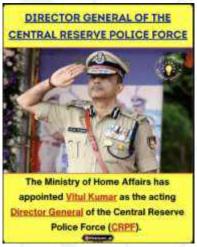


- Vice Admiral Arti Sarin was appointed as the Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS).
- She is the first woman officer to take over as the head of the Tri-service Armed Forces Medical Services.
- The DGAFMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters which relate to the Armed Forces.

Ajay Singh appointed new DGP of Jharkhand after Election Commission orders removal of Acting DGP Anurag Gupta



### Vitul Kumar Appointed as Acting Director General of CRPF



- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director
  General Anish Dayal Singh retired on December
  31, 2024 from his position, passing the leadership
  to senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar who will serve as
  the acting chief until a permanent appointment
  is made.
- He is currently posted as the special director general of CRPF.
- CRPF is a central armed police force in India that is responsible for maintaining internal security and law and order
- It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- Originally constituted as the Crown
  Representative Police in 1939, it is one of the
  oldest Central para military forces (now termed as
  Central Armed Police Force).
- It became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28th December 1949.

### **INDIAN AMBASSADOR**

- 1. Ajit Vinayak Gupte as India's next Ambassador to Germany
- 2. Dr. Neena Malhotra Ambassador to Sweden
- 3. Senthil Pandian India's next ambassador to WTO
- 4. Abhay Thakur India's next ambassador to Myanmar
- 5. Subhash Prasad Gupta ambassador to Suriname
- 6. Dinesh Bhatia as Brazil Ambassador
- 7. R. Ravindra as Ambassador To Iceland
- He is currently India's envoy in Egypt.
- Capital: Berlin
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

## Ajit Vinayak Gupte appointed as India's next Ambassador to Germany





- Germany is bounded at its extreme north by Denmark.
- East and west of the peninsula, the Baltic Sea and North Sea coasts, respectively, complete the northern border.
- To the west, Germany borders The Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg; to the southwest it borders France.
- shares its entire southern boundary with Switzerland and Austria.



### Sanjeev Kumar Singla has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to France

 Current Role: Ambassador of India to Israel

Capital: Paris

Currency: Euro (€)

CFP franc (XPF)

 bordered on the northeast by Belgium and Luxembourg





- on the east by Germany, Switzerland, and Italy
- on the south by the Mediterranean Sea, Spain, and Andorra
- on the west by the Bay of Biscay
- on the northwest by the English Channel
- To the north, France faces southeastern England across the narrow Strait of Dover
- one of the five permanent members of the <u>United</u>
   Nations Security Council

### Dr. Neena Malhotra Appointed Ambassador to Sweden

Dr. Neena
 Malhotra (IFS:
 1992), presently
 Officer on
 Special Duty in
 the Ministry, has
 been appointed



as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden.



#### Sweden

- Capital: Stockholm
- Currency: Swedish krona
- · Sweden lies to the southwest of Finland.
- A long coastline forms the country's eastern border, extending along the Gulf of Bothnia and the Baltic Sea



### Aishath Azeema Appointed as Maldives Envoy to India

- Aishath Azeema is set to replace Ibrahim Shaheeb as Maldives' top envoy to India.
- served as the Maldivian ambassador to China from June 2019 to September 2023.
- Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa



## Ruchira Kamboj, India's first woman Permanent Representative to UN, retires

- Ruchira Kamboj retired after 35 years of service, during which she served as Indian envoy in Bhutan, South Africa and the UNESCO.
- Ruchira Kamboj became Permanent Representative/Ambassador of India to New York, on August 2, 2022.
- From 2011-14, she was India's Chief of Protocol, the first and the only woman so far in Government to have held this position.





# Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey Assumes Role as Secretary General of BIMSTEC



- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- Succeeded Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan
- Ambassador Pandey is the 4<sup>th</sup> Secretary General of BIMSTEC

# Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)



- Headquarters : Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Established: 6 June, 1997, in Bangkok.
- Members: 7 countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India,
- Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

### Senthil Pandian C to be India's next ambassador to WTO

- World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva
- Brajendra Navnit's tenure as India's ambassador to WTO ends on March 31, 2024.

#### **World Trade Organisation**

- World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations
- The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.
- Established: 1 January 1995
- · Location: Geneva, Switzerland
- 164 members representing 98% of world trade
- Head: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Director-General)

### Soumendu Bagchi, Abhilasha Joshi Appointed India's Next Envoys To Iraq, Chile Respectively





- Soumendu Bagchi has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Iraq by Ministry of external Affairs
- Bagchi is currently the Deputy Director General, of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).
- Abhilasha Joshi has been appointed as the next envoy of India to Chile.

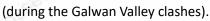
# Abhay Thakur appointed as India's next ambassador to Myanmar

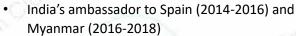


### IFS Officer Vikram Misri Named Next Foreign Secretary

EMEA.

- Vikram Misri will be appointed as India's new Foreign Secretary with effect from July 15
- succeeding the incumbent Vinay Kwatra.
- Misri served as India's ambassador to China from 2019-2021.





 Served as private secretary to three Prime Ministers: Inder Kumar Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi.

## Govt extends tenure of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri till 14th of July, 2026



- Misri assumed charge as India's Foreign Secretary on July 15, 2024.
- extension of Misri as Foreign Secretary beyond the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2024

### A former journalist from Gaza becomes the new chargé d'affaires of the Palestine Embassy in India



- Abed Elrazeg Abu Jazer, the chargé d'affaires of the Palestine Embassy in India.
- Mr. Abu Jazer took over after the previous Palestinian Ambassador, Adnan Abu Al Haija, retired

### Subhash Prasad Gupta appointed as India's next ambassador to Suriname



Currency : Surinamese dollar

#### Vinay Mohan Kwatra Appoints As Next Ambassador Of India To US



- Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the United States of America.
- The post was vacant after the retirement of the then Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

### Suhel Ajaz Khan concurrently appointed as ambassador to Yemen



- Suhel Ajaz Khan, Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador to Yemen, based in Riyadh.
- Yemen, is a sovereign state in West Asia.
- Located in the southern Arabian Peninsula, it borders Saudi Arabia to the north, Oman to the northeast, and the Indian Ocean to the south.



- Capital: Sana'a
- Currency: Yemeni RialOfficial language: Arabic

### P Harish named India's representative to UN in New York

 The Ministry of External Affairs appointed CCas India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.



- He is presently serving as India's ambassador to Germany.
- The position of India's ambassador or permanent representative to the UN has been lying vacant since Ruchira Kamboj retired in June.

### Arun Goel appointed India's next ambassador to Croatia

 The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) appointed former Election Commissioner Arun Goel as India's Ambassador to Croatia, 6 months after he abruptly resigned from the Election Commission.





- · Croatia Capital: Zagreb
- Currency: Euro (€)

# Swati Vijay Kulkarni appointed as India's next Ambassador to Algeria



 She is presently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs

| Person      | Recently Appointed    |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Arun Goel   | Ambassador to Croatia |
| R. Ravindra | Ambassador To Iceland |



- Capital Algiers
- Currency Algerian dinar

### **Kumar Tuhin Appointed Ambassador of India to Netherlands**



- Shri Kumar Tuhin, presently Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- The Netherlands has become India's 3rd largest export destination in the world in 2023-24, after the US and UAE.
- Main exports to the Netherlands are petroleum products, electrical goods, and pharmaceuticals



- Capital: Amsterdam (official), The Hague (seat of government).
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)
- Bordering Countries: North Sea to the north and west, Germany to the east, and Belgium to the south.
- Major Rivers: Rhine, Meuse, and Scheldt.

### India Appoints Dinesh Bhatia as Brazil Ambassador



- Bhatia is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to Argentina, a position he assumed on August 21, 2019.
- His accreditation also extended to Uruguay and Paraguay until February 2022.
- He has authored Devi Purana—A Rendition of Srimad Devi Bhagavatam, published by Bloomsbury in 2023

# G. Balasubramanian Appointed as High Commissioner to Maldives

 Shri G. Balasubramanian (IFS:1998), presently High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria



### R. Ravindra appointed as Ambassador To Iceland



- R. Ravindra, currently Deputy Permanent
  Representative of India to the UN in New York, has
  been named the next Indian Ambassador to
  Iceland.
- Capital: Reykjavík
- Currency: Icelandic króna

### B Vanlalvawna Appointed as Indian Ambassador to Cambodia.





- Presently the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- · Prime Minister of Cambodia: Hun Manet

President: Hun SenCapital: Phnom Penh

· Currency: Cambodian riel



#### Shankar Sharma Reappointed as Nepal's Ambassador to India



- Nepal's President, Ramchandra Paudel, has reappointed Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma as the Resident Ambassador of Nepal to India.
- His previous term was from March 2022 to July 2024.

### **PVT. ORGANIZATIONS**

- 1. Bharath Sesha as New MD for Philips India
- 2. Subhasri as MD of Shriram Capital
- 3. Rajesh Varrier as head of global ops of Cognizant
- 4. Srini Pallia as CEO & MD of WIPRO
- 5. Jagrut Kotecha as new CEO of PepsiCo India
- 6. Sanjiv Puri becomes CII President
- 7. Noel Tata as Chairman of Tata Trusts
- 8. Pranav Chawda as New CEO of JP Morgan Chase

TV Narendran appointed as Chairman of worldsteel; becomes second Indian to lead the global organization



- Global body World Steel Association (worldsteel) elected Tata Steel MD and CEO Thachat Viswanath Narendran as its chairman.
- He is the second Indian to be elected to the post after JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal, who was elected as worldsteel Chairman in 2021.

Philips Appoints Bharath Sesha as New Managing Director for India, He succeeds Daniel Mazon



### DBS Appoints Tan Su Shan As First Female CEO



- Singapore's DBS Group has appointed Tan Su Shan, currently its institutional banking group head, as CEO, replacing Piyush Gupta, who has led Southeast Asia's biggest bank for 14 years.
- She will be the bank's first female chief executive and also the first to be appointed from within the ranks of the bank.

### IT industry body NASSCOM appoints Sindhu Gangadharan, MD, SAP Labs India as its Chairperson



- NASSCOM National Association of Software and Service Companies
- · She will succeed Rajesh Nambiar

# ICC to get new female director as Indra Nooyi's six-year term ends



 Chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of PepsiCo from 2006 to 2018.

Shriram Capital Private Ltd. announced the appointment of Subhasri as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, effective September 1.



### Laurent Freixe has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Nestlé.



# Cognizant appoints Rajesh Varrier as head of global ops, CMD India



- Cognizant (August 21, 2024) announced the appointment of Rajesh Varrier as Global Head of Operations, effective September 2, 2024.
- Additionally, he will be appointed as Chairman & Managing Director, India, assuming the role October 1, 2024,
- As Rajesh Nambiar leaves Cognizant to become president of Nasscom.

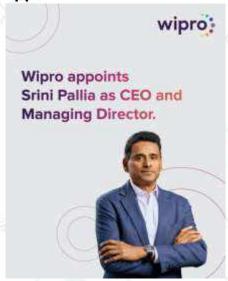
# Wipro Appoints Vinay Firake as CEO of APMEA Strategic Market Unit





 Wipro, a leading IT major, has announced the appointment of Vinay Firake as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)

#### Wipro appoints Srini Pallia as CEO & MD



 Wipro announced the appointment of Srini Pallia as the next chief executive officer (CEO) & MD of the company.

Pragya Misra, appointed as OpenAl's first

employee in India





 OpenAI, the organization behind the development of ChatGPT, has hired its first official in India,
 Pragya Misra, to facilitate government relations as it moves forward with its generative AI products

## Pavan Davuluri, IIT Madras graduate, is new Microsoft Windows Head

- Satya Nadella is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft.
- It is an American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Redmond, Washington.



#### P&G India names Kumar Venkatasubramanian as new CEO



 P&G India has announced the appointment of Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO effective May 1, 2024.

### Appointment of Salil Parekh to the USISPF Board of Directors



- Salil Parekh, CEO and managing director at Infosys, has joined the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum as a member of its board of directors.
- career spanning nearly three decades in the IT services industry
- The USISPF plays a pivotal role in fostering strategic and business alliances between India and the United States.

## Srini Chandupatla Named President of TiE Hyderabad for 2024

- Entrepreneur Srini Chandupatla is the Co-founder of Manjeera Digital Systems
- He replaced Rashida Adenwala
- The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Hyderabad is the global entrepreneurial network
- TiE, founded in 1992 in Silicon Valley, is a global non-profit organisation



### PepsiCo India Appoints Marketing Chief Jagrut Kotecha as new CEO



# World Gold Council India appoints De Beers' Sachin Jain as Chief Executive Officer



Jain, will take up the new role next month

### PayU names Renu Sud Karnad as Chairperson and independent director



- PayU Payments Private Ltd (PayU) has appointed Renu Sud Karnad, a director at HDFC Bank, as Chairperson and independent Director of the company
- Karnad was managing director of India's largest mortgage lender HDFC till July 2023 before it got merged with HDFC Bank.

#### Govind Dholakia Appointed New Chairman of Surat Diamond Bourse

- Dholakia was also recently nominated by the BJP as a Rajya Sabha MP from the state.
- Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) is India's second diamond trading hub that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2023

- It is the world's largest and modern centre for international diamond and jewellery business
- India's first Special Notified Zone (SNZ) for diamond trading was set up at Bharat Diamond Bourse in Mumbai in 2015.



### Santosh Viswanathan Appointed India Region Head of Intel

 Computer chip maker Intel announced Santhosh Viswanathan will head the India region business as its Managing Director (MD).



# BARC India Appoints Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri as New Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics



- BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) India
  is an industry body set up to design, commission,
  supervise and own an accurate, reliable and
  timely television audience measurement system
  for India.
- Chairman BARC India
  - Shashidhar Sinha

### ITC's Sanjiv Puri becomes CII President for 2024-25



- Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and MD of ITC, has taken over as Confederation of Indian Industry President for the 2024-25 term,
- He is succeeding R Dinesh of TVS Supply Chain Solutions.

#### **Confederation of Indian Industries**

- CII is a **non-government**, **not-for-profit**, industry-led and industry-managed organization.
- It works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.
- Founded in 1895, it is headquartered in New delhi.

#### L&T Elevates R Shankar Raman as President



- Engineering and construction conglomerate
   Larsen & Toubro (L&T) announced the elevation of
   R Shankar Raman as the President of the company.
- Following this promotion, Raman will continue to hold his existing roles as the Whole-time Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company.

# Global Wind Energy Council India Appoints Girish Tanti from Suzlon Group As New Chairman



- Suzlon Vice Chairman Girish Tanti has been elected as the Chair of Global Wind Energy Council India (GWEC India).
- He also serves as Vice-Chair of GWEC

- As the world's fourth biggest wind market, with 46 GW of onshore wind and one of the world's most prominent wind energy manufacturing hubs, Tanti's leadership at GWEC and GWEC India shall help further catalyse momentum.
- The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
  was established in 2005 to provide a credible and
  representative forum for the entire wind energy
  sector at an international level.

### Boeing has announced the appointment of Kelly Ortberg as its new President and CEO

 He will succeed Dave Calhoun, who has served as CEO since January 2020



### Noel Tata succeeds Ratan as Chairman of Tata Trusts



- Noel Tata was appointed as chairman of the Tata group's philanthropic arm Tata Trusts
- He will be succeeding his half brother Ratan Naval
- Noel is currently the chairman of Trent, Voltas, Tata Investment Corporation and Tata International.
- He is also the Vice Chairman of Tata Steel and Titan
- Meanwhile, the day-to-day running of the business house is under Tata Sons chairperson Natarajan Chandrasekaran.

### Zomato Co-Founder and Chief People Officer Akriti Chopra Steps Down from

#### **Her Position**

#### **About Zomato:**

- Founded : July 2008
- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana
- CEO : Deepinder Goyal



### Ravi Ahuja to be the new Sony Pictures CFO



- Sony Pictures Entertainment CEO Tony Vinciquerra will step down from his role
- will be succeeded by COO Ravi Ahuja effective Jan. 2, 2025

### Acko Appoints Sandip Goenka as CEO of ACKO Life



### Manish Tiwary to take over as Managing Director of Nestle India, Suresh Narayanan to retire in 2025

 effective from August 1, 2025 after the incumbent, Suresh Narayanan, retires in July next year.



# Air India appoints Jayaraj Shanmugam as Global Airport Operations Head



## JP Morgan Chase India Appoints Pranav Chawda as New CEO



### Disney names Morgan Stanley's James Gorman as next board chairman



- James Gorman, currently an executive at Morgan Stanley, has been appointed as the new chairman of The Walt Disney Company, effective January 2, 2025.
- Disney plans to announce the successor to current CEO Bob Iger in early 2026

#### The Walt Disney Company:

Founded: October 16, 1923

• Headquarters : California, United States

CEO: Bob Iger

# Punit Goenka resigns as Managing Director of ZEE, to be appointed as CEO



 The move has been initiated so that Goenka can focus entirely on operational responsibilities assigned to him by the board of the company.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Duvvuri Seshagiri takes charge as NPOL Director
- Rashmika Mandanna as national ambassador to promote cyber safety
- Jackie Shroff Appointed Brand Ambassador of ALT FFF.
- Ajay Jadeja Declared Heir to Jamnagar Royal Throne
- Katrina Kaif as brand ambassador of Chennai Super Kings
- Simon Mak as the VC of India's First AI University
- Neeraj Chopra as Eveready's New Brand Ambassador
- MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador of Citroen India
- Kareena Kapoor Khan as National Ambassador for UNICEF India
- Pankaj Tripathi as the face of Madhya Pradesh Tourism
- Shekhar Kapur as IFFI festival director
- Shreyams Kumar is new INS president
- · Sharath Kamal as the ambassador of ITTF
- Pankaj Tripathi as Ambassador of Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024
- Preeti Lobana as the new Google India country manager

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen former acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker to serve as U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



### Duvvuri Seshagiri takes charge as NPOL Director

Duvvuri Seshagiri has taken over as Director of the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), the only Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratory in Kerala.



### Nandan Kumar Jha Elected President of IMSA



- India's Nandan Kumar Jha has been elected as the president of the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), a global body for the governance and promotion of mind sports.
- Sports federations affiliated to the IMSA represent nine sports including chess, esports, poker, bridge
- IMSA headquarter Lausanne, Switzerland.

# Rashmika Mandanna appointed national ambassador to promote cyber safety



- Actor Rashmika Mandanna has been appointed as the national brand ambassador of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, to combat cybercrimes.
- Last year, Rashmika Mandanna was a victim of a deepfake video posted online on the Internet, sparking discussions about digital safety.

## JNU Professor Mazhar Asif Appointed Vice-Chancellor of Jamia



- President Droupadi Murmu appointed Mazhar Asif, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), as the 16th vice chancellor (VC) of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) university.
- The post had been lying vacant since November last year.

### **BCCI Appointment of New Anti-Corruption Unit Chief**



- Retired IPS officer Sharad Kumar, who headed antiterror organisation NIA (National Investigation Agency ) for four years, has been appointed as the new chief of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit
- · for a three-year term.

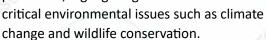
### Jackie Shroff Appointed Brand Ambassador of ALT EFF.



- All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF), set from November 22 to December 8 in Mumbai.
- The festival aims to raise climate awareness through cinema

### Dia Mirza appointed as jury for ALT Environmental Film Festival 2024

- All Living Things
   Environmental Film
   Festival (ALT EFF).
- The festival from November 22 to December 8,
- will showcase 72 films, including 38 India premieres, highlighting



Festival Director : Kunal Khanna



### **Eurogrip Tyres Appoints M.S. Dhoni as Brand Ambassador**



### Adhish R. Wali, first Indian member of London Youth Council

 Adhish R. Wali is from Karnataka



### Ajay Jadeja Declared Heir to Jamnagar Royal Throne



- The maharaja of the erstwhile princely state of Jamnagar and former cricketer Shatrushalyasinh Jadeja declared his nephew and former cricketer
   Ajay Jadeja as his heir to the throne
- Ajay Jadeja was appointed mentor to the Afghanistan cricket team last year.
- Jadeja is the son of Daulatsinhji who was a threetime member of parliament from the Jamnagar Lok Sabha seat.

### Shubha Tole Elected President-Elect of IBRO



- A leading Indian woman scientist, Shubha Tole has been appointed as the president-elect of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO).
- She is the first scientist from a developing country to be appointed to the top position.
- The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) is the global association of neuroscience societies established in 1961
- It aims to promote and support neuroscience around the world through training, education, research, outreach and engagement activities
- Ms. Tole, currently serves as the dean of graduate studies at Mumbai's premier scientific research institute – Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

## Katrina Kaif appointed brand ambassador of Chennai Super Kings



- Chennai Super Kings have appointed Katrina Kaif as their brand ambassador for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024.
- The five-time champions have also changed their jersey logo before the new season.
- Katrina Kaif is also the brand ambassador of Etihad Airways (official sponsor of CSK).

# Ranveer Singh invests in Aman Gupta's boAt, appointed as brand ambassador



# RuPay Prime Volleyball League (PVL) has appointing Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan as the brand ambassador



### Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam Elected As ICJ's New President

- Judge Nawaf Salam of Lebanon is the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- Judge Julia Sebutinde of Uganda was elected as Vice-President
- The ICJ is located at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.
- NIDGE NAWAF SALAM
- The court's jurisdiction includes deciding legal disputes submitted by states and providing advisory opinions on legal questions.
- The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- To ensure continuity, one-third of the court is elected every three years. Judges are eligible for re-election.
- Its official languages are English and French
- Dalveer Bhandari is an Indian judge on the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

# Narendra Kumar Yadav, IRS first civil servant Appointed as Brand Ambassador for Fit India Movement

- The Fit India movement is a nation-wide initiative launched by the Government of India
- with the aim of encouraging Indians to incorporate physical activity and sports into their daily lives.



# Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Ms. Sheetal Devi, will be ECI National PwD Icon

- Ms. Sheetal Devi, a
   distinguished Para-archer, and
   Arjuna Awardee, was
   announced as the National
   Icon in the Persons with
   Disabilities (PwD) category.
- The Commission launched a dedicated Voter's Guide for PwDs and Senior Citizen Electors.



### S. Tripathy appointed as the first director of UVCE



- The State government has appointed S. Tripathy, as the first director of the University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE)
- University of Vishveshvarayya College of Engineering was established in 1917, under the name Government Engineering College, by Bharat Ratna Sir M. Vishveshvarayya.
- It is the 5th engineering college to be established in the country and 1st in Karnataka.
- In 1847, India's the first engineering college Thomason College of Civil Engineering (now called IIT Roorkee) was established at Roorkee in present-day Uttarakhand state for the training of Civil Engineers.

## India's First AI University Appoints Simon Mak as the VC

 Universal Al University (UAIU), in Mumbai India's pioneering institution dedicated to Artificial Intelligence, has named Simon Mak, an international strategist and award-



winning professor, as its vice chancellor

Tarun Anand, Chancellor, Universal Ai University

## **BPCL Teams Up With Neeraj Chopra As Brand Ambassador For 'Speed' Petrol**



- Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), one of India's leading petroleum companies, has recently announced its partnership with Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra.
- Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, 'Speed.'
- The Company was incorporated on 3rd November, 1952 under the name Burmahshell Refineries Limited (BSR).
- Companies name changed to BPCL on 1st August 1977.
- 2017 Bharat Petroleum Corporation conferred with Maharatna Status.
- · Headquarter Mumbai
- Chairman & Managing Director - G.
   KRISHNAKUMAR



### Neeraj Chopra Named Eveready's New Brand Ambassador



## **Election Commission Ropes in Ayushmann Khurrana to Urge Youth to Vote**



#### Krishna Ella takes over Presidency of the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association

The Indian Vaccine
 Manufacturers Association
 (IVMA) has announced that
 Krishna Ella, co-founder
 and executive chairman of
 Bharat Biotech, will be the
 association's new president
 for 2 years from April 2024.



Mr. Ella is taking over the presidency from Adar C.
 Poonawala (CEO of the Serum Institute of India),
 who held the post from 2019 to March 2024.

## India's nominee Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board

India's nominee Ms. Jagjit
 Pavadia was elected by the UN
 Economic and Social Council
 (ECOSOC) as a member of the
 International Narcotics Control
 Board (INCB) for the third term
 from 2025-2030.



 In the process, Ms. Pavadia received the highest number of votes among all the candidates for this position.

## Former Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj to Head US-India Tax Forum

 Appointed by the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)



#### **US-India Tax Forum:**

- officially launched on February 25, 2020,
- to provide member companies with a platform to engage with relevant government officials on tax issues as they conduct business in the US-India corridor

## Naima Khatoon, Aligarh Muslim University's 1st woman vice chancellor



 Appointed for five (5) years. She has been serving as principal of AMU's women's college since 2016.

#### Kamal Kishore Appointed Special Representative Of UN Disaster Risk Reduction

United Nations
 Secretary-General
 António Guterres
 appointed Kamal
 Kishore of India as
 Assistant Secretary-



General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

- Currently Mr. Kishore is Head of Department of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India (since 2015)
- India's Group of 20 (G20) Presidency, he led the G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction.

#### Citroen India Ropes In MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador



- French automaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
- The company is a relatively new entrant in the competitive Indian passenger vehicle market.

## SPACE India appointed Sanjana Sanghi as its Brand Ambassador

- Space Technology and Education Pvt. Ltd., also recognized as SPACE India was founded in 2001
- SPACE India is a
   pioneering institution
   promoting Astronomy, Space Science & STEM
- It is a registered Space Tutor of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

## Kareena Kapoor Khan appointed as National Ambassador for UNICEF India



**About** 

#### UNICEF

- Created in 1946 as International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF) by UN relief Rehabilitation Administration to help children affected by World War II
- UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations in 1953.
- The name was shortened to United Nations
   Children Fund but it is still referred to as UNICEF.
- Awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965 for "promotion of brotherhood among the nations".
- · Headquarters: New York City.

### Melinda French Gates resigns as Gates Foundation co-chair



 Melinda French Gates will step down as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the nonprofit she and her ex-husband Bill Gates founded and built into one of the world's largest philanthropic organizations over the past 20 years.

## NASA Appoints New Chief for Artificial Intelligence

NASA appointed David Salvagnini as the agency's first chief artificial intelligence (AI) officer, in an extension of his current role as the chief data officer.



## Pankaj Tripathi appointed as the face of Madhya Pradesh Tourism



## World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab to step back from executive role



- Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will step back from his current role and become Chairman of the board of trustees by next January
- The World Economic Forum, established by Klaus Schwab in 1971, is known for its annual gathering of political and business leaders in Davos, Switzerland.

- Theme of 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum from 15–19 January 2024 at Davos-klosters, Switzerland was "Rebuilding Trust"
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Major Reports by WEF:
  - Global Competitiveness Report
  - · Global Gender Gap Report
  - Energy Transition Index
  - Global Risk Report
  - Global Travel and Tourism Report.

## Actor Theo James named UNHCR global goodwill ambassador



 The United Nations refugee agency named British actor Theo James as a global goodwill ambassador.

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR)

- It was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions of people who had lost their homes.
- It was awarded Nobel Peace Prizes in 1954 and 1981.
- It started the Nansen Refugee Award in 1954 for recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.
- · Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

#### Sony Pictures Networks India appoints Gaurav Banerjee as new MD & CEO



He will succeed N. P. Singh

## Sumant Sinha Named Co-Chair of CEO Climate Leaders Alliance



- Mr. Sumant Sinha, Chairman and CEO of ReNew, has been named Co-Chair of the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders, the largest CEO-led climate alliance in the world, and a flagship initiative of the World Economic Forum.
- It includes 130 CEOs from 12 industries, representing \$4 trillion in revenues and 5.2 gigatonnes of carbon emissions.
- ReNew has successfully mitigated over 21 million tons of carbon emissions in 2 years.

## Sanya Malhotra becomes HMD Global's brand ambassador ahead

of its first-ever smartphone launch in India

 The Finnish company is going to launch its first smartphone series on July 25 in India.



## Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur appointed IFFI festival director



 Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, known for films such as "Mr India", "Bandit Queen" and

- "Elizabeth", has been appointed festival director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- The Festival Director for the 55th and 56th editions of the International Film Festival of India, Goa

#### Puma India, Roped Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as ambassadors



#### Sania Mirza, Mary Kom And Rannvijay Singha Join Play Sports As Brand Ambassadors



Play Sport's objective is to create a sustainable sports eco system in India by working with schools, developing sports, managing sports infrastructure, running academies and scouting talent from grassroots.

## India TV's Rajat Sharma elected as NBDA President



- The News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) has unanimously elected India TV chairman Rajat Sharma as its president.
- He replaces Avinash Pandey, the former CEO of ABP Network.

## Harish Dudani Appointed As Member CERC



- The Power Ministry, announced the appointment of Harish Dudani as Member of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- CERC was initially constituted on 24 July 1998 under the Ministry of Power.
- Regulate the tariff of power generating companies

## USIBC appoints former journalist, public relations executive as India managing director

The U.S.-India
 Business Council
 (USIBC) has
 appointed Rahul
 Sharma, a former
 journalist and public
 relations executive, as
 its India-based
 Managing Director



- USIBC, a part of the US Chamber of Commerce, America's largest industry association; has over 200 firms who have interests in between the US and India, and will mark its 50 year anniversary in 2025.
- succeeds Alexander Slater in the MD role

Senior information service officer Dhiraj Singh was appointed as the director of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune



- Currently the additional director general in the Press Information Bureau in-charge of media and communications of the Prime Minister's Office.
- Singh succeeds Sandeep Shahare to the post.

 Singh is also the author of the book 'Modern Masters of Cinema: A Personal Pantheon',

### Bob Rae elected as President of UN's ECOSOC



- Bob Rae, Canada's Ambassador to the UN, elected as ECOSOC President for a 1-year term, enhancing Canada's bilateral engagements.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, responsible for coordinating the economic and social fields.
- Paula Narváez, Representative of Chile, will retire prior to Bob Rae's appointment to the post.

#### Union Minister Chirag Paswan was reelected as the national president of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) for the next five years



#### Chairman of Mahindra Group Anand Mahindra was appointed as the chairman of the newly-established Young India Skills University in Telangana



#### **Shreyams Kumar is new INS president**



- M V Shreyams Kumar of Mathrubhumi was elected President of The Indian Newspaper Society (INS), an apex body of publishers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the country.
- He will succeed Rakesh Sharma of Aaj Samaj.

## CAG of India, Murmu Elected as ASOSAI 2024-2027 Chairman



Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, has been appointed as the chair of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the 2024-2027 term.

## Suresh Prabhu Nominated to World Agriculture Forum Board.

- Former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu has been nominated to the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) Board.
- Rudy Rabbinge,
   Chairman of the WAF Board,



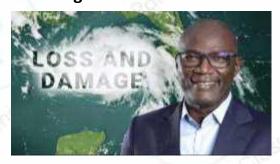
highlighted Prabhu's expertise as crucial for shaping the future of the agriculture sector.

## Ashutosh Gowariker Appointed Honorary Chairman for Ajanta-Ellora FF.



- Filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker has come on board as the honorary chairman for the 10th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AIFF).
- The festival is scheduled to take place from January 15 to 19, 2025, in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (previously Aurangabad).
- The festival aims to showcase the best of film produced recently and, in the past, in India and other parts of the world

#### New Global Climate 'Loss and Damage' Fund Names First Director - Ibrahima Cheikh Diong



- The board of The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage named Senegalese finance specialist Ibrahima Cheikh Diong as its first director
- LDF was established at the 2022 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference (COP27) in Egypt.
- Purpose: To provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change.

Sharath Kamal was announced as the first Indian ambassador of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) foundation



Leading French cosmetic maker L'Oreal Paris has roped in Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt as its new global brand ambassador.



## Former wrestler Vinesh Phogat resigns from Indian Railways



 Former India wrestler Vinesh Phogat resigned from the Indian Railways citing personal reasons.  She officially joined the Congress after meeting party chief Mallikarjun Kharge along with Bajrang Punia.

#### Anant Nath re-elected as president of Editors Guild of India



- Editors Guild of India (EGI) is a non-profit organisation of journalists, particularly the Editors, based in India.
- Anant Nath, editor of The Caravan, was declared as president of the Editors Guild of India for a second consecutive term.

## Valdecy Urquiza from Brazil Elected New Secretary General of Interpol

- Urquiza has succeeded Germany's Jurgen Stock
- Marking the first time a Brazilian and representative from the global south has led the world's largest international policing body.



- INTERPOL headquartered in Lyon, France.
- It is 'not' a unit or part of a united nation system.
   It is an independent international organization.

## Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes Appointed as Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum



#### Ashish Khanna Selected as ISA's 3rd Director General



- Ashish Khanna from India was named ISA's third Director General at the 7th ISA Assembly in New Delhi, succeeding Dr. Ajay Mathur.
- The ISA, with 120 members, aims to scale solar deployment and unlock \$1 trillion in investments by 2030, enhancing global energy access and sustainability.
- Formation 30 November 2015
- Founded Paris. France
- Headquarters Gurugram, Haryana, India

## Famous actor Sonu Sood appointed brand ambassador and advisor for Thailand Tourism.



#### Pankaj Tripathi Appointed Festival Ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024



- This prestigious international theatre festival, the largest of its kind in Northeast India
- will run from 22nd November to 5th December
   2024, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and creative talent of Arunachal Pradesh

## Amul Extends Jayen Mehta's MD Tenure by 5 Years



- Jayen Mehta has been appointed as the Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (Amul) for a 5-year period till 2029-30
- GCMMF (Amul) is India's largest Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) enterprise, with an annual brand sales turnover of Rs 80,000 crores.

## Google appoints Preeti Lobana as the new India country manager



 Google has appointed Preeti Lobana as the new country manager and vice president for Indian operations.

Telugu producer Dil Raju has appointed as the Chairman of the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC) by the Government of Telangana.



## Ex-SC judge Sanjay Kaul appointed member of Bahrain International Commercial Court

 Retired Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul has been appointed a member of the Bahrain International Commercial Court by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



 He is among the nine members appointed to the newly established BICC.





Capital: Manama

Currency: Bahraini dinar (BHD)

## State & Union Territories

#### **UNION TERRITORIES**

#### Jammu & Kashmir

- 1. Union Territory Foundation Day
- 2. first UT to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana
- 3. Mega North India StartUp Expo
- 4. 72nd 'All India Police Hockey Championship
- 5. Sound-Based Anti-Drone System
- 6. Tawi Festival
- 7. India's First Battery Storage Gigafactory
- 8. Operation Kamdhenu
- 9. Kashmir Marathon Initiatives
- 10. Haar Choudhah Festival
- 11. Z-Morh project
- 12. Omar Abdullah as new CM
- 13. Authenticity Seal for Jammu & Kashmir Crafts

#### 31 October 'Union Territory Foundation Day'

- On 6<sup>th</sup> februrary 1954, the J&K constituent assembly ratified the accession of the state to the Union of India.
- The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir came into existence on 31-10-2019 in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019.
- CM : Omar Abdullah
- · Lieutenant Governor : Shri. Manoj Sinha
- State Animal of Jammu And Kashmir Kashmir Stag (Hangul)
- State Bird of Jammu And Kashmir Kalij Pheasant
- State Fish of Jammu And Kashmir Golden Mahseer
- State Butterfly of Jammu And Kashmir Blue Pansy
- · State Tree of Jammu And Kashmir Chinar
- State Flower of Jammu And Kashmir lotus

#### **National Parks**

- Dachigam National Park Srinagar is best known as the home of the hangul, or Kashmir stag (state Animal).
- Dachigam National Park (Srinagar)
- Kishtwar National Park (Kishtwar)
- Salim Ali National Park (Srinagar)
- Kazinag National Park (Baramula)

#### **Passes**

- Zoji La Pass
- Changla Pass
- Khardung La Pass
- Shingo La
- Banihal Pass

#### Ramsar Wetlands

- Surinsar-Mansar Lakes
- Hokersar
- Wular Lake
- Tsomorir

## J&K becomes first UT to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme
- launched on 17th September 2023
- to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools.
- The scheme includes training, a stipend of ₹500 per day, and a free modern toolkit worth ₹15,000 for trained Vishwakarmas.
- Additionally, the yojana offers linkage with creditbased soft loans and marketing support to expand their businesses

#### VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates Mega North India StartUp Expo at Kathua, J&K

- Theme "Emerging StartUp Trends in North India"
- Total of 25 startups from North India (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Delhi), showcased their innovations and products in the Mega Expo

## J&K Police organizing 72<sup>nd</sup> 'All India Police Hockey Championship' in Jammu

from January 29 to February 8, 2024.



- participation from 34 police teams from different States/UTs of the country besides Central paramilitary forces.
- The President of Hockey India, former captain of Indian Hockey Team, Padma Shri Awardee, Olympian & Arjuna Awardee, Dilip Tirkey was the Chief Guest in the opening ceremony

#### IIT Jammu Professor Develops Sound-Based Anti-Drone System

- Dr. Karan Nathwani, a professor of IIT Jammu, has developed an anti-drone system that works mainly on sound technology.
- With the help of this system, this device will be able to easily detect drones, aircraft, multiple drones or birds flying up to 300 meters by their sound.
- The cost of this system is about 4 lakh rupees.

## PM inaugurates, lays foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir



- The Prime Minister inaugurated All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur (Samba),
- The institute's foundational stone was laid by PM Modi in February 2019. It is being established

#### under the Central sector scheme Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

- PM dedicates to nation campuses of several important education institutes like IIT Bhilai, IIT Tirupati, IIITDM Kurnool, IIM Bodh Gaya, IIM Jammu, IIM Visakhapatnam and Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Kanpur
- He laid the foundation stone for a new terminal building at Jammu Airport
- Country's longest transportation tunnel namely
   'T-50' on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link
   (USBRL) was dedicated by Prime Minister Narendra
   Modi when he flagged off the first electrified
   trains of the Kashmir valley.
- The tunnel, which is 12.77 km long and known as T-50, falls between the Khari-Sumber section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link.

## Tawi Festival to Celebrate Jammu's Culture and Heritage



- Jammu & Kashmir is set to host the annual 'Tawi
   Festival' from March 1st to 4th, 2024.
- Centered on the banks of the river Tawi flowing through Jammu city, the event will showcase the region's vibrant cultural legacy through arts, cuisine, literature and folk traditions.

## "Pink Patrol" flagged off from Women's Police Station Gandhinagar Jammu



- Patrols will be deployed on various vital & crowded locations within Jammu city for safety & security of the women folk & girls
- 24X7 women helpline number 9906310101 of Jammu Police for women in distress also launched.

## India's First Battery Storage Gigafactory to Start Operations in J&K

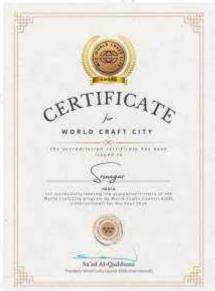


- GoodEnough Energy will set up a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) gigafactory in Jammu and Kashmir with an initial capacity of 7 gigawatt hour (GWh).
- At full scale, the factory will have 20 GWh capacity by 2026.
- The facility will help industry in cutting more than
   5 million tons of carbon emissions in a year.
- India has set a 2070 goal for becoming net zero.
- Indian government is offering \$452 million in incentives to companies under a programme to promote battery storage projects.

## J&K Police Launches "Operation Kamdhenu" to Combat Cattle Smuggling

 To curb the rampant issue of cattle smuggling in the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua (JSK) police ranges.

## Srinagar – 'World Craft City' by World Crafts Council



 Srinagar has become the fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC), three years after it was designated as part of the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) for crafts and folk arts.

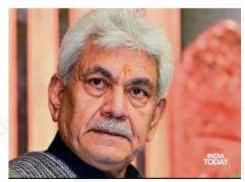
- Jaipur, Malappuram and Mysore are the other Indian cities that have previously been recognised as a Craft Cities.
- The recognition would boost the handloom and handicraft sector, which will benefit tourism and infrastructure development
- As of now, at least 10 different forms of craftsmanship survive in Srinagar and its suburbs, including papier-mâché, walnut wood carving, carpets, Sozni embroidery and Pashmina and Kani shawls.
- World Crafts Council Started in 1964. Main office
   Belgium

## Enemy Agents Ordinance (Jammu & Kashmir)

- Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain said those found assisting militants in J&K should be tried by investigating agencies under the Enemy Agents Ordinance, 2005.
- The J&K Enemy Agents Ordinance was first issued in 1917 by the then Dogra Maharaja of J&K.
- It is referred to as an 'ordinance' since laws made during the Dogra rule were called ordinances.
- After Partition in 1947, the ordinance was incorporated as a law in the erstwhile state and was also amended.
- The Law has been used only occasionally so far.
   Penalty is either death, life imprisonment or 10 years of rigorous imprisonment & a fine.
- It is for those who are an enemy agent or, aid the enemy, or to impede the military or air operations of Indian forces or to endanger life or is guilty of promoting civil violence
- The trial under the Enemy Agents Ordinance is conducted by a special judge who is appointed by the "government in consultation with the High Court" Under the ordinance, the accused cannot engage a lawyer to defend herself unless permitted by the court.
- There is no provision for appeal against the verdict, and the decision of the special judge can only be reviewed "by a person chosen by the Government from the judges of the High Court and the decision of that person shall be final".
- The ordinance also bars any disclosure or publication of the case tried under it.

#### Centre Gives More Power To Lieutenant Governor Of J&K on matters related to police, all-India service officers

Centre amends rules to give more power to Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor



- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently amended the 'Transaction of Business Rules', enhancing the powers of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in matters related to the police, public order, All India Services, and transfers and postings.
- According to the notification, these rules may be called the Transaction of Business of Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir (second amendment) rules, 2024, and they shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official gazette.
- In the past, proposals concerning police, public order, all-India services and the Anti-Corruption Bureau required approval from the finance department of Jammu and Kashmir before reaching the Lieutenant Governor.
- Under the revised rules, such proposals must now be presented directly to the Lieutenant Governor through the chief secretary of the Union territory.

#### Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Launches Kashmir Marathon Initiatives

- J&K L-G Manoj Sinha released the logo and website of the marathon at the Kashmir International Convention Centre in Srinagar.
- The marathon was aimed at multiplying tourism potential in Kashmir.
- The Kashmir marathon will have two events a 42 km full marathon, and a 21 km half marathon.
- The Kashmir Marathon will integrate cultural events, performances, and exhibitions to showcase Kashmir's rich heritage, enhance the experience for all participants.

#### Religious Fervour Marks Annual 'Haar Choudhah' Festival At Mata Jwala Ji Shrine In Khrew, Pulwama

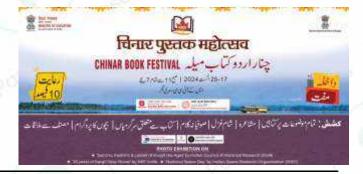


 In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, annual festival at the shrine of Goddess Mata Jwala ji in south Kashmir's Khrew in Pampore area of Pulwama district locally known as auspicious "Haar Choudhah" was celebrated on Ashaad Chaturdashi mainly Kashmiri Pandits.

## J&K Govt appoints Justice (Retd.) Janak Raj Kotwal as head of panel for Reservation of OBCs in Urban Local Bodies

- The Government appointed Justice Janak Raj
  Kotwal as head of a panel set-up last month for
  recommending percentage of reservation to Other
  backward Classes (OBCs) in local bodies (Urban &
  Rural) of Jammu and Kashmir.
- In 2023, the Parliament made amendments in J&K's reservation law to rechristen "Weak and Under-privileged Classes (Social Castes)" as "Other Backward Classes".
- Later, in February 2024, the Parliament amended the J&K's municipal and Panchayat laws to facilitate reservation of OBCs in local bodies of the Union Territory.

## 'Chinar Book Festival' Kicks Off in Srinagar to Promote Reading Among Youth



- The aim of inculcating a habit of book reading among the youth, a week-long national event titled 'Chinar Book Festival' commenced at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.
- This festival organised by National Book Trust (NBT)
- The festival, first of its kind in Kashmir

#### What is the Z-Morh project in Kashmir



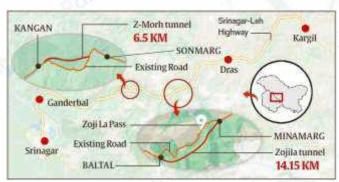
NEWS: Seven people were killed in Jammu and Kashmir, when suspected militants targeted the workers of infrastructure company APCO Infratech, which is constructing the Z-Morh tunnel on the Srinagar-Sonamarg highway.

- This is the first militant attack on a key infrastructure project in Jammu and Kashmir.
- In the past, militants have not targeted such infrastructure projects in the region.

#### What is the Z-Morh tunnel?

- The Z-Morh tunnel is a 6.4-kilometer tunnel connecting the Sonamarg health resort with Kangan town in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.
- The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg, a famous tourist destination on the Srinagar-Leh highway.
- The tunnel has acquired its name for the Z-shaped road stretch at the place where the tunnel is being constructed.
- Need for the tunnel This road to Sonamarg is situated at an altitude of over 8,500 feet - prone to snow avalanches in the winter and as such remains closed for most part of the winter.
- The tunnel project was originally conceived by the Border Roads Organisation in 2012.
- However, the project was later taken over by the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).
- The Z-Morh tunnel is part of the Zojila tunnel project that aims to provide all weather

- **connectivity from Srinagar to Ladakh** throughout the year.
- the construction of the 14.15-kilometer-long Zojilla tunnel at an altitude of approximately 12,000 feet connecting Sonamarg in Kashmir valley to Drass in Ladakh is under way and is expected to be completed by December 2026, the opening of the Z-Morh tunnel is essential for its all-weather connectivity.



#### Jammu & Kashmir Election Results 2024

 J&K National Conference emerged victorious with 42 seats out of 90. Will be able to make government with Indi Alliance.

#### Omar Abdullah sworn in as new CM



- National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah was sworn in as J&K's new Chief Minister and Surinder Kumar Choudhary as Deputy Chief Minister (DCM)
- Oath administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar.
- It's the second term of Mr. Abdullah as Chief Minister after 2009.
- This comes a day after the Centre revoked
   President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The erstwhile State was split into two Union
   Territories (UT) of J&K and Ladakh in 2019, and its
   72 years of special constitutional status under
   Article 370 and 35A was scrapped.
- The President's Rule (Article 356), also known as the Governor's Rule, refers to a period when the constitutional machinery in a State has

**failed,** and the State government is unable to function in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

- The President's Rule is also known as 'Constitutional Emergency' or 'State Emergency'.
- However, the Indian Constitution does not use the word "Emergency" for this situation.
- Article 355 to Article 357 in Part XVIII and Article 365 in Part XIX of the Indian Constitution are related to the President's Rule

## The Chief Minister's position in a Union Territory



President appoints the Governor

President



Governor can disagree with Legislative Assembly's decisions, passing them to the President for advice multiple times.

Governor



Chief Minister and his party have to maintain majority in the Assembly to stay in power

Chief Minister

#### - Council of Ministers

Council members are taken from the Assembly, and Council headed by CM

#### Legislative Assembly

MLAs are elected by the people Bills passed here go to the Governor for assent and execution

| Articles    | Subject – Matter                       |
|-------------|--|
| Article 355 | Duty of the Union to protect States    |
|             | against external aggression and        |
|             | internal disturbance                   |
| Article 356 | Provisions in case of failure of       |
|             | Constitutional Machinery in States     |
| Article 357 | Exercise of legislative powers under   |
|             | proclamation issued under Article      |
|             | 356                                    |
| Article 365 | Effect of failure to comply with, or   |
|             | to give effect to, directions given by |
|             | the Union.                             |

## Veteran NC leader Abdul Rahim Rather elected Speaker of J&K Legislative Assembly



- Veteran National Conference leader and seventime MLA from Charar-e-Sharief Abdul Rahim Rather was elected as the first Speaker of the legislative assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
- Leader of Opposition, BJP's Sunil Sharma.
- Leader of the House Omar Abdullah.

## Jammu and Kashmir Celebrates First Constitution Day Since 1950



| Summary/Static   | Details                        |  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Date             | November 26, 2024              |  |
| Leading          | Lt Governor Manoj Sinha        |  |
| Authority        | 3000                           |  |
| Main Venue       | Sher-e-Kashmir International   |  |
|                  | Convention Centre (SKICC),     |  |
|                  | Srinagar                       |  |
| Theme            | "Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara      |  |
|                  | Swabhimaan" (Our Constitution, |  |
|                  | Our Pride)                     |  |
| Significance     | Marks 75 years of Constitution |  |
|                  | adoption; celebrates           |  |
|                  | constitutional values          |  |
| Judiciary's Role | High Court and district courts |  |
|                  | organized Preamble readings    |  |

| Participation | Government offices, PSUs, educational institutions, and rural areas |
|---------------|---|
| Aim           | To reiterate constitutional values                                  |
| 1             | and motivate citizen participation                                  |

#### World Craft Council Launches Authenticity Seal for Jammu & Kashmir Crafts



- World Crafts Council (WCC), an international advocacy body, announced the 'Seal of Authenticity of the Craft' will certify handmade crafts produced with centuries-old processes in J&K.
- It's a significant step towards encouraging quality and ownership. This will start with the textile industry.

- WCC's 60th anniversary celebrations in Srinagar
- The WCC is considering the establishment of a 'World Craft Hub' and International Crafts

  Museum in Srinagar with the help of the
  government.
- Recently, Srinagar has become the fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Crafts City' by the World Craft Council (WCC).
- Jaipur, Malappuram and Mysore are the other three Indian cities that have earlier been recognised as World Craft Cities.

## Uber has launched its first water transport service in India, the Uber Shikara, on Dal Lake in Srinagar



#### Ladakh

- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. Ladakh Achieves Full Functional Literacy
- 3. Srub-La Festival
- 4. GI Certificate for Pashmina Wool
- 5. India's First Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station in Leh
- State Flower of Ladakh Himalayan Blue Poppy
- Lieutenant Governor B. D. Mishra

#### Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Park of Ladakh

- Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary
- Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hemis National Park.

#### Ladakh: Celebration Of Hemis Tseschu Begins

- The Hemis Gompa (monastery) celebrated the Hemis Tsechu Festival this year, on the 16th - 17th of June.
- Celebrated on the 10th day of the Lunar Tibetan calendar.

#### 31 October Ladakh Foundation Day

- Ladakh Foundation Day is celebrated on October 31st every year. This is the day when Ladakh was reconstituted as a union territory separate from Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.
- State Animal of Ladakh Snow Leopard
- State Bird of Ladakh Black-Necked Crane
- State Tree of Ladakh Juniper Tree

#### Ramsar Sites of UT of Ladakh (2)

- Tso Kar (IBA)
- Tsomoriri



Hemis Festival:
Experience The Majestic
Celebration Of
Spirituality In Ladakh

Ladali), known for its mild recoperation, rocky terration and foureer recognizes recent allow to just sharing a spiritual calculations also and to Comp Fielm contributions

by Er Al, Deak



- This two-day grand cultural festival is celebrated on the birthday of Guru Padmasambhava, also referred to as Guru Rinpoche.
- The legend of Guru Padmasambhava dates back to the late 8th century. He introduced tantric Buddhism (Vajrayana) in the Himalayan kingdom.
- Celebrated at Hemis Gompa, the biggest monastery in Ladakh
- It is celebrating ever since founded in 17th century by Galras Rinpoche, the son of King of Ladakh, Deskong Namgyal
- The Hemis Festival is the biggest cultural celebration of the Buddhist and Tibetan communities.
- The Chaam dance stands out to be a major part of the festival where the lamas and monks perform the dance.
- For this sacred dance, they are masked in Guru
   Padmasambhava's eight different avatars.

#### **Ladakh Achieves Full Functional Literacy**



- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Dr. B.D. Mishra, declared Ladakh as the administrative unit to achieve Full Functional Literacy under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, after having achieved more than 97% literacy.
- ULLAS Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Programme (NILP) is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from 2022-2027
- aligns with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- Aims to empower those adults aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds who could not get due schooling and mainstream them with society to be able to contribute more to the growth story of the country.
- The scheme consists of five components
  - 1. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy,
  - 2. Critical Life Skills,
  - 3. Basic Education,
  - 4. Vocational Skills,
  - 5. Continuing Education.

#### The Annual Srub-La Festival, celebrating Ladakh's harvest season and cultural richness



 The village of Bodhkharboo was transformed as the annual Srub-La Festival, a celebration honouring Kargil's dedicated farmers and their bountiful harvest season, took center stage.

#### Union Minister Giriraj Singh Presents GI Certificate to Ladakh LG for Pashmina Wool



- Union Minister for Textiles, Giriraj Singh handed over the certificate of Geographical indication (GI) registration of Pashmina wool (also known as Soft Gold) to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brigadier Dr. B. D. Mishra
- Aims to reach a target of 5,00,000 Pashmina goats and 1 million Merino sheep in the Union Territory by 2030.
- The word "Pashmina" is derived from the Persian word "Pashm," which means "soft gold" or "soft wool"
- A cashmere/ pashmina wool is obtained from the undercoat of the Changthangi goat (Capra aegagrus hircus), also known as the Pashmina goat native to the high altitudes of the Himalayas in regions like Ladakh in India, Nepal, and Tibet.

#### Ladakh: BRO's Project Vijayak Showcases Young Talent in Kargil Art Exhibition



 Project Vijayak, of the Border Roads Organisation, supported a vibrant art exhibition in Kargil to spotlight the talents of young artists from the region.

## Amara Raja Infra Sets Up India's First Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station in Leh



- EPC company Amara Raja Infra has successfully completed setting up India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh for NTPC.
- The project will enable emission-free transport in and around Leh
- Union Power Minister and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal inaugurated the green hydrogen fuelling station.
- The fuelling station project with a capacity of producing GH2 of 80kg per day was completed in two years, at a height of 3,400 meters above sea level with temperatures varying between minus 25°Celsius to 30° Celsius.

### National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd.)

- NTPC Ltd. is a central Public Sector
   Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power.
- It is India's largest energy conglomerate with roots planted way back in 1975 to accelerate power development in India.
- Aim: To provide reliable power and related solutions in an economical, efficient and environmentally friendly manner, driven by innovation and agility.
- It became a Maharatna company in May 2010.
- It is located in New Delhi.

#### Ladakh demands for statehood





- Innovator and Ladakhi Magsaysay Award recipient (2018) Sonam Wangchuk, who is on hunger strike to demand special status and statehood for Ladakh
- The Ladakh Union Territory demands for statehood and Constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule.
- Wangchuk has been seeking special status for the region to safeguard its fragile environs and glaciers.
- Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), the two socio-political organizations spearheading the movement
- The sixth schedule provides for the administration of certain tribal areas as autonomous entities. It allows creation of autonomous district councils and regional councils endowed with certain legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers.
- Ladakh, once a part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, became a Union Territory abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two separate Union Territories in August 2019.

#### Their primary demands include:

- Statehood for Ladakh: Seeking to elevate Ladakh from its current Union Territory status to a fullfledged state
- Safeguards under the 6th Schedule: the 6th Schedule to protect the cultural, linguistic, and land rights of the indigenous population
- Reservation of Jobs: Calling for reservations in employment opportunities for the youth of Ladakh

**Creation of Separate Parliamentary** Constituencies: the establishment of distinct Parliamentary constituencies for Leh and Kargil



- State animal Snow Leopard
- State bird Black-Necked Crane,
- State Flower- Himalayan Blue Poppy
- LG/ Governor Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.)

#### Centre decides to create five new districts in Union Territory of Ladakh

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.
- 5 new districts Zanskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.
- At present, Ladakh has two districts; Leh and Kargil.
- Ladakh was made a UT after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs on August 5, 2019. The other UT is Jammu and Kashmir.





Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state, was also abrogated. After the removal of Article 370 in 2019, Ladakh got the status of UT and it comes under the direct administrative control of the Union Home ministry

#### **Chandigarh**

- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. 11th International Puppet Festival
- 3. India's first medical institutional museum'

November 1, 1966, is the date when Chandigarh was legally/constitutionally born as Union Territory

**November 1 Chandigarh Foundation Day** 

- State Animal of Chandigarh Indian Grey Mongoose
- State Bird of Chandigarh Indian Grey Hornbill
- State Tree of Chandigarh Mango Tree
- State Flower of Chandigarh Dhak Flower

### State Fruit of Chandigarh - Mango

Shri Gulab Chand Kataria (Administrator)

#### 11th International Puppet Festival held in Chandigarh

- The 11<sup>th</sup> International Puppet Festival was held at the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh.
- **Punjab Governor and Administrator of Union Territory Chandigarh, Banwarilal Purohit** inaugurated the show.



## Chandigarh University becomes India's first to start Harvard program



- Chandigarh University signs MoU with Harvard to offer a Harvard University collaborative business management program, aligning with India's New Education Policy for international academic partnerships.
- Under the collaboration, Chandigarh University students will be taught by the faculty of Harvard University's Business School for a semester under this online MBA programme.
- Chandigarh University's students to be graded with Harvard University students, get placements at top global firms
- CU Chancellor Satnam Singh Sandhu

## PGIMER to set up India's first medical institutional museum



 India's first museum within a medical institution to be set up at Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh

- Dedicated to chronicling its illustrious history and contributions to medical science.
- The ambitious project honours the vision of the late Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, the then chief minister of Punjab, and the distinguished medical educationist of the combined state of Punjab, supported by the first Prime Minister of India, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Established in 1962 and granted autonomy under an Act of Parliament in 1967, PGIMER operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

## Chandigarh India's first state/Union Territory to fully implemented the three new criminal laws.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the successful implementation of the three new criminal laws:
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 at a function held in Chandigarh.
- The function was organised in Chandigarh as Chandigarh is India's first state/Union Territory to have fully implemented the three new criminal laws.
- The three new criminal laws were implemented on 1st July 2024.

#### The three new laws replace the following laws:

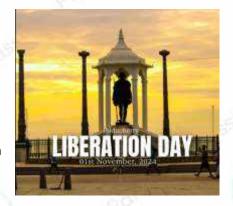
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which replaced the Indian Penal Code 1860,
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973,
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, will replace the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

#### **Puducherry**

- 1. Puducherry Liberation Day
- 2. 29th International Yoga Festival

#### **November 1 Puducherry Liberation Day**

 It was on November 1, 1954 that the then French establishments of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam merged de facto with the Indian Union, bidding farewell to 280 years of French rule



- The **treaty** effecting the de jure transfer was **signed in 1956**, but wasn't **ratified by** the French National **Assembly** until **August 16**, **1962**
- Every year, the 1st July is marked as the foundation day of Puducherry as on this day the Government of Union Territories Act 1963 providing Puducherry with Legislative Assemblies and Council of Ministers came into force.
- Lieutenant Governor- K. Kailashnathan
- · Chief minister Shri. N. RANGASAMY
- State Animal Of Puducherry Indian Palm Squirrel
- State Bird Of Puducherry Asian Koel
- State Tree Of Puducherry Bael Fruit Tree
- State Flower Of Puducherry Cannonball Tree Flower

## 29th International Yoga Festival being organized in Puducherry

From 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2024

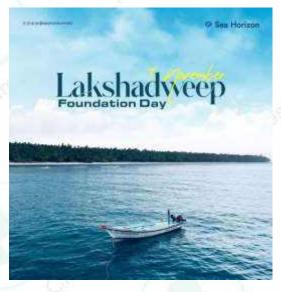
#### International Yoga Day is celebrated on 21 June every Year

• Puducherry Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

#### Lakshadweep

Yearbook 2024

- 1. Formation day
- 2. Marine Heatwaves Trigger Coral Bleaching
- 3. 1st On-Grid Solar Project



#### **November 1 Lakshadweep Formation Day**

- The Union Territory was formed on November 1, 1956 and it was named Lakshadweep in 1973.
- Capital: Kavaratti
- Administrator- Shri. Praful Patel
- State Animal Of Lakshadweep Butterflyfish
- State Bird Of Lakshadweep Sooty Tern
- State Tree Of Lakshadweep Breadfruit Tree
- State Flower Of Lakshadweep Neelakurinji

#### **Commissions related to State Reorganisation**

Dhar Commission

Constituted: June 1948.

Members: SK Dhar, JN Lal, and Panna Lall.

> JVP Committee

Constituted: December 1948.

- Members: Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, and Congress President Pattabhi Sitaramayya.
- Fazl Ali Commission (State Reorganisation Commission)
  - Constituted: 1953.
  - Members: Justice Fazal Ali, Sardar K. M. Panikkar, and Hriday Nath Kunzru.

## Marine Heatwaves Trigger Widespread Coral Bleaching in Lakshadweep Sea





Researchers at the Central Marine Fisheries
 Research Institute (CMFRI) have recorded
 widespread bleaching impacting coral reefs in the

Lakshadweep sea primarily due to prolonged period of marine heat waves affecting the region since late October 2023.

- Heatwaves were rare extreme weather events that involved prolonged periods of abnormally high ocean temperatures.
- Coral are made up of genetically identical organisms called polyps. These polyps have microscopic algae called zooxanthellae living within their tissues.
- The corals and algae have a mutualistic (symbiotic) relationship.

- The coral provides the zooxanthellae with the compounds necessary for photosynthesis
- In return, the zooxanthellae supply the coral with organic products of photosynthesis, like carbohydrates, which are utilized by the coral polyps for synthesis of their calcium carbonate skeletons.
- When corals face stress by changes in conditions such as temperature, light, or nutrients, they expel the symbiotic algae zooxanthellae living in their tissues, causing them to turn completely white. This phenomenon is called coral bleaching.



## PM Modi inaugurates Lakshadweep's 1st On-Grid Solar Project at Kavaratti



- It is the region's first on-grid solar project with state-of-the-art Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) technology.
- Developed by SECI, boasting 1.7 MW solar capacity
   8 1.4 MWh battery storage.
- PM inaugurated and laid foundation stone for development projects worth more than Rs 1150 crores in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep

#### Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

- 1. Merger Day
- 2. India's first-ever multi-sport beach games

#### 26 January Nirman Diwas" or "Merger Day"

- Separate UTs of Daman and Diu (30 May 1987) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (11 August 1961)
- The formation day of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is January 26, 2020. This day is also known as "Nirman Diwas" or "Merger Day".
- Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)

#### India's first-ever multi-sport beach games Commence at Ghoghala Beach in Diu Union Territory

- More than 1,200 players from across 20 states and union territories of the country will participate
- Theme Dolphins
- The opening ceremony of the Beach Games will be held at the Ghoghala Beach in Diu,
- Closing ceremony will be held at the INS Khukhri Memorial.
- A total of 8 different sports are included in the Diu Beach Games, including beach volleyball, pencak silat, beach boxing, beach soccer, and seaswimming along with traditional sports such as malakhambah, beach kabaddi, and tug of war



#### Delhi

- 1. formation day
- 2. Dilli Gramoday Abhiyan
- 3. Airbus A350-900 On Delhi-Dubai Route
- 4. Digital Shakti Center
- 5. 'Abhishikt' program
- 6. Delhi solar portal

#### 1 November Delhi formation day

- Delhi became a union territory on 1 November 1956 and the NCT in 1995
- State Animal Of Delhi Nilgai
- State Bird Of Delhi House Sparrow
- State Tree Of Delhi Flamboyant
- State Flower Of Delhi Alfalfa
- CM Atishi Marlena
- Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Inaugurates Photo Exhibition "Thailand-India Interwoven Legacies: Stream Of Faith In Buddhism"



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - Union Minister of Culture and Tourism

inaugurated the Photographic Exhibition at the National Museum in New Delhi

#### Home Minister Amit Shah launches the Dilli Gramoday Abhiyan



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled PNG
   (Piped Natural gas) connections to 41 villages in
   Delhi under the Dilli Gramoday Abhiyan.
- He also inaugurated other development works in 178 villages worth 383 crores.
- The objective of the Dilli Gramoday Abhiyan is the establishment and enhancement of essential infrastructure.
- It also aims to focus on scientific livestock management, livelihood initiatives, healthcare facilities, water management, and efficient land use, among other goals.

#### **One Liner News**

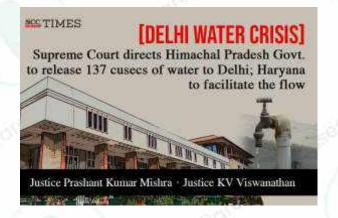
North India's First Government Homeopathic College to be Established in Kathua, J&K Assam Cabinet approves development council for 'Kiran Sheikh' community residing in the Barak Valley

Air India Launches Airbus A350-900 On Delhi-Dubai Route, Marks International Debut



- Air India commenced operations of its brand-new Airbus A350-900 aircraft on the busy Delhi-Dubai route, marking the flagship plane's international debut.
- With this, Air India becomes the only carrier to operate the A350 between India and Dubai.

Supreme Court Asks Himachal Pradesh Govt To Release 137 Cusecs Of Surplus Water To Delhi



- Haryana is asked to facilitate its flow
- The Himachal Pradesh government has no objection and is willing to release the surplus water available with it. Haryana was objecting to it.
- While INDIA bloc partners AAP and Congress rule
   Delhi and Himachal Pradesh, respectively,
   Haryana has a BJP government
- One cusec (cubic foot per second) is equal to 28.317 litres of liquid flow every second.

## National Commission for Women Inaugurates Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi



- · to combat cyber crimes against women
- The centre is a dedicated facility that aims at raising awareness about cyber crimes.
- It will provide essential technical support for registering and addressing complaints.
- Digital Shakti campaign, which was launched in 2018, the centre will offer expert guidance to ensure timely and effective resolution of cybercrime complaints.
- The Digital Shakti Center was inaugurated by the National Commission for Women (NCW)
   Chairperson Ms. Rekha Sharma in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation.
- There has been a surge in cyber crime cases in India, rising from 52,974 in 2021 to 65,893 in 2022.
- The NCW has also observed an increase in complaints related to cyber crimes against women.

## Delhi govt to launch 'Abhishikt' program for high-IQ students

- for gifted students in 15 of its schools.
- Known as 'Abhishikt', these classrooms will serve students in classes VI and IX, focusing on nurturing those identified as exceptionally intelligent through a thorough screening process.

 Students must have an IQ above 130 to qualify for the programme.

## Delhi Govt to Establish Special Courts for People with Disabilities



## Operation Kawach: 1,000 held as Delhi Police crack down on gangs



- The Delhi Police initiated Operation Kawach, arresting and detaining around 1,000 people in an attempt to crack down on various gangs and their operations in the wake of the recent incidents of shootings reported in the city.
- The operation 'Kawach' is an initiative which the Delhi Police takes from time to time to take actions against the criminals and drug traffickers in their areas.

Sarai Kale Khan Chowk Renamed to Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chowk in New Delhi



## Delhi govt urges Centre to grant permission for cloud seeding to induce artificial rain in national capital

Delhi's overall 24-hour AQI was 460 — the worst in the country — according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

Inducing artificial rain to settle pollutants was **part** of the **21-point Winter Action Plan** the Delhi government launched on September 25.

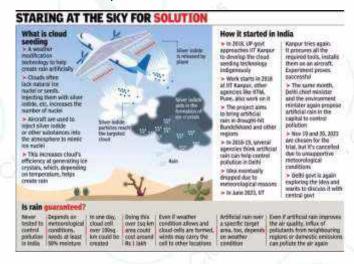
#### What is the Air Quality Index (AQI)?

- AQI is issued by government agencies. It is calculated based on air pollutant concentrations over a specific period, and the results are categorised into ranges with corresponding health advisories.
- Higher AQI values indicating more severe health concerns.

#### About Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):

- GRAP is a framework designed to combat air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.
- Approved by the Supreme Court in 2016 and notified in 2017
- It was introduced as an emergency response mechanism, and its implementation is triggered when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches "poor" levels.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas oversees the implementation of GRAP.
- It collaborates with the Ministry of Environment,
   Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- The CAQM has constituted a sub-committee for the operationalization of the GRAP.
- This body includes officials from the CAQM, member secretaries of pollution control boards of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, the Central Pollution Control Board, a scientist from the IMD, one from the IITM, and a Health Advisor.
- The orders and directions of the CAQM will prevail in case of any conflict between directions issued by the State governments and the CAQM.
- Different stages of GRAP: GRAP consists of four stages, each with targeted actions to be taken by the necessary authorities and agencies. These are the following:
  - Stage I: "Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 201-300)
  - Stage II: "Very Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 301-400)

- Stage III: "Severe" air quality (Delhi AQI: 401-450)
- Stage IV: "Severe+" air quality (Delhi AQI > 450)



#### What is cloud seeding?

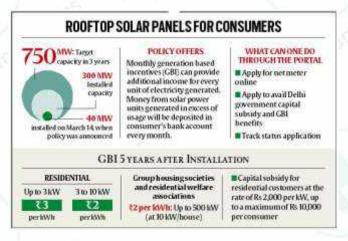
- Clouds are usually injected with salts like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride, which is the 'seed'.
- They are dispersed into the cloud either using aircraft or through generators on the ground.
- These salts are expected to provide additional nuclei around which more cloud droplets can form.
- Seeding accelerates cloud microphysical processes.

#### CM Atishi launches Delhi solar portal



- Delhi Chief Minister Atishi launched the Delhi Solar Portal as a single-window application and tracking site for the installation of rooftop solar panels in the city.
- Under Delhi's solar power policy, launched in March, consumers can install solar panels on rooftops and use the power generated to offset electricity bills.

- Atishi said the new portal will help achieve the target of 750 MW rooftop solar power generation.
- The portal will provide all information required for the installation of rooftop panels.
- It will have a solar calculator to estimate solar power generation capacity at a specific rooftop, savings to be made, list of vendors and rate of solar plants, she said.
- Domestic power consumers, who will generate extra solar power beyond their need, will be paid a generation-based incentive by the government at the rate of Rs 3/unit,



## Cabinet approves Rithala-Kundli corridor of Delhi Metro Phase-IV project



- will further enhance connectivity between the national capital and neighbouring Haryana.
- The corridor is scheduled to be completed in 4
  years from the date of its sanction.

### Delhi airport becomes India's first airport to connect 150 destinations



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Divya Kala Mela at India Gate, showcasing talents of persons with disabilities

- by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD), under Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment,
- through National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)
- from 12th December to 22nd December, 2024 at India Gate, New Delhi.

## Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya flags off 'Fit India Cycling Tuesdays' initiative in New Delhi



 Following the launch, cycling events will continue every Tuesday nationwide.

## The Delhi government has launched the Sanjeevani Scheme for Citizens above 60

 The 'Sanjeevani Yojana', which promises free medical care in government and private hospitals for all citizens above 60, will not have an income cap or upper limit for eligibility.



- 'Sanjeevani Yojana' is being seen like an extension of the Delhi government's surgery referral scheme
- Under this scheme, if a particular surgery cannot be performed at a government hospital, or if the waiting time for surgery is more than a month, the patient is referred to a private hospital and the cost is borne by the government.
- Delhi has not adopted Centre's Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme.
- There would be no upper limit on the cost of treatment.

## Kejriwal Launches 'Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship Yojana'

- Arvind Kejriwal AAP national convener and former Delhi chief minister
- promising to cover fees as well as the cost of travel and stay for Dalit students from Delhi who secure admission for higher education at top international universities.
- It will also be applicable to children of Dalit government employees.

#### **KEJRIWAL ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP**



#### **Andaman and Nicobar**

- 1. formation day
- 2. First international flight to take off from Port Blair

## November 1 Andaman and Nicobar Islands formation day

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands became a Union Territory of India on November 1, 1956.
- State Animal Of Andaman And Nicobar Islands Dugong
- State Bird Of Andaman And Nicobar Islands Andaman Wood Pigeon
- State Tree Of Andaman And Nicobar Islands Andaman Padauk
- State Flower Of Andaman And Nicobar Islands Pyinma
- Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Devendra Kumar Joshi

## First international flight to take off from Port Blair's Veer Savarkar International Airport on November 16

- from Port Blair's Veer Savarkar International Airport to Kuala Lumpur
- The airport was inaugurated by PM Modi on June 21, 2023.
- Veer Savarkar International Airport, also known as Port Blair Airport, is a customs airport located 2 km (1.2 mi) south of Port Blair.

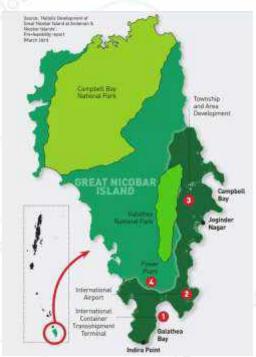
- also the cellular jail in which freedom fighters struggled for an independent nation.
- The city of Port Blair is the entry point of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It was named after Archibald Blair, a naval surveyor and lieutenant in the Bombay Marine
- Blair was the first officer to carry out a thorough survey of the Andaman Islands.

#### Port Blair renamed as 'Sri Vijaya Puram',

# PORT BLAIR RENAMED AS 'SHRI VIJAYAPURAM'

- Inspired by the vision of PM Modi, to free the nation from the colonial imprints
- Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in our freedom struggle and the A&N Islands' unique role in the same
- The island territory that once served as the naval base of the Chola Empire
- It is also the place that hosted the first unfurling of our Tiranga by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and

## **Great Nicobar Island Gains 13<sup>th</sup> Major Port Status**



- The mega International Container Transshipment
   Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay, located on Great
   Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal, has been officially designated as the 13th major port in India.
- Kamarajar Port located on the Coromandel Coast (Chennai) was named the country's 12th major port.
- Vadhavan Port (Maharashtra) under construction

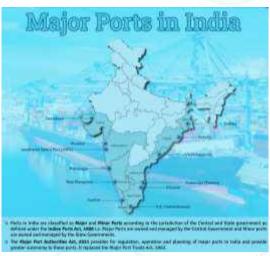
#### **Strategic Location:**

- The International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay (ICTP) is along the East-West international trade and shipping route, close to key transshipment hubs such as Singapore, Klang, and Colombo.
- Located just 40 nautical miles from the Malacca Strait, a key shipping route handling 35% of global sea trade



#### **Great Nicobar Island:**

 It is the southernmost and largest of the Nicobar Islands.



northern Andaman Islands and the southern
 Nicobar Islands, separated by the 10° Channel.

| State          | Eastern Coast Port |
|----------------|--------------------|
| West Bengal    | Kolkata (Haldia)   |
| Odisha         | Paradip            |
| Andhra Pradesh | Visakhapatnam      |
| Tamil Nadu     | Chennai            |
| Tamil Nadu     | Ennore             |
| Tamil Nadu     | Tuticorin          |

| State       | Western Coast Port                 |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Gujarat     | Kandla                             |
| Maharashtra | Mumbai Port Trust                  |
| Maharashtra | Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) |
| Goa         | Mormugao                           |
| Karnataka   | Mangalore                          |
| Kerala      | Kochi (Cochin)                     |

#### **STATE NEWS**

#### **Himanchal Pradesh**

- 1. formation day
- 2. One Minute Traffic Plan
- 3. Dusted Apollo butterfly sighted
- 4. Aldabra rail
- 5. Mission 414' campaign
- 6. 'Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana
- 7. Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana
- 8. Bill to raise women's marriage age from 18 to 21 years
- 9. International Kullu Dussehra Festival
- 10. Durgesh Aranya Zoo set for IGBC Certification
- 11. Shanan Hydropower Project

#### 25<sup>th</sup> January Himachal Pradesh formation day

- On 25th January, Himachal Pradesh observed its Statehood Day.
- On 18th December 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by Parliament and HP became the 18th state of the Indian Union on 25th January 1971.
- CM: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla
- · State Animal: Snow Leopard
- State flower :Western Tragopan
- State Bird:Pink Rhododendron
- National Parks: Great Himalayan National Park, Pin
   Valley National Park, Khirganga, Inderkila, Simbalbara

#### **UNESCO Sites**

- Kalka-Shimla Railways (Toy Train)
- Great Himalayan National Park

#### Passes

- Rohtang Pass
- Bara-Lacha La
- Shipki La
- Pin-Parvati Pass
- Kunzum Pass

## To ease congestion, police reintroduce 'One Minute Traffic Plan' in Shimla city

- According to the plan, at points 6-8 km from entering Shimla city, traffic would be released every minute in the ratio of 40:20 or 30:30 seconds – which means vehicles would be halted for 40 seconds and released for 20 seconds every minute during rush, and released and halted for 30 seconds during normal times.
- The halting distance will be no more than 500 metres at any point.
- Shimla police has also decided to introduce portable traffic lights in the town in view of the increasing traffic.

#### Himachal Pradesh Launches 'My School-My Pride' Campaign For Education Transformation

- Himachal Pradesh introduces 'My School-My Pride' campaign, part of 'Apna Vidyalay' program, aiming to transform education in government schools
- The 'My School-My Pride' campaign aims to encourage active participation from individuals and organizations to adopt schools and to provide career counselling and guidance, holding extra or special classes for remedial teaching, yoga training and donating money to the school
- To ensure transparency, accountability, and realtime monitoring of activities, the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) will launch an online portal dedicated to the 'Apna Vidyalaya' programme.

## **Dusted Apollo butterfly, sighted for first** time in Himachal Pradesh

- Dusted Apollo (Parnassius stenosemus), a rare high-altitude butterfly has been sighted and photographed for the first time in Himachal Pradesh, indicating the flourishing diversity of Apollo butterflies in the region.
- The species was discovered in the year 1890.

#### Ramsar Wetland Site

- Chandertal
- Pong dam
- Renuka
- National Park
- · Great Himalayan National Park
- Pin Valley National Park
- Inderkilla National Park
- Khirganga National Park
- Simbalbara National Park
- The distribution range of Dusted Apollo extends from Ladakh to West Nepal and it flies between 3,500 to



4,800 meters in the inner Himalayas.

- There are 11 Apollo species recorded from Himachal Pradesh and five of them are declared as Scheduled species.
- Most of the Apollo butterflies are now endangered

#### What is 'Aldabra rail', recently seen in the news?

- Answer: A Flightless bird
- The flightless Aldabra rail went extinct over 130,000 years ago, but the species then reappeared via iterative evolution.
- Scientific name: Dryolimnas cuvieri aldabranus
- The white-throated rail is a chicken-sized bird, indigenous to Madagascar. Migrating to Aldabra, the rails evolved so that they lost the ability to fly.
- Aldabra is a coral atoll in the Indian Ocean, part of the Aldabra Group of islands in the Seychelles
- Iterative evolution where a species goes extinct, but then another comes along and evolves the same traits to become near-identical to the one that was lost





### Aldabra Rail

(A rare case of iterative evolution)

By Shaven Chatata September 24\* 2020

#### What is iterative evolution?

- Berative evolution happens when the same or similar creatures evolve out of the same common ancestor, but at different times periods...or eras an evolution history!
- The world has seen many species of birds go entined, but now, one can see an interesting trend of de-extinction or revivalisms—of a few birds. This process of evolution is known as iterative evolution.



## Election Commission launches 'Mission 414' campaign in Himachal Pradesh

 The Election Commission (EC) of India has launched a special campaign in Himachal Pradesh to maximise voter turnout in 414 polling stations which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.

#### CM Sukhu launches 'Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana' in HP



- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana'
- to provide nutritious foods to Govt. school children and a scheme to provide free Tablets to primary school teachers to boost digitalisation in the state educational and administrative system.
- The scheme was launched by the chief minister Sukhu in Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.

#### Mukhyamantri Bal Poshtik Aahar Yojana

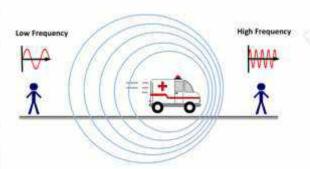
 For students from nursery to class VIII will be provided boiled eggs or fruits once a week.
 The fresh fruits will be sourced from local markets based on the preferences of the children

- The scheme will complement the existing mid-day meal scheme
- The state government has allocated Rs.12.75 crore for 2024-25.
- The state government will provide free tablets to 17,510 primary school teachers in the state.

#### Doppler Radar to Be Installed in Lahaul-Spiti for Weather Forecasting

- An X-band Doppler weather radar will be installed in Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, by December 2025 to enhance weather forecasting and disaster management in the region.
- Currently, 3 Doppler radars are operational in Himachal Pradesh, with a total expenditure of Rs 13.87 crore for their installation and operation.
- The new radar will provide accurate data on weather and potential disasters.
- Radar (Radio Detection and Ranging): a device which uses electromagnetic waves in the microwaves region to detect location (range & direction), altitude, intensity and movement of moving and non-moving objects.
- Doppler Radar: a specialized radar that uses
   the Doppler effect to produce velocity data about
   objects at a distance.
- Doppler effect: When the source and the signal are in relative motion to each other there is a change in the frequency observed by the observer. If they are moving closer, frequency increases and vice versa.

#### Doppler Effect



Doppler radars of varying frequencies — S-band, C-band and X-band — are commonly used by the IMD to detect and track the movement of weather systems, cloud bands and gauge rainfall over its coverage area of about 500 km.

#### X-band radar:

 It operates on a wavelength of 2.5-4 cm and a frequency of 8-12 GHz. Because of the smaller wavelength, the X band radar is **more sensitive and** can detect smaller particles.

· It is used to detect thunderstorms and lightning.

#### **About Spiti Valley:**



- It is a cold desert mountain valley located in the northeastern part of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is located in the rain shadow region of the Greater Himalayan ranges.
- The name Spiti or Piti as it is known among the locals— means 'The middle land' that is the land between India and Tibet.
- The valley is bounded by the districts of Kinnaur in the southeast, Kullu in the south, and the valleys of Zanskar & Ladakh in the north.
- In the east, Spiti shares its boundary with Tibet.
- Highest Point: Kunzum La 4551 m.
- Language: Natives communicate in Stod Bhoti, a subgroup of the Tibetan languages.
- The famous **Tabo Monastery** is located in Spiti Valley.



## Himachal Government Approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana'



 The scheme aims to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children so as to enable the education and well-being of their children.

#### Eligibility -

- widows, destitute women, divorced women with children
- Parents of disabled children
- The income of the eligible women and parents of disabled children shall not be more than Rs 1 lakh per year

#### Benefits -

- Parents of children under 18 years will receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month from the state government to cover the child's educational, nutritional, and health expenses.
- State government assistance will be provided to children pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, or vocational courses to meet tuition fees and hostel costs.
- The scheme aims to prevent issues such as child abuse, trafficking, teenage a, and drug abuse by strengthening child protection at the family level.



## Himachal Pradesh passes Bill to raise women's marriage age from 18 to 21 years

- The Himachal Pradesh State Assembly passed the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024, increasing the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years in order to support gender equality and higher education.
- The Bill amended the Prohibition of Child Marriage (PCM) Act, which was passed by Parliament in 2006.
- The new marriage age for women will apply to everyone in Himachal Pradesh regardless of what any other law may state, or even if the religious or cultural practices of the individuals getting married allow legal minors to get married.

- First, it will be sent to Governor Shiv Pratap
   Shukla for his consent.
- Since the Himachal law is in conflict with the Central legislation on the issue, it will also require the President's approval.

## Himachal Pradesh Govt passes Bill under anti-defection law

- The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members)
   Amendment Bill 2024 was introduced by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu .
- Aims to deter and discourage MLAs from defecting parties by discontinuing their pension.
- According to the bill, "A person shall not be entitled to a pension under the Act if he has been disqualified at any point of time under the tenth schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law)."

**Anti-defection law** 



- The Anti-Defection Law (ADL) was added to the Constitution in 1985 as part of the 52nd Amendment Act and is outlined in the Tenth Schedule
- It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.

#### Himachal Pradesh Assembly Introduces Zero Hour

| Aspect         | Details                                 |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| News           | First time introduced in Himachal       |  |
|                | Pradesh Legislative Assembly.           |  |
| Origin of Zero | Invented by the Indian Parliament       |  |
| Hour           | in the 1960s, not mentioned in          |  |
|                | parliamentary rules, a convention.      |  |
| Definition of  | The time between the end of             |  |
| Zero Hour      | Question Hour and the beginning         |  |
|                | of regular business where urgent        |  |
|                | matters are raised.                     |  |
| Timing in      | Zero Hour from 12:30 PM to 1:00         |  |
| Himachal       | PM after Question Hour, which is        |  |
| Assembly       | from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.              |  |
| Purpose of     | Allows members to raise matters         |  |
| Zero Hour      | of urgent public importance.            |  |
| Question       | 11 AM to 12 Noon.                       |  |
| Hour (Lok      | 1100                                    |  |
| Sabha)         | OL.                                     |  |
| Question       | 12 Noon to 1 PM.                        |  |
| Hour (Rajya    |   |  |
| Sabha)         | 26                                      |  |
| Duration of    | Not fixed in Parliament.                |  |
| Zero Hour in   | ( ) ) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ |  |
| Parliament     | -05                                     |  |
| Current        | 14th Legislative Assembly               |  |
| Himachal       | constituted in December 2022, has       |  |
| Assembly       | 68 members with a 5-year term.          |  |
| Speaker of the | Kuldeep Singh Pathania.                 |  |
| Assembly       | 0.0                                     |  |

## International Kullu Dussehra Festival in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh



- The week-long Kullu Dussehra officially began with the chariot procession of Lord Raghunath.
- 13-19 October, 2024
- Lord Raghunath, the deity of Kullu, will be brought from his temple in Sultanpur to Dhalpur grounds as part of a grand procession.

- From there, he will be placed on a chariot and taken to his temporary camp, where he will remain for the next seven days.
- cultural troupes from 25 countries will present their performances,
- On the last day (October 19), the Kullu Carnival will take place

### Himachal Pradesh's Durgesh Aranya Zoo set for IGBC Certification

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that the upcoming Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency
- It will become India's first zoo to earn certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.
- The first phase of the project spans 25 hectares and comes with an estimated budget of ₹230 crore.
- It is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2025.
- The entire zoological park will be developed at a total cost of ₹619 crore, establishing it as a key driver for tourism growth in Kangra and neighboring regions.

#### Himachal Pradesh's Claim on Shanan Hydropower Project





- The Shanan Hydropower Project is located on the Uhl River, a tributary of the Beas River, in Himachal Pradesh. The project is situated in the Jogindernagar area of Mandi district
- During the British era in 1925, Punjab was granted a 99-year-old lease for the 110-MW Shanan power project
- The lease agreement was formalised between Raja Joginder Bahadur, the ruler of Mandi at the time, and Col BC Batty, who represented the British government and served as the Chief Engineer of Punjab.
- The lease expired on March 2, 2024

- Before the lease of 1925, Himachal Pradesh had both ownership and operational rights over the project.
- Recently, the central government ordered that the status quo be maintained on the Shanan hydropower project, over which Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have made competing claims.
- Punjab has moved the Supreme Court over this issue.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu sought the Union government's assistance in securing the return of the Shanan Project from Punjab.

## Himachal Pradesh's Durgesh Aranya Zoo set for IGBC Certification

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced the upcoming Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency (expected by 2025)
- It will become India's first zoo to earn certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.
- The first phase of the project spans 25 hectares and comes with an estimated budget of ₹230 crore.

## Himachal Government launches Him Bhog Atta and five Welfare scheme



- In a **ceremony held in Bilaspur**, to mark the two years of the completion of his government.
- The Chief Minister launched 'Him Bhog Atta'. The atta (flour) is made of maize grown by farmers in the state through natural farming.
- To encourage natural farming in the state, the state government has set a target to enrol 36,000 farmers in the Rajiv Gandhi Natural Farming Startup Scheme, which is part of the Rajiv Gandhi Startup Scheme.

#### Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojana

- The Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojna aims to prevent child exploitation.
- Aim -to cover 23,000 children of widows, destitute women, divorced women and disabled parents.
- Monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 for children below 18 years of age to cover their educational costs.

### Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition Project (HP Shiva)

- Aim -to encourage horticulture development in nine districts.
- It will cover 6,000 hectares and promote the cultivation of fruits like oranges, guavas, litchi and plums,
- The target is to produce 1.3 lakh metric tonnes of fruit annually by 2032 with a market value of Rs. 400 crores.

#### E-taxi under the Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Swarojgar Yojna

- The Chief Minister symbolically handed keys to 16 electric taxi owners under the Rajiv Gandhi Self-Employment Start-up Scheme 2023.
- The beneficiary of the scheme receives a 50 % subsidy for the purchase of vehicles.

#### Cow dung purchase scheme

- The state government will buy organic and vermicompost directly from farmers at Rs 300 per quintal. The amount is directly transferred into the farmer's account.
- This is expected to boost farmer's income.

#### Mobile Ayush healthcare units

 Five mobile units were flagged off by the Chief Minister, which will provide Ayurveda, Unani, or Homeopathy treatments to the residents in the remote tribal regions of Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, Chamba and Shillai block of Sirmaur district.

#### Mukhyamantri Sukh-Ashray Yojana

- The Chief Minister released financial assistance worth Rs 1.90 crore to the eligible beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Sukh-Ashray Yojana.
- The Sukhu government launched the scheme in February 2023 to provide education, care, and support to the state's orphan children until they reach the age of 27.

#### **Uttarakhand**

- 1. foundation day
- 2. Gross Environment Product Index
- 3. Pine Needles-based fuel-making technology
- 4. First Helicopter Emergency Medical Service
- 5. India's First Astro Tourism Campaign
- 6. 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' Campaign
- 7. Uniform Civil Code Report
- 8. Harela Festival
- 9. Jauljibi Mela

#### 9th November Uttarakhand foundation day

- Uttarakhand Foundation Day is annually celebrated on November 9, and in 2024, it marks the 24th anniversary of the formation of the state.
- Originally known as Uttaranchal, it formed the 27th state of India, with the name being officially changed to Uttarakhand in 2007.
- · CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Governor : Gurmit Singh
- State Animal of Uttarakhand Alpine musk deer
- State Bird Of Uttarakhand Himalayan Monal
- State Fish of Uttarakhand Golden Mahseer
- State Butterfly of Uttarakhand Common Peacock

#### **Passes**

- Mana Pass
- Niti Pass
- Lipu Lekh Pass
- Traill's Pass
- Muling La

| Name<br>Nanda Devi National Park | Location Peak of Nanda Devi   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Nanda Devi National Park         | Peak of Nanda Devi  |
|                                  | I can of Hariaa Devi  |
| Jim Corbett National Park        | Nainital district   |
| Valley of Flowers National Park  | Chamoli district  |
| Rajaji National Park             | Dehradun, Haridwar, Pauri, Garhwal  |
| Gangotri National Park           | Uttarkashi district   |
| Govind Pashu Vihar National Park | Garhwal Himalayas   |
|                                  | Valley of Flowers National Park<br>Rajaji National Park<br>Gangotri National Park |

## Uttarakhand Madrasa Board to Introduce Sanskrit as Mandatory Subject



- The Uttarakhand Madrasa Board plans to make Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrassas across the state.
- The board is preparing to sign an MoU with the state's Sanskrit department.
- Computer studies may also be included to further enrich the curriculum.
- Currently, Arabic is taught in over 100 madrassas.

## Uttarakhand has become the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product Index

- Uttarakhand is the first state in the world where the development of the ecosystem will be assessed through the Gross Environmental Product Index.
- The Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation is the creator of the Gross Environment Product Index.
- There are four pillars of the Gross Environment Product Index: air, soil, tree and water.



The formula is, GEP Index = (Air-GEP index + Water-GEP Index + Soil-GEP Index + ForestGEP index).



GEPI helps assess the impact of human activities on ecosystems, measures contributions back to the environment, and quantifies the economic and welfare benefits of natural ecosystems.

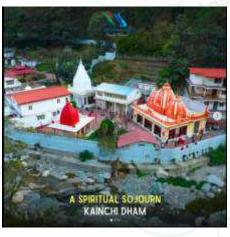


It helps in assessing the impact of anthropological pressure on our ecosystem and natural resources.



Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation is a Nongovernmental Organisations, formed in 1979

#### Joshimath renamed as Jyotirmath, Kosiyakutoli is now Kainchi Dham



- The Centre has approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal to rename Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district as Jyotirmath
- and Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had announced the renaming last year. It was a longstanding demand of local residents
- However, over time, it became popular as Joshimath.
- It is one of the four cardinal math (monasteries)
   established by Adi Shankara for Sanathana
   Dharma propagation, along with Sringeri, Dwarka,
   and Puri.
- Kosiyakutoli in Nainital will now be known as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham tehsil, after Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj's ashram.

#### CSIR-IIP Partners With UCOST to implement the Pine Needles-based fuelmaking technology in Champawat





- An MoU was signed, between CSIR Indian Institute
  of Petroleum, Dehradun and UCOST under the
  aegis of the "Adarsh Champawat" mission.
- Under this agreement, the CSIR Indian Institute of Petroleum will implement two major technologies at the grassroots level in Champawat.
- Selected technologies include
  - a briquetting unit based on Pine Needles
  - ➤ 500 units of Improved Cookstoves for rural households.

- The briquettes produced will be used as fuel in homes and local industries.
- the use and management of Pine Needles are necessary to reduce the instances of forest fires.
- The Pine Needle briquettes and pellets can replace coal and protect the environment.

## India's First Helicopter Emergency Medical Service to be launched from Uttarakhand



- India is set to launch its first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) from Uttarakhand, marking a significant milestone in the country's healthcare and aviation sector
- Announced by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia
- A helicopter will be stationed under the service at the AIIMS, Rishikesh from where it will be sent anywhere within a radius of 150 km to airlift anyone who has met with an accident to the medical facility.

## Uttarakhand Assembly becomes the first legislature in independent India to pass Uniform Civil Code



- Uttarakhand Assembly passed the State's Uniform Civil Code
- The Uniform Civil Code aims to establish a uniform legal framework for all citizens, regardless of their religion.

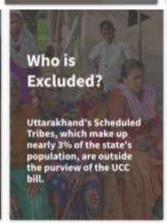
- The Bill imposes common rules for all communities

   except Scheduled Tribes on marriage, divorce, inheritances, and live-in relationships.
- Uttarakhand UCC committee five-member committee, chaired by Supreme Court judge Justice (retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai.









- UCC Bill of Uttarakhand leaves the tribal population out of its ambit. Also, Hindu Undivided Family has not been touched for succession and inheritance
- Although Goa is governed by a UCC (Portuguese Civil Code), the Assembly did not pass any law. The code was retained after its liberation in 1961.
- Article 44 in the Directive Principles of State
   Policy, found in Part IV of the Constitution, states
   that "the State shall endeavour to secure for the
   citizens a uniform civil code throughout the
   territory of India".
- The implementation of the UCC also violates the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution, including Article 25 (freedom to profess and practice one's religion) and Article 29 (right to have a distinct culture).
- It also contradicts the provisions granted under Article 371 to states to protect their unique cultural and tribal identities.

#### Uttarakhand To Become Third State Enacting Law Holding Rioters Liable For Damages



- The Uttarakhand government will introduce a bill to hold rioters responsible for damage to both government and private property.
- In the upcoming budget session, they intend to present the Uttarakhand Public and Private
   Property Damage Recovery Bill
- aiming to make rioters financially liable for losses resulting from protests or strikes.
- Uttarakhand is poised to become the third state, after Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, to enact such a law.

## Uttarakhand govt to evaluate the risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods



#### 13 OF THE MOST VULNERABLE LAKES



- The Uttarakhand government has constituted two teams of experts to evaluate the risk posed by Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- These are disaster events caused by the abrupt discharge of water from glacial lakes.
- The NDMA has identified 188 Himalayan glacial lakes that are in danger of overflowing.
- 13 of these lakes are located in Uttarakhand.
- 5 of these are highly sensitive & fall into the 'A' category.

#### These includes

Vasudhara Tal in Chamoli District

Four lakes in Pithoragarh district —

- Maban Lake
- Pyungru Lake
- 2 unnamed lakes

#### What are glacial lakes?

- Glaciers are found on every continent except Australia
- A glacial lake is a body of water with origins from glacier activity.
- They are formed when a glacier erodes the land and then melts, filling the depression created by the glacier.
- In case the boundary around them breaks, huge amounts of water rush down the side of the mountains, which could cause flooding in the downstream areas.
- This is called as Glacial Lake Outburst Flood.

#### **Reasons for GLOFs:**

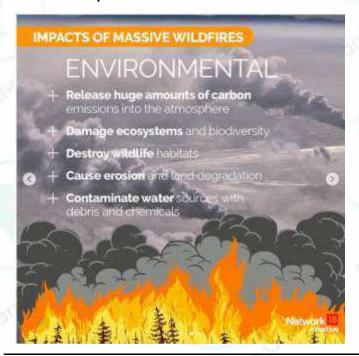
- It can be triggered by various reasons, including glacial calving, where sizable ice chunks detach from the glacier into the lake, inducing sudden water displacement.
- Incidents such as avalanches or landslides can also impact the stability of the boundary around a glacial lake.

#### Forest Fire Situation In Uttarakhand's Kumaon And Garhwal Divisions





- Uttarakhand has recorded the highest number of large forest fires and the highest number of fire alerts in the country in the last seven days (April 23-30), according to the data of the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- Uttarakhand reported 3,338 fire alerts and 201 large forest fire incidents in the last seven days compared to 11 large forest fire incidents in the same period last year.
- The state was followed by Odisha, Andhra
   Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- The frequency of forest fires is increasing over the decades as the population is growing and the presence of people in or near forests is increasing.
- Changes in climate and dry spells are also contributing to the spread of forest fires, especially in Kumaon, where there are a lot of Pine trees and flammable pine needles on the forest floor.





# Uttarakhand Tourism Announced India's First Astro Tourism Campaign Named 'Nakshatra Sabha'

- The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board has joined hands with Starscapes, a leading astrotourism company, to introduce Nakshatra Sabha, a new initiative to provide a comprehensive Astro Tourism experience to people.
- The campaign will offer a range of activities, including stargazing, special solar observations,



astrophotography contests, camping under the stars, and more.

- Scheduled to kick off in early June at George Everest in Mussoorie, Nakshatra Sabha will continue until mid-2025, featuring a series of immersive events at various locations across Uttarakhand.
- These events will explore potential night sky sites in districts such as Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Nainital, and Chamoli, along with seminars and webinars led by experts in the field.

## **Uttarakhand Launches 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' Campaign to Combat Forest Fires**



- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the campaign in the Rudraprayag district.
- Under the 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign, local youth and villagers will collect dry Pirul (Pine tree leaves) from the forests and take them to designated Pirul collection centers
- The villagers will be paid Rs 50 per kg, with the amount directly transferred to their bank accounts.
- The collected Pirul will be packed, processed, and sold to industries for further use.
- Pirul, due to their excellent burning capacity, pose a significant fire threat in Pine forests.

## **Uttarakhand Releases Uniform Civil Code Report**



- The report of the Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand is available to the general public.
- The full report of 1700 pages of the Uttarakhand Civil Code is available in 4 volumes.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's government had constituted a five-member committee headed by Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Desai to prepare the UCC draft on May 27, 2022.
- The Uttarakhand government passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill on the 7th of February, 2024 and the UCC bill was approved by the president on the 12th of March, 2024.
- The UCC is mentioned in Article 44 of the Constitution as part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, that the state should work to establish a uniform civil code for all citizens across India.
- However, the Constitution's framers left it to the government's discretion to implement the UCC.

#### The Key Highlights of Uttarakhand's UCC Bill, 2024

- The UCC aims to replace distinct personal laws of every religion, focusing on marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance, guided by Article 44 of the Constitution.
- This code would be a single set of personal laws that would apply to all citizens, regardless of religion.
- Some of the key proposals put forth by the committee include the prohibition of polygamy, nikah halala, iddat (a mandatory period of waiting to be observed by women following the dissolution of a Muslim marriage), triple talaq, and child marriage, uniform age for girls' marriage across all religions, and mandatory registration of live-in relationships.

#### **Exemptions:**

- Scheduled tribes (STs) have been exempted from the purview of the bill.
- The tribal population in the state, which is around 3%

#### Harela Festival In Uttarakhand 2024



- Harela is an auspicious Hindu festival celebrated in Uttarakhand and some regions of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is mainly popular in the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand.
- Harela falls on the first day of Shravan-Maas (Shravan-Sankranti/Kark-Sankranti), as per the Hindu Luni-Solar calendar, marking the onset of the monsoon season and the planting of new crops.
- Aligning with the ceremonial observance of the wedding of Shiva and Parvati.
- The term "Harela" comes from the Kumaoni word "Hariyala," which means "Day of Green."
- The festival is known as Hariyali or Rihyali in Kangra, Shimla, Sirmour, and Dakhrain in the Jubbal and Kinnaur regions of Himachal Pradesh.

### **Uttarakhand Opens Its First-Ever Bird Gallery In Dehradun**



- This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand's birds
- Uttarakhand has the highest number of bird species reported in India

#### Haryana Election Results 2024



 The ruling BJP secured a historic third term in Haryana, winning 48 seats out of 90

#### PM Modi celebrates Igas festival



- IgaS Bagwal festival is widely celebrated in Uttarakhand, after 11 days of Diwali. It is also called Budhi Diwali.
- celebrated on Kartik Shukla Ekadashi,
- On the occasion PM Modi, worshipped the Tulsi
   plant, lit the Igas flame and performed Aarti.
- Igaas festival honours the Goddess Nanda Devi and celebrates harvest, fertility, and prosperity.

### Uttarakhand's New Sports Initiatives Unveiled



 Uttarakhand hosting the 2024 National Games in Dehradun.

- CM Pushkar Singh Dhami recently inaugurated 3 major schemes worth ₹13.78 crore:
  - Development of Panna Lal Bhalla Cricket Stadium
  - Electrical facade beautification of Dam Kothi Bridge
  - Electrical facade beautification of Chandi Devi Bridge

### Uttarakhand CM inaugurates Jauljibi Mela in Pithoragarh.



- Situated at the scenic confluence of the Goriganga and Kali rivers
- Located in the Dharchula Tehsil of Pithoragarh district, Jauljibi boasts a rich historical legacy as a former hub for animal trade fair
- It serves as a border town with a modest bazaar marking the Indo-Nepal border.

# 10<sup>th</sup> World Ayurveda Congress and Ayurveda Expo in Dehradun

- from Dec 12 to 15 in Dehradun
- The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) & Arogya Expo 2024



- Theme 'Digital Health An Ayurveda Perspective'
- Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State,
   Independent Charge, Ministry of Ayush
- AYUSH Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy

# Uttarakhand Unveils India's First Dedicated Yoga Policy to Become Global Yoga Hub

- Yoga Policy aims to integrate Ayurveda and Yoga into healthcare, promote wellness tourism, and generate employment.
- Policy to standardize yoga institutes and promote Rishikesh as a global yoga city.
- Uttarakhand hosted the 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo.
- The CM urged the AYUSH Ministry to establish All India Institute of Ayurveda in Uttarakhand.

- · Rishikesh "Yoga Capital of the World
- Dilraj Preet Kaur Uttarakhand's Yoga Brand Ambassador.

### Defence Minister unveils the statue of General Bipin Rawat in Dehradun

at TonsBridge School in Dehradun.

#### **GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT**

General Bipin

 Laxman Singh
 Rawat (1958 –
 2021) was a
 four-star general of the Indian
 Army.



- He served as the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
   of the Indian Armed Forces from January 2020 until
   his death in a helicopter crash in December 2021.
- he served as 57th Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as well as 26th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.
- Rawat died in the crash of an Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter in Tamil Nadu.

### Uttarakhand Forest Department Establishes Mahabharata Vatika

 The Uttarakhand Forest department has developed an ethnobotanical garden at Haldwani over one acre of land to showcase ecological and

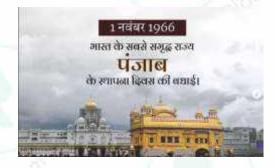
- environmental knowledge in Mahabharata and grown 37 plant species mentioned in the epic.
- "Mahabharata Vatika" has plant species mentioned in 18 sections of Mahabharata.
- There is a portion of Mahabharata called Vana Parva/Aranya Parva [the book of forest].
- The state forest department this year also set up "Ramayana Vatika" in Haldwani with plant species mentioned in Valmiki's Ramayana and associated with Lord Rama in six major forest types.
- Lord Ram came across four types of forests—
   Chitrakoot (tropical deciduous), Dandakarnanya
   (tropical deciduous), Panchavati (tropical dry deciduous), and Kishkindha (dry and moist deciduous)—during his journey from Ayodhya to Sri Lanka.
- Ashok Vatika [evergreen] is associated with Sita while Dronagiri [alpine forest] is associated with Lord Hanuman."

### Uttarakhand Launches First Wine Production Unit

 The Uttarakhand government has officially launched its first wine production unit in Kotdwar to promote wine tourism under its new excise policy.

#### **Punjab**

- 1. formation day
- 2. Bill to control spread of illegal colonies
- 3. Mission Nishchay
- 4. Booth Raabta' Website
- 5. Sadak Surakhya Force
- 6. Aarambh" programme



#### **Art & Crafts**

 Phulkari or flower embroidery wood inlay of Hoshiarpur on black shisham wood.

#### 1 November Punjab foundation day

- November 1st 1966, Punjab was restructured to form a separate state for Punjabi speakers.
- Punjab was bifurcated to create Haryana.
- Capital: Chandigarh
- CM: Bhagwant Mann
- Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
- State Animal of Punjab Blackbuck
- State Bird of Punjab Northern Goshawk (Baaj)
- State Tree of Punjab Sheesham
- State Flower of Punjab Gladiolus (Sword Lily)

#### **Dances**

- Bhangra
- Giddha

#### **Ramsar Wetlands**

Kanjli Harike Ropar

#### Doabs

- Jech (Lies between Jhelum and Chenab River)
- Rechna (Lies between Ravi and Chenab River)
- Bari (Lies between Ravi and Beas River)
- Bist (Lies between Beas and Sutlej River)

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

- Takhni Rehmapur Wildlife Sanctuary
- Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary

# Army celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of WW2 veteran Lance Naik Charan Singh in Punjab's Ropar district



- Charan Singh was born on September 7, 1924.
- Joined the Army in 1942 and retired from service in 1959 and served in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps

# Punjab Assembly passes Bill to control spread of illegal colonies



- The Punjab State Assembly passed the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2024
- aims to overcome problems faced by the public in registration of their plots and check the development of unauthorised colonies.
- Its provisions state that if someone has brought plot from a coloniser before July 31, 2024, and has transferred advance payment, they can get their registry done without No Objection certificate (NOC) till November 2
- if any person or promoter or his agent registered under this Act fails to comply with the relevant provision of the law, he/she shall be punished with:
  - imprisonment for a minimum term of 5 years which may extend to 10 years
  - 2. with minimum fine of ₹25 lakh, which may extend to ₹5 crore

- Bir Aishwan Wildlife Sanctuary
- Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Harike Wildlife Sanctuary
- · Bir Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bir Gurdialpura Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bir Bhunerheri Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bir Mehas Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bir Dosanjh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kathlaur Kushlian Wildlife Sanctuary

#### Punjab police launch 'Mission Nishchay'

- Punjab Police in association with the Border
  Security Force (BSF) and Village Defence
  Committees (VDCs) will carry out a one-week drive
  against drugs, named as 'Mission Nishchay', in
  Fazilka district
- they will reach out to residents of 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border to gather actionable intelligence about the demand and supply of drugs.
- Of the 553-km-long Punjab border with Pakistan,
   108 km is in Fazilka district.

### Innovative Election Initiative: Punjab Launches 'Booth Raabta' Website



- A special website named 'Booth Raabta' has been launched to provide election-related information & facilities to the people
- Booth Raabta means Booth Contact and this website is a unique initiative of Malerkotla district, Punjab

### Hola Mahalla Begins At Historical Gurdwara Patalpuri Sahib In Kiratpur Sahib, Punjab



- The Hola Mahalla will run for 3 days each in Kiratpur Sahib and 3 days in Anandpur Sahib (from 24-26 March).
- With its origins dating back to the 17th century, the festival has evolved into a magnificent display of martial arts prowess, spiritual fervor, and communal harmony.
- A sikh festival which usually falls in March, follows the Hindu festival of Holi by one day.
- Together the words "Hola Mohalla" stands for "mock fight". During this festival, processions are organised in the form of army type columns accompanied by war-drums.
- Guru Gobind Singh Ji held the first such mock fight event at sacred Sikh city Anandpur Sahib in February 1701.

## Punjab Govt sets up 'Sadak Surakhya Force' (SSF), first of its kind in India



- · to reduce road fatalities.
- State CM Bhagwant Singh Mann flagged off 144 hi-tech vehicles from Jalandhar.
- Anyone in the State can get help by dialing number 112, and the vehicle will reach the spot within ten minutes of receiving the call.
- Indian Hockey team's former captain and AIG traffic Gaganjit Singh will lead this Sadak Surakhya Force.
- The vehicles will cover 5,500 km of State and national highways - expected to save 3,000 lives every year.

## Shubman Gill designated as Punjab 'state icon' for Lok Sabha polls

- The Punjab Chief Electoral Officer's office has designated Indian cricketer Shubman Gill as a "state icon" for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.
- Gill will engage in various campaigns



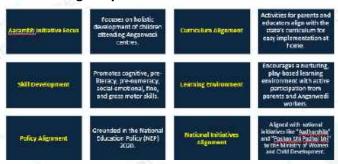
**aimed at voter awareness** to ensure a voting percentage of 70 per cent.

## Punjab Gets Its First Plant Clinic & Soil Testing Laboratory In Moga



- The clinic will provide free soil testing and plant disease diagnosis services to farmers.
- Moga district is among the aspirational districts of the country and this clinic equipped with modern equipment is a part of development by NITI Aayog in the area.

### The "Aarambh" programme, launched in Punjab: aims at enhancing early childhood education



#### **Punjab Achieves 100% Piped Water Supply**

- Punjab has recently achieved milestone by providing 100% piped water supply to all rural households, falls under the central government's 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme.
- The scheme was announced by the Prime Minister on August 15, 2019 as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The scheme aims to provide 55 liters of tap water per person per day to every rural household by 2024
- Other states with 100% piped water supply to all rural households under Har ghar Jal – Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Gujarat, Himachal, Mizoram,
- UTs A & N Island, D&NH and D&D, Puducherry

#### **SHORT NEWS**

 The Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann gave nod to enact THE PUNJAB STATE (DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION OF SPORTS) ACT, 2024

#### Haryana

- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. Nayab Saini as Haryana CM
- 3. Saras Aajeevika Mela
- 4. 'Van Mitra' scheme
- 5. Green Charcoal Plant

#### 1 November - Haryana Foundation Day (59th)

- Haryana also known as 'Jatland' was formed on 1st November in the year 1966. It was carved out of the former state of Punjab
- **Governor: Bandaru Dattatreva**
- CM: Nayab Singh Saini
- State Animal: Black Buck
- State Bird: Black Francolin

#### **National Parks**

- Sultanpur National Park
- Kalesar National Park

#### Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bir Shikargarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Chinchilla Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Khaparwas Wildlife Sanctuary
- Morni Hills (Khol-Hi-Raritan) Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nahar Wildlife Sanctuary

#### **Dances**

Phag, Dhamal, Ratvai

#### Rivers

Yamuna, Saraswati, Ghaggar, Markanda, Tangri, Chautang

#### **State Reorganisation Act 1956**

- Passed on 31st August
- It came into effect on November 1, 1956
- It also led to the passing of the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1956, which replaced the four types of states known as Part A, B, C, and D with two categories: States and Union territories.
- State Reorganisation Act 1956 resulted in creation of 14 centrally governed states and 6 union territories.



Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya

In Haryana polls, the BJP secured an

seats in the 90-member assembly.

The Congress won 37 seats.

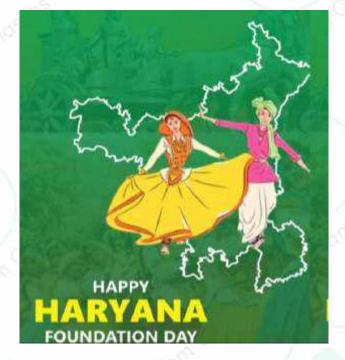
unprecedented third term in the state, winning 48

administered the oath of office



Capital: Chandigarh

State Tree: Peepal

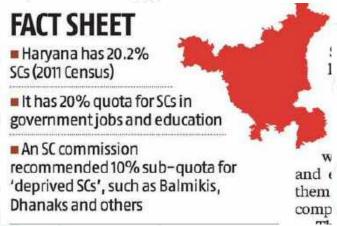


### Nayab Saini took oath as Haryana CM



- There has been a 29 per cent decline in stubble burning incidents this year compared to the corresponding year-ago period due to the significant steps being taken by the Haryana government for crop residue management.
- This initiative provides financial assistance to farmers for crop residue management while setting zero-burning targets for panchayats.
- The government has categorised villages into three zones -- red, yellow and green -- based on paddy stubble burning incidents last year.
- Panchayats in the red and the yellow zones will receive incentives to reduce stubble burning incidents.
- Red zone panchayats will be awarded an incentive of Rs 1 lakh while those in the yellow zone will receive Rs 50,000 for achieving zero-burning targets.
- The government is providing equipment to farmers on subsidised rates for both in-situ and exsitu crop management.
- The farmers are being given an incentive of Rs
   1,000 per acre for managing paddy crop residue.
- In addition, an incentive of Rs 7,000 per acre is provided for adopting alternative crops (crop diversification) in paddy areas under the Mera Pani-Meri Virasat Yojana.
- The Haryana government is also offering an incentive of Rs 4,000 per acre for adopting Direct Seeding of Rice technology.

### Haryana Govt to implement categorization in SC reservation



- The BJP government in Haryana is to implement Supreme court's August order empowering states to go ahead with sub-categorisation within the Scheduled Castes for the purpose of reservations.
- Several Dalit groups have been seeking a quota within the overall 20% quota for SCs in government jobs in Haryana.

 On August 1 this year, in a 6:1 landmark verdict, the Supreme Court had allowed the subcategorisation of SCs in reservations

## Haryana: Saras Aajeevika Mela underway in Gurugram



- The 3rd edition of Saras Aajeevika Mela 2024 is underway at Gurugram's Leisure Valley in Haryana.
- Over nine hundred women from villages in thirty states have set up more than 450 stalls.
- The fair, jointly organized by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, promotes rural-made products.

# International Gita Mahotsav 2024: A Celebration of Culture, Spirituality, and Global Unity

- from November 28 to December 15, 2024, in Kurukshetra, Haryana
- Since 2016, this event has expanded globally, spreading the message of the Bhagavad Gita
- Initiated by the Haryana Government
- In 2024, Tanzania will be the partner country, reflecting the festival's global influence, while Odisha has been chosen as the partner state

### Haryana govt notifies 'Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme' to promote excellence in governance

- The Haryana Government has notified the Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme 2024 (Haryana Sushaasan Puraskaar Yojana).
- To promote excellence in governance by recognising and rewarding employees whose innovative practices and exceptional efforts contribute to improved governance across the state.
- These awards include a trophy and an appreciation certificate signed by the Chief

- Secretary, which will be added to the service record of each awarded employee through the respective Administrative Secretary.
- Additionally, a cash reward of Rs 51,000 will be provided.
- The cash reward will be equally distributed among all team members, regardless of their individual ranks or positions, ensuring fair recognition for each contributor within the team.

# Haryana Cabinet brings Ordinance for Backward Classes (B) reservations in Panchayati Raj institutions

- The amendment provides proportionate reservation for Backward Classes 'B' in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- It is based on recommendations from the Haryana Backward Classes Commission.
- The ordinance reserves seats for BC (B) in positions like Panch, Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti Members, and Zila Parishad Members.

### Haryana Government To Recruit Van Mitras Soon Under Van Mitra Yojana

- The Van Mitras will be paid an honorarium for taking care of the plants.
- The officers have been instructed to get regular mapping done by the Forest Department through drones of the plants already planted in the forest area and the plants to be planted every year under the plantation campaign.
- Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh
- Governor Bandaru Dattatreya

#### 'Van Mitra' scheme

- The 'Van Mitra' scheme is designed to foster community engagement in afforestation efforts, specifically targeting non-forest areas across the state.
- Eligible individuals aged between 18 and 60 years can register to become 'Van Mitras'.
- The scheme allows each 'Van Mitra' to plant up to 1,000 saplings.
- In the first year, participants will receive Rs 20 for each prepared pit, verified through geo-tagging and photograph uploads.
- Subsequently, Rs 30 will be awarded for each sapling planted, with additional payments for ongoing maintenance and security of the saplings at different rates over the subsequent three years.

# Haryana CM announces hike in income limit for creamy layer of OBC to Rs 8 lakh

- Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini announced at OBC Morcha Sarv Samaj Samrasta Sammelan' held in Gurugram.
- An increase in annual income limit for OBC creamy layer from ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh, which is similar to the Centre.
- Besides this, similar to the central government, income from salary and agriculture sources will not be included in this limit
- Also, reservation for the backward classes in Group-A and Group-B posts will be increased from 15% to 27%.
- Following the consideration of the Haryana State Backward Classes Commission, this increased limit will be implemented for state government jobs.

### Chief Electoral Officer's office of Haryana Launches 'Voters-In-Queue' App For Information On Queues At Polling Centres

- The app has been launched with the target of achieving at least 75 percent voting in the Lok Sabha elections as compared to the 70 percent voting in the previous Lok Sabha elections.
- The 'Voter-In-Queue' app will be operational in 30 urban assembly constituencies

### Haryana Governor Launches Cashless Health Facility for Ayushman Yojana Beneficiaries



- Governor Bandaru Dattatreya inaugurated the cashless health facility under Ayushman Yojana for government employees and their dependents.
- Chief Minister Manohar Lal was present on the occasion.

#### Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY

- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- Launched in February 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care.

- Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
- The state government had launched the scheme on a pilot basis in November last year, initially covering employees from the Fisheries and Horticulture departments and now the coverage has been extended to all regular government employees.

# Haryana Police is first force to use drones for tear gas



- The Haryana Police dropped tear gas shells from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) on protesting farmers on the Punjab-Haryana boundary.
- Used drones made by Drone Imaging and Information Service of Haryana Limited (DRIISHYA), a public limited company in Karnal
- The drone-based tear smoke launcher to control riots and for other crowd control situations was developed by the Tear Smoke Unit (TSU) of the Border Security Force (BSF) in 2022 but it has not been sold to any state police force yet.



#### Haryana Launches 'Van Mitra' scheme



- Manohar Lal Khattar launched 'Van Mitra' scheme and its portal to encourage community participation in tree planting activities in nonforest areas.
- The members of families with an annual income of less than Rs 1.80 lakh can register to become 'Van Mitras'.

- Each van mitra will receive an incentive based on the maintenance of the plant and they can plant a maximum of 1,000 saplings.
- Any individual aged between 18 and 60 can become a van mitra
- A van mitra can choose non-forest land for tree planting in their village, town, or city.
- In the first year, van mitras will receive Rs 20 for each dug pit upon uploading geo-tagging and photograph of the pit on the mobile app.
- After geo-tagging, van mitras will receive Rs 30 for each planted tree.
- They will receive Rs 10 per living plant for the maintenance and security of trees planted.
- In the second year, van mitras will receive Rs 8 per living plant each month.
- In the third year, they will receive Rs 5 per living plant each month, and in the fourth year, this amount will be Rs 3 per living plant.
- In case the van mitras wish not continue under the scheme, the Forest Department will take over the trees.

### BJP's Nayab Singh Saini is Haryana's new Chief Minister



- Haryana BJP president and OBC leader Nayab
   Singh Saini took oath as Haryana Chief Minister,
   hours after Manohar Lal Khattar and his Cabinet
   Ministers submitted their resignations.
- The ruling coalition of the BJP and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) broke apart, amid differences over seat-sharing for the general election.
- Nayab Saini is a Lok Sabha MP from Kurukshetra constituency
- Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath

#### Haryana

Capital: Chandigarh

Date of formation: 1<sup>st</sup> November 1966

State Animal: Black BuckState Bird: Black Francolin

State Tree: PeepalState Flower: Lotus



NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. To Set Up Green Charcoal Plant In Haryana



- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVNL) will set up two green charcoal plants in Gurugram and Faridabad, Haryana.
- These plants will convert municipal waste into charcoal or green coal.
- An agreement was signed between the NTPC
   Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited and the Municipal
   Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad
- The plant will be set up in Bandhwari, Gurugram, and Motuka in Faridabad.
- Each plant will cost Rs 500 crore.
- The combined capacity of the two plants will be to process 1,500 tonnes of daily collected waste materials into charcoal.
- The green charcoal will be used in power producing thermal plant which uses coal as a raw material.
- India's largest waste-to-charcoal plant is in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, and it can process 600 tonnes of waste daily.
- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited Headquarters:
   New Delhi
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): N K Sharma

# International Gita Mahotsav 2024 Inaugurated in Kurukshetra, Haryana



- Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated
- 2024 International Gita Mahotsav from 28th November -15 December 2024.
- The International Gita Mahotsav commemorates the birth of 'Srimad Bhagwat Gita', the sacred scripture containing advice of Lord Krishna that he gave to Arjuna in Kurukshetra on the first day of the famous 18-day battle in the Mahabharata.
- The annual International Gita Mahotsav is organised by the Kurukshetra Development Board of Haryana Tourism in collaboration with the Government of Haryana.
- This year, Tanzania, an African country, is the foreign partner country, and Odisha is the State partner.
- Haryana government started the Gita Mahotsav in
   1989 as a state-wide cultural and religious event.
- In 2016, the Haryana Government rebranded the event as International Gita Mahotsav, which attracted more than 20 lakh people.

### Prime Minster Modi launched Bima Sakhi Yojana in Panipat, Haryana to empower women



- 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' is of Life Insurance Corporation to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness among women.
- For women aged 18-70 years, who are Class X pass.
- They will receive specialized training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.

- The women will get Rs 7000 stipend in the 1st year, Rs 6000 in 2nd year, Rs 5000 in 3rd year
- · After training, they can serve as LIC agents
- target is to enrol 200,000 women under the scheme over the next three years

 Additionally, PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of the Main campus of Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal.

#### **Uttar Pradesh**

- 1. foundation day
- 2. International ISO tag for Sonbhadra Police Line
- 3. Vedic-3D Museum
- 4. First Asian King Vulture Conservation Center
- 5. 'Kakori Train Action' centenary festival
- 6. Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana
- 7. Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary
- 8. Ganga Dussehra
- 9. India's first urban ropeway
- 10. Shri Kalki Dham Temple
- 11. First Turtle Conservation Reserve
- 12. MYUVA Scheme
- 13. Uttar Pradesh NIRMAN Bill-2024
- 14. UP Mango Festival 2024
- 15. Krishi Sakhi scheme
- 16. UP's first double decker electric bus
- 17. Dev Deepawali

#### **Main Handicrafts**

- Chikan work
- Zari work
- · Wooden toys and furniture
- Clay toys
- dari
- Carpet
- Silk
- brassware

#### Ramsar Sites

- Bakhira Sanctuary
- Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary

### International ISO tag for Sonbhadra Police Line

It is now the first police line in Purvanchal (eastern Uttar Pradesh) to receive the ISO-9001:2015 certification from International Organisation for Standardization.

#### 24th January Uttar Pradesh foundation day

- The state celebrates its foundation day on the 24th of January every year. This day is also known as Uttar Pradesh Day or Uttar Pradesh Diwas.
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- State Animal : Swamp deer
- State Bird: Sarus Crane
- State Tree: Ashoka
- State Flower: PalashState Dance: KathakState Sport: Field hockey
- Capital Lucknow
- Date of Creation : 01, April 1937 (United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, British Rule)
- It was renamed as Uttar Pradesh on 26, January 1950.
- In November 2000, a new state, Uttarakhand, was carved out.
- State Borders: Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh
- International Borders: Nepal
- Language: Hindu, Urdu, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Bundelkhandi, Braj Bhasa
  - Saman Bird Sanctuary
  - Sandi Bird Sanctuary
  - Sur Sarovar
  - Haiderpur Wetland
  - Upper Ganga
  - Sarsai Nawar Jheel
  - Samaspur Bird Sanctuary
  - Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary.

#### **Tiger Reserve**

- Dudhwa National Park
- Pilibhit Tiger reserve
- Amangarh Tiger Reserve

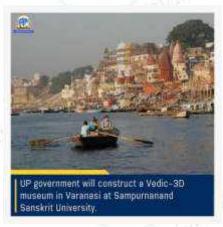


- This certification recognises Sonbhadra Police Line's excellence in management, training, services, and facilities,
- The Commissionerate Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) has set a precedent as <u>Uttar Pradesh</u>'s first ISO-9001:2015 certified commissionerate.

### IIM Lucknow establishes Centre of Excellence in Blockchain Technology

- In partnership with Microsoft India, IIM Lucknow will establish three outreach centers across Uttar
   Pradesh to promote and nurture blockchain-based innovation.
- The proposed regions for these centers are Gorakhpur, Lucknow, and Greater Noida/Meerut.

### UP Govt to Build Vedic-3D Museum in Varanasi



- Uttar Pradesh government will construct a Vedic-3D museum in PM Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi at the main building of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University.
- The state-of-the-art museum will be dedicated to Indian astrology, astronomy, and Vedic literature.
- The museum will showcase the evolution of Vedic literature as well as contributions of Indian sages and serve as a platform to revive the tradition of 'Shastrartha' (spiritual discourse).

World's First Asian King Vulture
Conservation Center Inaugurated in Uttar
Pradesh



- Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with the Bombay Natural History Society established the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in the Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division, Maharajganj
- Inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath
- It is the world's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian King Vulture or the redheaded vulture.
- The Jatayu Center aims to release 40 pairs of vultures from the centre over the next 8 to 10 years.
- The bird is threatened by the loss of its habitat and humans' indiscriminate use of diclofenac, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, in animals.
- The scientific name of the king vulture is Sarcogyps calvus.
- The bird is mainly found in North India.
- The bird has been included in the critically endangered species list of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

## Shankh Air, UP's first scheduled airline, gets approval from Aviation Ministry



- India's new airline, Shankh Air, has been approved by the Civil Aviation Ministry to operate in the country.
- Still needs clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) before it can officially start flying.
- Shankh Air, soon to be Uttar Pradesh's first scheduled airline, will operate from hubs in Lucknow and Noida.
- IndiGo dominates India's aviation market, holding over 60% of the share
- Air India, the second-largest (merge with Vistara, which is co-owned by Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, by next year)

### VP Jagdeep Dhankhar to Inaugurate 2nd Edition of UPITS on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept

- Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) in Gautam Buddha Nagar .
- The five-day trade show will conclude on 29<sup>th</sup> September.



- The event will showcase the trade and culture of Uttar Pradesh.
- It will also highlight Vietnam as the partner country.
- The first edition of UPITS was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu in 2023.

### CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurates the 'Kakori Train Action' centenary festival



- The forest department will establish Shaheed
   Smriti Vatika in every district as a tribute to the martyrs of Kakori. Preparations are also underway for a Shaheed Smriti Yatra by 100 cyclists to mark the occasion.
- A Kakori Literature Festival will be held, showcasing an exhibition of books related to Kakori freedom fighters, the freedom movement, and the Kakori train action.
- It is renamed because the word 'Kand' refers to the sense of humiliation of the incident during India's freedom struggle.
- The Kakori Train Action was a train robbery, committed by the revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement against the British Raj

- on August 9, 1925, in a village called Kakori near Lucknow.
- This robbery was carried out by 10 revolutionaries including Hindustan Republican
   Association's revolutionary Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav
   Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal.
- Significantly, freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged on December 19, 1927 for their involvement in the Kakori Conspiracy.

### UP international trade show in Greater Noida



- The state government will organise the second edition of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Exhibition from September 25 to 29 at the India Exhibition Mart in Greater Noida.
- The theme for this year's exhibition has been titled "Unique Platform of Sourcing." The event is aimed at showcasing the state's "craft, cuisine, and culture" to a global audience, drawing entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and traders from around the world,
- Vietnam is participating as a partner country in this year's trade show

## Rs 920 Cr Namami Gange Mission 2.0 Projects In UP And Bihar

 The central government has completed and operationalized four major projects of Rs 920 crore in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar under Namami Gange Mission 2.0.



 These projects will add 145 megaliters per day MLD of sewage treatment capacity and provide better sewer networks.

#### What is Namami Gange Mission?

'Namami Gange Programme', is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

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#### U.P. CM launches Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana

- Announced on 78th Independence Day
- to promote entrepreneurship among youth
- Under the scheme, financial support will be provided to young individuals interested in entrepreneurship.



 with a target of establishing one million micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) units across the state.

'UP Digital Media Policy 2024': Rs 8 lakh monthly income for promoting policies, life imprisonment for anti-national content

> UP's New Social Media Policy: Rs 8 lakh monthly income for promoting policies, life imprisonment for antinational content



- The 'UP Digital Media Policy 2024' was cleared by the UP cabinet
- Under the policy, the government would give advertisements to eligible visual and digital media firms and influencers active on popular social media platforms of X, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

- The social media agencies would be segregated into four broad categories based on the count of subscribers and followers.
- The maximum payment to account holders, operators and influencers of X, Facebook and Instagram has been fixed at Rs 5 lakh, Rs 4 lakh, Rs 3 lakh per month respectively.
- category-wise ceiling for payment pertaining to videos, shorts and podcasts and other type of content on YouTube has been fixed at Rs 8 lakh, Rs 7 lakh, Rs 6 lakh and Rs 4 lakh per month respectively.
- Meanwhile, for derogatory posts, police currently books the accused under Section 66 (E) and 66 (F) of the IT Act.
- Under the new policy, if found guilty, there is a provision for punishment ranging from three years to life imprisonment for creating anti-national, obscene, or objectionable content

### UP govt to give scholarship to all students of Sanskrit schools

- The Uttar Pradesh government decided to give scholarships to all students studying in over 500
   Sanskrit schools in the state
- earlier, only the children of families with annual income up to Rs 50,000 were given scholarships, but now the income limit has been removed.
- It was also decided to hike the scholarship amount for those in classes 9 to 12 in these schools.
- The new scholarship amount ranges between Rs
   50 and Rs 200 per month for students of classes 6-12.

# Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) in UP to become a TR

- A new tiger reserve will soon be established in Uttar Pradesh, following evidence of tiger population in the Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS), which covers the districts of Balrampur, Shravasti, and Gonda.
- The announcement was made during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR)
- Suhelwa was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1988.
   It is spread across 452 sqkm.

#### **3 UP TIGER RESERVE**

- 1. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, National Park
- 2. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
- 3. Ranipur Tiger Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary

Amangarh Tiger Reserve (buffer of Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve)

There are a **total of 55 tiger reserves in India** (Dholpur – Karauli Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan 55th).

Tiger Reserves are notified by State Governments as per provisions of Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

### UP To Establish World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation & Breeding Centre In Maharajganj



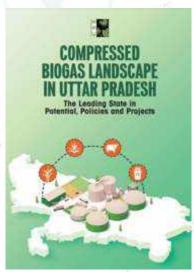
- Uttar Pradesh is set to establish the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vultures or red-headed vultures in Maharajganj.
- The centre is named Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre.
- The facility will improve the population of critically endangered species listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list since 2007.
- Asian king vultures are endangered due to the loss of their habitats and the excessive use of diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, in domestic animals, which becomes poisonous for vultures.
- This is one of the 9 species of Vulture which are found in India
- Conservation status
  - > IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
  - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1

#### **Ganga Dussehra**



- Ganga Dussehra, also known as Gangavataran, is an important Hindu festival
- Celebrated on the tenth day of the waxing moon in the Hindu month of Jyeshtha (Shukla Dashami), the festival spans ten days, including nine days of festivities.
- It commemorates the descent of the holy river
   Ganga to Earth, which is believed to have taken
   place on this auspicious day.
- King Bhagirath aimed to purify his ancestors' souls and grant them salvation. Seeking help, he approached Lord Brahma, who advised him to pray to Lord Shiva, as bringing the mighty Ganga to Earth

# Uttar Pradesh Leads India in Compressed Biogas Production



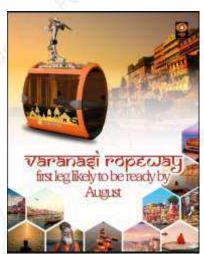
- According to a report by the Delhi-based think tank
   Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Uttar
   Pradesh holds a remarkable position in India's
   renewable energy landscape, with the potential to
   generate 24% of the nation's compressed biogas
   (CBG)
- Biogas is produced from waste / biomass sources (
   e.g., agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugarcane pr
   ess mud, municipal solid waste, and sewage treatm
   ent plant waste) through the process of anaerobic
   decomposition. .
- Compressed Biogas (CBG) has calorific value and o ther properties similar to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and hence can be utilized as green renewable automotive fuel.
- Can replace CNG in automotive, industrial, and co mmercial areas, given the abundance biomass availability within the country

# Uttar Pradesh brings Ordinance against paper leaks



- Ordinance will come into effect once it is approved by governor, set to become law after it is passed in assembly.
- The Ordinance provides for jail terms ranging from
   2 years to life imprisonment, and fines of up to Rs
   1 crore for those involved in question paper leaks.
- All offences under the ordinance have been classified as cognizable, non-bailable, noncompoundable and triable by sessions courts.
- Once the ordinance becomes a law, the UP Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act,
   1998, will be repealed
- It entailed both bailable and non-bailable offences, while imprisonment ranged from three months to a maximum five years. It also stipulated a fine ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000.

# India's first urban ropeway in Varanasi to be ready by August 2024



- The first section of India's inaugural urban ropeway project in Varanasi will link Varanasi Cantonment Railway Station to RathYatra by August 2024, under the 'Parvatmala Pariyojana'.
- Constructed by Vishwa Samudra Engineering in partnership with Switzerland's Bartholet
   Maschinenbau AG
- the project is designed to carry 96,000 passengers daily, improving connectivity in congested areas.

#### Rajnath Singh Launches India's First All-Girls Sainik School in Vrindavan

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated
   Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School at
   Vrindavan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh on January
   01, 2024.
- under the initiative of establishing 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode with NGOs/Private/State Government Schools in all State/Union Territories, of which 42 have been set up.

### Idol by Mysuru (Karnataka) Sculptor Arun Yogiraj Chosen for Installation in Ayodhya



Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi announced

The temple in Ayodhya is set for inauguration on 22 January 2024.

# Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched PM SHRI schools in the state

1753 schools in Uttar Pradesh have been selected for **PM Schools for Rising India (SHRI)** Yojana Under the first phase of the PM SHRI initiative covers 928 government schools will be upgraded in Uttar Pradesh

#### PM SHRI

- The Cabinet has been approved PM SHRI on 7
   September, 2022.
- PM SHRI School, a centrally sponsored initiative by the Government of India,
- aims to establish over 14,500 schools under Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies
- These schools will showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020
- The program strives to create an inclusive and nurturing learning environment with comprehensive facilities for every student.
- The total cost of the project will be Rs 27360 crore spread over a period of 5 years from 2022-23 to 2026-27

 after which it shall be the responsibility of the States/UTs to continue to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools.

### **UP CM Launches Mobile App Of State Information Commission**

- To facilitate e-filing and online hearing of complaints and second appeals in the State Information Commission.
- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country whose Information Commission has its own software and app for the redressal of complaints

#### **Uttar Pradesh To Have 5 More Airports**

- The five new airports will be inaugurated in Uttar
   Pradesh in one month that will take the total number of airports in the state to 19.
- The airports at Azamgarh, Aligarh, Moradabad,
   Chitrakoot and Shravasti will come up in the state.
- The Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in Ayodhya was inaugurated by PM Modi on December 30.
- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia

# Union Cabinet approves proposal to rename Ayodhya Airport as Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham

Previously renamed Airports:

**Mopa Airport** renamed "Manohar International Airport"

**Chandigarh Airport** renamed 'Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport'

**Navi Mumbai International Airport** renamed 'D. B. Patil International Airport'

## Indigenous portable hospital deployed in Ayodhya



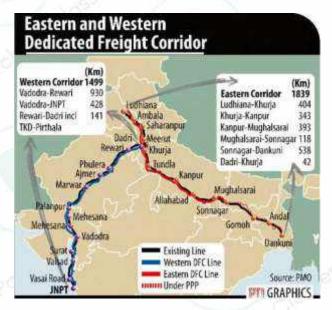
India has deployed the indigenous portable
hospital — Arogya Maitri Disaster Management
Cube under 'BHISM' — at Ayodhya for the
inauguration ceremony, the 'Pran Pratishtha,' of
the Ram Mandir

#### Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube

- It is the world's first portable hospital.
- Designed indigenously under Project
   BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri)
- The while unit is made up of 72 detachable minicubes, each being a specialized station for emergency response
- The mini-cubes are packed with everything essential for the survival of 100 individuals for duration of 48 hours.
- Can treat as many as 200 patients.
- light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere

### PM inaugurates and lays foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 19,100 crores in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh

- Dedicates 173 Km long double line electrified section between New Khurja - New Rewari on Dedicated Freight Corridor.
- This new DFC section is important as it establishes crucial connectivity between the Western and Eastern DFCs.
- It has a 'one kilometre long double line rail tunnel with high rise electrification', which is the first of its kind in the world.
- cThis tunnel is designed to seamlessly operate double-stack container trains.



# UP: Grant under Kanya Sumangala Yojana increases from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000



- Uttar Pradesh Government has increased the grant given in six instalments under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000, beginning financial year 2024-25.
- This amount is provided form birth of daughters up to admission in undergraduate/ diploma courses.
   The increase in grant amount will be effective from April 1.
- In April 2019, the women's welfare department launched the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana to eradicate female foeticide, foster gender equality, prevent child marriages, enhance the health and education of girls.

### PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh



- The Kalki Dham temple is dedicated to Lord Kalki, the tenth and final avatar of Lord Vishnu in Hinduism.
- Shri Kalki Dham is being constructed by Shri Kalki
   Dham Nirman Trust whose chairman is Acharya
   Pramod Krishnam.
- PM Modi also inaugurated 14,000 projects worth
   Rs 10 lakh crore for Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow
- The projects relate to sectors like Manufacturing, Renewable Energy, IT and ITeS, Food Processing, Housing and Real Estate, Hospitality and Entertainment, and Education, among others.

#### SJVN Inaugurates 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Plant In Uttar Pradesh

- SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Central public sector enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of Power, - has begun the successful commercial operation of its 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh.
- the total installed power capacity of SJVN stands at 2,277 MW, with ten power stations currently operational.
- executed by SJVN through its renewable arm, SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL) at a cost of Rs. 281 crores.
- The Power Purchase Agreement has been inked with <u>Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited</u> (UPPCL) for a period of 25 years.
- SJVN has commissioned multiple renewable projects in recent times, thus paving the path for achieving its shared vision of attaining an installed capacity of 25 GW by the year 2030 and 50 GW by the year 2040.

### **Uttar Pradesh To Set Up its First Turtle Conservation Reserve**

- Forest department in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda is set to establish a turtle conservation reserve in the Sarju river, a tributary of Ghaghra, at Gonda district, known for "rich turtle diversity".
- Sarju is the only river in the country that has the presence of at least 9 turtle species
- 8 of which enlisted in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.

## South Asia's largest ammunition facility in Kanpur



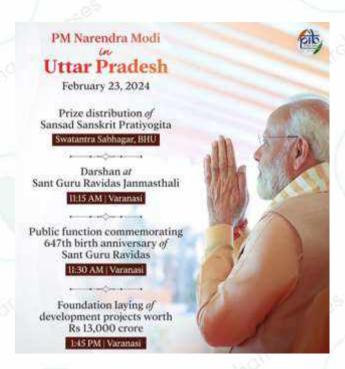
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the ammunition manufacturing complex of the Adani Group in Kanpur
- The facilities by Adani Defence & Aerospace were inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande

- South Asia's largest ammunition and missile facility.
- It will produce high-quality small, medium and large-calibre ammunition for the armed forces, paramilitary forces and police.

# PM Modi to launch development projects worth over 13,000 crore rupees in Varanasi



- PM Modi will be inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth more than ₹13,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi.
- The major development projects includes Banas Kashi Sankul milk processing unit in UPSIDA Agro Park Karkhiyaon.
- Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Varanasi.
- He will also lay the foundation stone of National Centre of Ageing at BHU.
- inaugurate the Sigra Sports Stadium Phase-1 and District Rifle Shooting Range.
- He inspected the Shivpur- Phulwaria- Lahartara Marg (inaugurated recently)



# UP emerges as the first State in country to issue 5 crore Ayushman cards



- Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the first State in the country to issue five crore Ayushman cards under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- the State has issued 5,00,17,920 Ayushman cards and benefited 7,43,82,304 individuals.
- A total of 3,716 hospitals in the State are impaneled under this scheme.
- Previously, the average daily admission of patients under this scheme was 2,000, which has now increased to approximately 8,000 per day.

### Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY)

- Launched on 23rd September 2018 in Ranchi,
   Jharkhand by PM Modi
- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Over 12 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 55 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the hospital.

# CM Yogi Rolls Out 'MYUVA Scheme' For Young Entrepreneurs In UP



 Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is poised to launch the "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)" scheme in Uttar Pradesh

- aimed at nurturing entrepreneurship among the state's youth.
- aims to prepare 1 lakh young entrepreneurs every year by providing interest-free loans for projects of up to Rs 5 lakh.
- The government has allocated Rs 1,000 crore in the budget for the financial year 2024-25 to support this initiative.

#### PM Modi virtually inaugurates Agra Metro



- "The metro has created history by being the first in the country to start running on the tracks almost nine months ahead of schedule.
- The first in the country to achieve the record of developing three underground stations in an area of 3 km.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the Agra Metro from the Taj Mahal Metro Station
- The Agra Metro is the sixth metro running in Uttar Pradesh.

### Allahabad High Court Strikes Down Madrasa Education Act



- The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court declared the UP Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004, as unconstitutional, ruling that it was violative of the principle of secularism, articles 14, 15, 21, 21-A of the Constitution as well as section 22 of the University Grants Commission, Act of 1956.
- The Allahabad High Court ruled that a Secular State has no power to create a Board for religious education or to establish a Board for school education only for a particular religion
- The court directed the state government to accommodate these students in regular schools recognised under education boards of the state.

- The plea was filed by advocate Anshuman Singh
   Rathore
- The petition raised issues concerning the administration of Madrasas by the Minority Welfare Department
- as well as violation of articles 14 (equality before law), 15 (prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religion and caste) and 21-A (right to education), among others.
- Article 14: The State shall not deny to any
  person equality before the law or the equal
  protection of the laws within the territory of India."
- Article 15: The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- Article 21: Protection of Life and Personal Liberty: No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- Article 21A: provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right
- Section 22 of UGC: Right to confer degrees

### Uttar Pradesh to Establish Rs 2000 Crore Bioplastic Park

- The Uttar Pradesh government will set up a bioplastic park in Gola Gokarnnath of Lakhimpur Kheri district at an investment of Rs 2,000 crore.
- The park will be developed by the Balrampur
   Sugar Mills Firm under pubic private partnership
   (PPP) model.
- The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) will serve as the nodal agency for the park's development
- Bioplastic is made from natural materials such as corn, sunflower, or sugar beet. It decomposes quickly, thereby reducing environmental pollution.

#### **Uttar Pradesh NIRMAN Bill-2024**

- In a bid to make Uttar Pradesh a one trillion dollar economy, the Uttar Pradesh government passed draft of Uttar Pradesh Nodal Investment Region for Manufacturing (Construction) Area Bill (NIRMAN)-2024.
- This draft of the Bill is to make a Special Investment Region (SIR) through which the big investors of the country and the world can be attracted to invest in UP
- at least four such SIRs will be created in UP, which will be in the four geographical areas of the state.

- the state has around 20 thousand acres of land bank available.
- this type of Act is currently in place in three states, which include Gujarat, Rajasthan and Karnataka.
- In this way, UP will become the fourth state to implement such a law.
- the SIRs are major investment regions where cluster development takes place and the power vested in the state government or other departments is decentralised at the authority level.
- The proposal for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India Trade
   Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) was also approved in the cabinet.
- UP has have established the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority, for which an area of 5,000 hectare has been kept, similarly a large area will be kept in the SIR
- On lines of Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, a big convention centre or multipurpose hall will be built in Lucknow and Varanasi where people associated with MSME will be able to display their products.

## Uttar Pradesh Govt to Establish 'Mitra Van' Along Nepal Border

- The Yogi Adityanath government is launching
   'Mitra Van' under the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan 2024, focusing on enhancing greenery along the
   Uttar Pradesh and Nepal border.
- This effort includes coordination with representatives from Nepal to jointly participate in plantation activities.

#### **UP Mango Festival 2024**



- CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the three-day UP Mango Festival 2024, from July 12–14, at Avadh Shilpgram, showcasing 120 varieties of special mangoes.
- The state produced roughly 30 percent of the country's mango.
- And for the first time in its 160-year history,
   Lucknow's famous Dussehri is to be exported to the United States.

 While the price of Dussehri mangoes in India ranges between ₹60 and ₹100 per kilogram, their price in the U.S. market has risen to ₹900 per kilogram.

### Second Regional Event of 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' Held In Prayagraj



- The second regional event of the 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign took place in Prayagraj, UP on 16th July.
- Under the aegis of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)
- This event commemorates the 75th anniversary of adoption of Indian Constitution and India becoming a Republic.
- The campaign aims to promote understanding of the Constitution and raise awareness about legal rights.
- During the event, the 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' portal launched.
- This portal will serve as a knowledge repository, offering citizens easy access to information to foster awareness about the Constitution and legal rights.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice organized subcampaigns 'Sabko Nyaya Har Ghar Nyaya', 'Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp', and 'Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyaan'

# UP Assembly passes amendment bill enhancing punishment under Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act

 The Uttar Pradesh Assembly on July 30 passed the U.P. Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which provides for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment, making the law stricter in cases of fraudulent or forced conversion.

- Earlier the maximum punishment provided for those found guilty of marrying a woman by deceiving her and converting her religion was 10 years with a fine of ₹50,000.
- If a person threatens, attacks, marries or promises to marry or conspires for it, or traffics a woman, minor or anyone with the intention of conversion, then his crime will be placed in the most serious category. In such cases, there is a provision of 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment.
- Any person can register an FIR in conversion cases. Earlier, to give information or a complaint, the presence of the victim, her parents, or siblings was necessary.
- It has been proposed that such cases will not be heard by any court below the Sessions Court and along with this, the bail plea will not be considered without giving an opportunity to the public prosecutor. Also, all the crimes under the amended Act have been made non-bailable.

### Uttar Pradesh introduces Krishi Sakhi scheme to empower women in agriculture



- "Krishi Sakhi" scheme aims to promote selfreliance among women by linking them to agricultural practices.
- Specific selection criteria including an age range of 21 to 45 years and a demonstrated interest and experience in agricultural work.
- Krishi Sakhis are being chosen from self-help groups established in villages under the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission.
- Through the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, Sakhis are being trained to promote and expand initiatives from the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture Department, Silk Directorate, and Ground Water Department.
- National Institute of Agricultural Extension
   Management, an autonomous body under the
   Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, is
   responsible for training the Krishi Sakhis.
- Bijnor district leads with the highest number of trained women at 670.

### UP government to launch 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan' scheme to create entrepreneurship



- under which 10 lakh micro units will be set up in the next 10 years.
- This initiative will provide financial help to 1 lakh educated and trained youth in state each year.
- this scheme, applicants must have at least passed class eight, but those who have completed intermediate (class 12) will be given preference.
- the government will provide them an interest-free capital of up to ₹5 lakh to start their business.
- Applicants must also be trained under government schemes like Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, One District One Product Scheme, and other skill development programs run by the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission.
- The grant on loan will be provided on projects up to 5 lakh rupees in micro enterprises and service sector.
- For projects costing up to 10 lakh rupees, the rest of the funds must be arranged by the beneficiary.
- Special provisions have also been made in the scheme for the beneficiaries of Bundelkhand,
   Purvanchal and aspirational districts.
- The scheme also promotes digital transactions, offering an additional grant of Rupees 1 per transaction, with a maximum benefit of 2,000 rupees per year.

#### Govardhan puja



- Govardhan Puja is celebrated on the Pratipada (first day) of Shukla Paksha of Kartik month.
- Govardhan Parvat, also known as Govardhana Hill or Giriraj, is located in the Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh

# Yogi Adityanath recently launched the UP's first double decker electric bus in Lucknow.



- CM Yogi announced a 50% discount on tickets for women traveling
- He also introduced a provision for free travel for women on services operating on the heritage route on every Saturday morning.

### UP govt appoints street vendors as brand ambassadors under PM SVANidhi Scheme



Under the "PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi" (PM SVANidhi) scheme, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to appoint street vendors as 'brand ambassadors" in all districts as well as the state's prominent cities.

### About PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme

- PM SVANidhi is a central-sector micro-credit scheme
- launched on 1st June 2020
- by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- to provide handholding support to street vendors.
- The scheme facilitates a working capital collateralfree loan of ₹10,000, with subsequent loans of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000 with a 7% interest subsidy.

- The scheme also focusses on promoting the use of digital transactions among street vendors.
- To incentivize the adoption of digital transactions, a cashback of up to ₹100 per month is given to Street Vendors.

## Lucknow to Host India's First Night Safari by 2026



- Spread over 900 acres, it will be built in Lucknow in a phased manner, boasting facilities such as cafeteria, 7D theater, auditorium, parking and more.
- The plan of the proposed Kukrail Night Safari Park and Wild Life Centre (Zoo) should be completed by June 2026
- Permission has been received from the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi for its construction.

#### **Dev Deepawali**



- Dev Deepawali, popularly known as "Diwali of the Gods," is a prevalent celebration, particularly in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- This auspicious festival occurs on the full moon day of Kartik month and commemorates Lord Shiva's triumph over the demon Tripurasura.
- This year's celebration will occur on <u>Friday</u>, <u>November 15</u>, 2024.

### UP govt declares Prayagraj's Maha Kumbh area as new district

In a landmark decision, the Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has declared the Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj as a new district.



- The newly formed district will be known as Maha Kumbh Mela.
- to streamline the management and administration of the upcoming Kumbh Mela, ensuring smooth operations for the grand religious event scheduled for January 2025.

# Gorakhpur to get country's first integrated waste management city by September 2025

- Gorakhpur is set to establish the country's first Integrated Waste Management City-cum-Learning Centre by September 2025
- Aimed at making the city garbage-free and promoting sustainable waste management through circular economy model.
- Spread across 40 acres in Suthni village, Sahjanwa, the ambitious project will process various types of waste while generating charcoal and Bio-CNG
- Three dedicated plants are planned, a Dry Waste Plant with a capacity of 500 tons per day and it will produce charcoal.
- The second plant is a Wet Waste Plant which will be a 200 ton-per-day facility producing Bio-CNG
- The **final is a Hazardous Waste Plant**, a separate facility which will process domestic hazardous waste using environmentally friendly methods.

# Uttar Pradesh Becomes First State to Fully Implement GEM

### UP becomes first state in country to fully adopt GeM





- Recently, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to fully integrate its procurement process with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- Uttar Pradesh has abolished its longstanding tendering system by fully adopting GeM.
- This integration mandates that all service providers, from basic stationery suppliers to those providing Sport Utility Vehicle (SUVs) for official use, adhere strictly to central government regulations
- The state government estimates that this shift to GeM-based procurement could save over Rs. 2,000 crore annually.

#### Government e Marketplace (GeM)

- GeM is a 100% Government owned and National Public Procurement Portal that facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs.
- The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2016.
- It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value for their money and aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.

# Prime Minister launched the Kumbh Sah'Al'yak chatbot for Mahakumbh Mela 2025.



- The 2025 Maha Kumbh mela from January 13 to February 26 at Prayagraj.
- The Al-powered chatbot equipped with multilingual capability to assist pilgrims and visitors.
- a part of the "Digital Mahakumbh" vision.
- Developed by the Prayagraj Mela Authority and UPDESCO, the Kumbh Sah'Al'yak app is hosted on open-source LLM provided by Ola's Krutrim.

#### Ram Lalla consecrated at Ayodhya temple



- The 'pran pratishtha' took place during the 84second mool mahurat, a part of larger 'Abhijeet muhurta'
- Pandit Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid, an astrologer from Kashi, chose the moment
- The new idol depicts Ram at the age of five, and was carved from black stone by Mysuru-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj.
- Fifty traditional musical instruments from across the country were part of a devotional "mangal dhwani". Orchestrated by Ayodhya's celebrated poet Yatindra Mishra
- The instruments included pakhawaj, flute and dholak from Uttar Pradesh, veena from Karnataka, algoja from Punjab, sundari from Maharashtra, mardala from Odisha, santoor from Madhya Pradesh, pung from Manipur, nagada and kali from Assam and tambura from Chhattisgarh.

Historical backdrop



- The 16th century Babri mosque, which many Hindus believe was constructed on the site of Lord Ram's birthplace, was demolished by kar sevaks on December 6, 1992.
- A Supreme Court bench of then CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer had settled a more than 150-year-old Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute through a unanimous verdict in November 2019
- They uruled in favour of the construction of the temple. It also ordered allotment of a five-acre plot for building a mosque.

#### About Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir



- The temple has been constructed in the traditional Nagara style.
- Its east-west length is 380 feet, width 250 feet and height 161 feet.
- It is supported by 392 pillars and has 44 doors.
- Black stone used for Lord Ram's idol originates from Karnataka
- Core of the temple Rajasthan's Makrana marble
- Exquisite carvings of deities in centre stage-Karnataka's Charmouthi sandstone
- Entrance gate's imposing figures pink sandstone from Rajasthan's Bansi Paharpur
- 2100 kg Ashtadhatu bell Gujarat
- Intricately carved wooden doors and handcrafted fabrics - Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura
- The Ayodhya Ram Temple, is set to introduce a groundbreaking feature – a solar-powered "Surya Tilak" for the deity Ram Lalla.
- This unique feature is planned exclusively for the annual Ram Navami celebration, marking Lord Ram's birth.
- The "Surya Tilak" system is designed by scientists from CSIR and Central Building Research Institute.
- It is a manually operated system made of brass, ensuring the traditional ethos of the temple is maintained.
- The system's design accounts for the changing position of the sun on Ram Navami each year, ensuring accuracy for the ritual.

# Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Temple is designed by celebrated architect Chandrakant B Sompura

His grandfather,
 Prabhakar Sompura,
 designed the revived
 Somnath Mandir in
 Gujarat in 1949.



# The ASI team led by Professor B B Lal (former Director General of ASI) excavated Babri Masjid/Ram Janmabhoomi in 1976

- He was the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1968 to 1972
- Note: K. K.
   Muhammed was
   the only Muslim
   member in the
   excavation team



during 'The Archaeology of the Ramayana Sites' project.

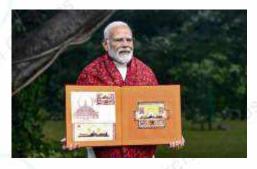
Former President Ram Nath Kovind presenting B B
 Lal with the Padma Vibhushan award in 2021.

# Centre unveils 50gm colored souvenir silver coin of Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha for public purchase



- In a tribute to the historic Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya's Ram Mandir earlier this year, the Government of India has introduced a limited-edition 50gm colored souvenir silver coin for public sale.
- The inauguration ceremony took place during the 19th foundation day celebration of the stateowned Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India (SPMCIL).

# PM Modi releases commemorative postage stamps on Ram temple in Ayodhya



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 18
  released commemorative postage stamps on the
  Ram temple of Ayodhya and a book of stamps
  dedicated to Lord Ram issued by countries across
  the world.
- Components of the design of the stamps include the Ram temple, choupai (the verse) 'Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari', the sun, the Saryu River and sculptures in and around the temple.

### UP & Manipur sign MoU for implementation of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat for 3 years



- signed in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, in December 2024
- Manipur is the third state in which Uttar Pradesh has signed such MoU. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh signed such an MoU with Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

- 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states or UTs. The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connection in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.
- For Manipur, it was the second agreement with a state after a similar MoU with Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' on 31st October 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India.
- Union Ministry of Education is the Nodal ministry for coordinating programmes under the EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

### Atal Yuva Mahakumh & Atal Health Fair Inaugurated in Lucknow

 To commemorate the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the two-day Atal Health Fair

#### **Madhya Pradesh**

- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. India's first paperless election
- 3. Brindavan Gram Scheme and Gita Bhavan Project
- 4. First Green Hydrogen Plant
- 5. India's First Hygienic Food Street
- 6. World's First Vedic Clock
- 7. Lokpath Mobile App
- 8. 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan
- 9. Pink Alarms
- 10. India's First Self-Sufficient Gaushala

### 1 November - Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day (69th)

- It was created by merging the erstwhile Madhya Pradesh (nonmarathi speaking), Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal states.
- Date of Formation: November 01, 1956 (Undivided)
- November 1, 2000 (Present)
- Capital Bhopal
- CM- Mohan Yadav
- Governor Mangubhai C. Patel
- State Bird: Paradise Flycatcher
- State Animal: Swamp Deer (Barasingha)
- · State Tree: Banyan Tree

#### World Heritage sites:

- Sanchi stupa
- Rock shelter of Bhimbetka
- Groups of temples-Khajuraho

#### Rivers:

Narmada, Tapi, Betwa, Son, Chambal, Shipra, Ken, Pench, Wanganga, Wardha

#### Waterfalls:

Dhuandhar Jabalpur, Bee fall, Patalpani, Chachi waterfall

#### Language Spoken

Hindi (Common language)
Telugu, Gondi, Bhilodi, Korku, Nihali, Katto

#### **National Parks**

- Bandhavgarh National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Kanha National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Satpura National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Sanjay National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Madhav National Park
- Van Vihar National Park
- Ghughua National Park
- Panna National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Pench National Park & Tiger Reserve

#### Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Bori Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary
- Ghatigaon Wildlife Sanctuary The Great Indian Bustard
- Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary- Asiatic lions would be shifted here.

- Karera Wildlife Sanctuary The Great Indian Bustard
- Ken Ghariyal Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary-1197 Sq.Km
- Narsinghgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- N. Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pench Wildlife Sanctuary
- Son Ghariyal Wildlife Sanctuary
- Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary
- Sardarpur Wildlife Sanctuary- famous for Kharmour bird
- Sailana Wildlife Sanctuary
- Veerangna Durgawati Sanctuary

# Madhya Pradesh conducted India's first paperless election



- The Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission
  has successfully conducted paperless voting at a
  booth in a panchayat by-poll in Bhopal district
- The paperless booth was used for the first time in the country by the Madhya Pradesh SEC
- polling station-295 Ratua Ratanpur gram panchayat of Berasia development block

### Namibian cheetah dies at Kuno due to 'drowning'





- Pawan, the three-year-old Cheetah, arrived in Kuno from Namibia in September 2022, Pawan was the first male of the lot to be released in the wild in March 2023.
- This marks the death of the eighth cheetah out of the 20 relocated from South Africa and Namibia to India.

#### Kuno National Park (estd. 1981)

- Kuno National Park which is located in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district is home to several cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa.
- With the death of Pawan, KNP is left with 24 cheetahs, including 12 adults and as many cubs.
  - Project Cheetah in India formally commenced on September 17, 2022, to restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared extinct in the country in 1952.

 Cheetahs (African) are listed as Vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List

### Madhya Pradesh Government Unveils Brindavan Gram Scheme and Gita Bhavan Project

- The Madhya Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, has approved a groundbreaking scheme named 'Brindavan Gram'.
- This initiative aims to transform selected gram panchayats into model villages, focusing on cow protection and rural development.
- Each chosen village will establish a gaushala (cow shed) to promote cow welfare and protection. The scheme aims to increase rural milk production, boosting farmers' incomes. Roof-top solar policies will be implemented to promote clean energy in these villages.
- In a parallel initiative, 'Gita Bhavan' centers will be established in every urban area of Madhya
   Pradesh to spread spiritual knowledge, focusing on the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and Lord
   Krishna, along with other spiritual texts.

# GAIL (India) Ltd. Commissions it's First Green Hydrogen Plant



- The first hydrogen green plant by GAIL (Gas Authority of India Ltd) was inaugurated at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- The plant marks a major step towards new and alternate energy and has been installed in line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- This Green Hydrogen plant can produce 4.3 tons per day TPD of hydrogen through 10MW PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) Electrolyzer units, by electrolysis of water using renewable power.

#### **National Green Hydrogen Mission**

Union Government approved a Rs 19,744 crore
 National Green Hydrogen mission that aims to

- make India a 'global hub' for using, producing and exporting green hydrogen.
- Developing green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum, alongside adding renewable energy capacity of about 125 GW (gigawatt) in India by 2030
- It aims to entail over Rs 8 lakh crore of total investments and is expected to generate 6 lakh jobs
- It will also lead to a cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports by over Rs 1 lakh crore and an abatement of nearly 50 MT of annual greenhouse gas emissions.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



#### GAIL

- Founded as the Gas Authority of India Ltd. in August 1984 under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- On 1 February 2013, the Indian government conferred GAIL with Maharatna status.
- GAIL Chairman and Managing Director: Sandeep
   Gupta

# In Madhya Pradesh 'Prabodhan Karykram' to be organized for members of 16th Assembly

 In the two -day training programme, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will address the members of the Assembly

#### Madhya Pradesh

Assembly Speaker- Narendra Singh Tomar

Chief Minister - Dr Mohan Yadav Governor: Mangubhai Patel

Capital-Bhopal

State Bird- Paradise Flycatcher
State Animal- Swamp Deer (Barasingha)

State Tree- Banyan Tree State Flower- Madonna Lilly State Fish- Mahasheer

### 'Prasadam' India's First Hygienic Food Street in Ujjain



- Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh
   Mandaviya recently inaugurated 'Prasadam,'
   the nation's first healthy and hygienic food street,
   in a grand ceremony at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal
   Lok, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- He launched the Mannhit app for mental health screening.
- "The DART Book" by FSSAI for at-home food adulteration tests was released.

## **Second State Mining Ministers' Conference**



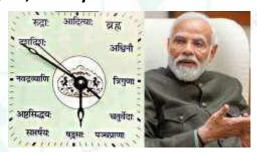
- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference in Bhopal,
   Madhya Pradesh on 23rd January.
- to discuss and deliberate issues pertaining to the mining sector paving way to implement the reforms done in the mining sector
- making India's mineral sector 'Aatma Nirbhar' and promoting Sustainable Mining in the country.
- The theme of the conference was 'Mining and Beyond'
- Madhya Pradesh bagged the first rank for best performance in auction of Mining Blocks for year 2022-23
- Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka also received the award of appreciation

## Khajuraho Dance Festival begins in Madhya Pradesh



- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav Inaugurated Khajuraho Dance Festival
- This is the 50th year of celebration of this prestigious dance festival.
- Dates 20th to 26th February
- The festival is being organised by the Culture
   Department of the Madhya Pradesh Government
   in collaboration with Ustad Alauddin Khan
   Academy of Music
- This unique clock will exhibit information related to Vedic Hindu Panchang, planetary positions, Muhurat, astrological calculations, and predictions, and also indicate Indian Standard Time (IST) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- Time calculation is based on the duration from one sunrise to the next.
- The time period between the two sunrises will be divided into 30 parts, each hour of 48 minutes.
- The reading will start from 0:00 with the sunrise functions for 30 hours (an hour of 48 minutes)
- The Vedic Clock is installed here as Ujjain has been considered the center of time calculation. The Tropic of Cancer passes through Ujjain.

## World's First Vedic Clock Unveiled in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh





Yearbook 2024

- The world's first Vedic clock, designed to showcase time according to the ancient Indian traditional Panchang, has been installed in Madhya Pradesh's Uijain district.
- The Vedic clock stands tall on an 85-foot tower within Ujjain's Jantar Mantar, adjacent to the Government Jiwaji Observatory
- This unique clock will exhibit information related to Vedic Hindu Panchang, planetary positions, Muhurat, astrological calculations, and predictions, and also indicate Indian Standard Time (IST) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
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### PM Modi lays foundation stone of "Experience of Spirituality at Chitrakoot Ghat" project in Chitrakoot under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme

- · in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh
- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate development works under the Prasad Scheme in Amarkantak.
- PRASAD scheme is 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive'. This scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.

#### Swadesh Darshan Scheme



- It was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism
- to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in the country.
- It is 100% centrally funded scheme.
- Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State governments, Union Territory Administrations or Central Agencies for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

# Foundation stone laid for NTPC REL's 630 MW Barethi Solar Power Project in Madhya Pradesh



Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **R. K. Singh** and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, **Dr. Virendra Kumar** together laid the foundation stone for Barethi Solar Power Project of NTPC REL in Madhya Pradesh

# Madhya Pradesh Leads Implementation of Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP)

- Madhya Pradesh has taken lead in implementing the Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP)
- Green Credit Initiative was launched by the Indian PM on the side-lines of COP 28 (held in 2023 at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates).
- It is an initiative within the government's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement
- It was launched with the objective of incentivizing states to adopt eco-friendly practices and undertake projects for environmental conservation. Under this programme, states are encouraged to implement measures that reduce carbon emissions, promote renewable energy sources, and enhance green cover.
- Madhya Pradesh the highest 954 hectares of approved degraded forest land for plantation/greening exercises followed by Telangana (845 hectares), Chhattisgarh (713 hectares), Gujarat (595 hectares) and Assam (454 hectares).

# Madhya Pradesh set to allow shops and commercial establishments to stay open

24 hours



- Madhya Pradesh government has decided to allow all shops and commercial establishments in the state to stay open 24 hours in an effort to generate greater revenue and employment opportunities.
- This will make Madhya Pradesh the seventh state in the country after Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Telangana to implement such a policy,
- The project will pilot in Bhopal and Indore but eventually apply to other districts as well.

### Madhya Pradesh CM Launched PM Shri Tourism Air Service from Bhopal



- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched an intra-State air service to promote tourism on June 13.
- It is called 'PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva' and the first flight was flagged off from the capital Bhopal to Jabalpur.
- Aims to connect the major tourist spots in the state by air.
- Operated by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB) with two aircraft will connect eight cities across the State - Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Rewa, Ujjain, Gwalior, Singrauli, and Khajuraho.
- All of these cities are also popular tourist spots in the state.
- Started on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis
   with a private firm named Jet Serv Aviation Private
   Limited (Flyola).

- The scheme was announced by the CM on March 14, 2024 as a bid to improve tourism in the state.
- Along with tourism, the PM Shri Tourism Air Service also aims to enhance the trade, health, education sectors of the state as well.

Madhya Pradesh Govt Approves The Establishment Of One Prime Minister College Of Excellence In All Districts Of State



- In Madhya Pradesh, the Prime Minister College of Excellence will be inaugurated ceremonially in all
   55 districts of the state on July 1.
- Under the National Education Policy, the Madhya Pradesh government has approved the establishment of one Prime Minister College of Excellence in all the districts of the state.
- The 'Bhartiya Gyan Parampara Kendra' means the Centre of Traditional Indian Knowledge will also be established in each PM College of Excellence.

### **Bhopal hosted Avian Influenza Response Simulation Exercise**



- The Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying and the World Bank conducted a two-day simulation exercise in Madhya Pradesh
- To enhance the preparedness for potential avian influenza or Bird Flu, amid outbreak of such cases in parts of the country and globally.

### Madhya Pradesh CM Launches 'Lokpath Mobile App' For Public



- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched the 'Lokpath Mobile App', through which road problems of the public will be resolved in 7 days.
- The mobile app will provide a facility for the general public to /zz vbnmlt has been developed by Madhya Pradesh State Electronic Development Corporation Limited.

# MP Govt Plants 11 Lakh Trees In Single Day, Sets World Record



- SWH7UO
- Indore, already the cleanest city in India and the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, has now achieved the world record of planting more than 1.1 million saplings in a single day.
- The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 5 to mark World Environment Day.
- Under this drive, approximately 140 crore trees were planted across the country, including 55 million in Madhya Pradesh
- Previous record for the most saplings planted in
   24 hours was achieved by the Assam

### Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to Develop 'Shri Krishna Gaman Path'

 This initiative aims to connect the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura with the sacred city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh

- Mathura, Uttar Pradesh: The starting point of the circuit, known as Krishna's birthplace.
- Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh: The endpoint, famous for the Sandipani Ashram where Krishna received his education.
- · Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma
- Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav





## MP becomes 1st state to notify rules for serving summons & warrants online

- It permits the use of electronic methods such as email, messaging apps like WhatsApp and text messages in its judicial processes.
- The Madhya Pradesh Home Department has officially published the Madhya Pradesh Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2024 in the Madhya Pradesh Gazette.
- this development, sanctioned under the country's new law, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, aims to accelerate judicial procedures, fortify legal proceedings and enhance the efficiency of the judicial system.

## Maharashtra launches first 'Solar Village' with Manyachiwadi

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde inaugurated the first 'Solar Village' in the state.
- The Manyachiwadi village in the Patan Taluka of Satara district has become the first 'Solar Village' in Maharashtra.
- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2024

## MP govt gives cash to girl students to buy sanitary napkins



- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to give money to girl students to buy sanitary napkins.
- Under the Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme, an amount of three hundred rupees has been transferred in each girl student's account for one year.
- In some states like Karnataka, Rajasthan and Delhi, free sanitary napkins are given to students but cash is being given only in Madhya Pradesh.

# MP govt declares reward of Rs 1 Cr for Olympics bronze medal winner Vivek Sagar Prasad



 Vivek Sagar Prasad is a member of the Indian men's hockey team that secured a bronze medal in the Paris Olympics.

### North India's largest floating solar project commissioned in Omkareshwar

- Madhya Pradesh has commissioned the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW at Omkareshwar.
- Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is located at Omkareshwar in District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
- The floating power plant was developed on the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam (it is a gravity dam on the Narmada River).



- It is the biggest solar park in India and the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW of energy.
- This project was developed under the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy.
- The project is executed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- Project Cost: 646 crores
- The project is likely to generate 196.5 million units of electricity in the first year and 4,629.3 million units in the 25 years,
- the project will reduce carbon emissions by 2.3
   lakh tonnes and contribute significantly to the central government's mission of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070

#### 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 held in Bhopal

- on 30 and 31 July 2024.
- Organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI)
- The theme "Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal."
- The conference featured six sessions on diverse topics of Science, Technology, Ayurveda, Engineering, and Science Communication.

#### Madhya Pradesh govt recognizes heatwaves as Natural Disasters

- Following directives from the central Ministry of Home Affairs, the MP government has officially notified heatwaves as a local disaster under the Madhya Pradesh Disaster Management Act of 2005.
- The new regulation is set to take effect in the summer of 2025.
- This means that individuals who suffer fatalities due to heatwaves will now receive compensation similar to that provided for other natural calamities.

 The maximum number of deaths due to heatstroke, till June 19 2024, were reported from Uttar Pradesh (37), Bihar (17), Rajasthan (16), and Odisha (13).

## Madhya Pradesh: 'Pink Alarms' Installed at Hospital



- In Madhya Pradesh, in a first of its kind of initiative, 'pink alarms' have been installed in the staff duty room at the government-run district hospital and medical college in Datia.
- The pressing of an alarm will set off a siren and within five minutes the security personnel will reach the person in trouble.

### Madhya Pradesh: Ustad Allauddin Khan Festival Maihar



- From 8-10 October
- the three-day Ustad Allauddin Khan festival
- organized jointly by the Madhya Pradesh Culture Department, Ustad Allauddin Khan Music and Art Academy and Maihar District Administration

### From 8-10 October the three-day Ustad Allauddin Khan festival

organized jointly by the Madhya Pradesh Culture Department, Ustad Allauddin Khan Music and Art Academy and Maihar District Administration

### VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated 66th Akhil Bhartiya Kalidas Samaroh in Madhya Pradesh

- 12<sup>th</sup> 18th November.
- Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Dr.
   Mohan Yaday

 Artists who preserve literary and artistic heritage will be honored in the event



 Along with this, Kalidas Alankaran Samman will also be given for the year 2022-2023.

### Tata Power's Major Floating Solar Project Launched



- The wholly-owned subsidiary, Tata
   Power Renewable Energy had commissioned one of India's largest floating solar projects, 126 MW
   Omkareshwar.
- Located in the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh
- developed under contract worth ₹596 crore, awarded by NHPC.
- The installation features 213,460 bifacial glass-toglass
- The installation offsets approximately 173,893 tonnes of CO2 annually.
- The project aims to supply sustainable power to the Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company Limited (MPPTCL).

# Madhya Pradesh Increases Women's Reservation to 35% in All Government Jobs



- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet has cleared a
   proposal to increase women reservation in direct
   recruitments to all departments from the current
   33 per cent to 35 per cent.
- This will be applicable to the entire recruitment process conducted by the MP Public Service Commission (MPPSC) and Employee Selection Board (ESB) across all departments in the state
- The cabinet meeting ratified the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provisions for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997.
- The then CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan had announced to increase the reservation for women to 35 percent just before the assembly elections last year, but due to the assembly elections, it could not get the approval of the cabinet.



### Gwalior Unveils India's First Self-Sufficient Gaushala with a State-of-the-Art CBG Plant



- PM Modi inaugurated Gwalior's new 100 TPD
   (Tonnes per day) cattle dung-based Compressed
   Bio-Gas (CBG) plant, exemplifying his vision for a
   "Waste to Wealth" initiative.
- The CBG plant is Gwalior's largest cowshed, Adarsh
   Gaushala, located in Laltipara, Gwalior
- The Gaushala has achieved a landmark feat with the establishment of India's first modern, selfsufficient gaushala that houses a state-of-the-art Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant.
- developed in collaboration with the Indian Oil
   Corporation worth Rs 31 crores

#### **SHORT NEWS**

Madhya Pradesh government has increased the compensation amount for people killed in wildlife attacks from Rs 8 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.



#### **About Ustad Allauddin Khan**

- He was an Indian sarod player and multiinstrumentalist, composer and one of the most notable music teachers of the 20th century in Indian classical music
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for lifetime contribution to Indian music.
- Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan India's third and second highest civilian decorations – in 1958 and 1971, respectively.

## Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav to inaugurate 10<sup>th</sup> International Forest Fair in Bhopal

- 10th International Forest Fair in Bhopal from 18 23 December.
- The fair will provide a wide platform to establish dialogue between collectors, producers, traders, entrepreneurs, scientists, administrators and policy makers associated with forest.
- OPD will be conducted in the fair, in which free medical consultation will be provided by Ayurveda doctors every day.
- Representatives from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Australia are participating in the fair.
- Theme "Women Empowerment through Minor Forest Produce".

### MP CM Mohan Yadav launches programmes to mark 1 year of his govt

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched 'Jan Kalyan Parv' and 'Mukhya Mantri Jan Kalyan Abhiyan' from December 11 to 26 and December 11 to January 26, respectively
- on completion of first year of the State's BJP government under his leadership.
- Mr. Yadav, a third-term MLA from Ujjain
   (Dakshin). He replaced the State's longest serving

- CM **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, who is now a Union Cabinet Minister
- Mr. Yadav also received the certificate of 'Guinness Book of World Records' for the recitation of the verses of the Gita.
- Over 7,000 people, including 3721 'acharyas' and 'batuks', recited Karma Yoga -- the third chapter of Bhagvad Gita – on Gita Jayanti in Bhopal
- Gita Jayanti is celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> day of Shukla
   Paksha in the month of Margashirsha (Ekadashi) –
   also known as Mokshada Ekadashi.

## Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurates GSI Geoscience Museum in Gwalior



- The museum houses two exceptional galleries, offering a glimpse into the mysteries of our planet and the chronicles of life's journey through time.
- Asit Saha, DG, GSI

### Indore to criminalize begging from 1 January 2025



- India's cleanest city, Indore of Madhya Pradesh, will file a first information report (FIR) against a person for giving money and alms to beggars from 1st January 2025.
- The district administration issued the order to criminalise giving alms and money to beggars under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).
- People who violate orders issued under Section 163 can be punished by a maximum jail term of six months and a fine of Rs 1000

- The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a pilot project named "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging" in 10 cities in India.
- These cities are Indore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmedabad.
- The aim of the scheme is to make India beggarfree (Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat).
- The Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat campaign Is to make 30 cities of India beggar-free by 2026 under the "Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging."
- The Scheme is a sub-scheme of the broader central government scheme SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" – launched in 2022

### Country's first PM Janaman Colony built-in Shivpuri Janpad Panchayat



- The PM-JANMAN (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The scheme aims to provide crucial interventions such as permanent housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, hostel construction, 'Anganwadi' facilities and skill development centres etc.

## Madhya Pradesh receives Gir Lions from Gujarat under Animal Exchange Programme

- The Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal get two Asiatic lions from Gujarat in exchange for two Bengal tigers.
- Two pure-breed Asiatic (Gir) lions have been brought from Sakkarbaug Zoological Park, Junagadh, Gujarat to Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal.
- Van Vihar National Park is situated next to the famous Upper Lake of Bhopal also known as the "Bada Talab" which is a Ramsar Site and one of the two lakes of Bhoj Wetland.

### Madhya Pradesh recognized as one of 'Go-To Global Destinations for 2025' by Wall Street Journal

- This accolade highlights the state's rich heritage, unparalleled wildlife, and exceptional natural beauty.
- With UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Tiger Reserves, and vibrant cultural experiences, our state offers unique experiences for every travellers.

#### 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in MP

- Khajuraho Group of Monuments, 1986
- Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, 1989
- Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka, 2003

#### 8 Tiger Reserves in MP:

Kanha Tiger Reserve
Pench Tiger Reserve
Satpura Tiger Reserve
Panna Tiger Reserve
Sanjay Dhubri Tiger Reserve
Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve
Ratapani Tiger Reserve (57th TR)

### Indore Airport Becomes India's First Zero-Waste Airport



- Recently, the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport in Indore became India's first zero-waste airport with the inauguration of a 3000 sq ft material recovery facility.
- The new Material Recovery Facility features
   a comprehensive waste management system to segregate and recycle waste from both the airport and aircraft.
- Wet waste will be converted into fertilizer, aligning with the airport's zero-waste initiative based on the 4R principle: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Restore.

### PM Modi Lays Foundation for India's 1st Ken-Betwa River Linking Project in Madhya Pradesh



on the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

#### What is the Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)?

- The KBLP envisages transferring water from the Ken river to the Betwa river, both tributaries of the Yamuna.
- The Ken-Betwa Link Canal will be 221 km in length, including a 2-km tunnel.
- The project is expected to provide annual irrigation to 10.62 lakh hectares (8.11 lakh ha in MP and 2.51 lakh ha in UP) of land, supply drinking water to about 62 lakh people, and generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power.
- It is the first project under the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers, which was prepared in 1980.
- The Union Cabinet had approved Rs 44,605 crore (at 2020-21 prices) for the KBLP project in December 2021. To be implemented in 8 years
- The Ken-Betwa Link Project has two phases.
- Phase-I will involve building the Daudhan Dam complex and its subsidiary units such as the Low Level Tunnel, High Level Tunnel, Ken-Betwa Link Canal and power houses.
- Phase-II will involve three components Lower Orr Dam, Bina Complex Project and Kotha Barrage.

- On March 22, 2021, a memorandum of agreement was signed among the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar
   Pradesh to implement the Ken-Betwa Link Project.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the Daudhan Dam in Madhya Pradesh.
- Daudhan dam is 2,031 m long, out of which 1,233 metre will be earthen and the rest 798 m will be of concrete.
- The height of the dam will be 77 m.
- The dam will submerge about 9,000 hectares of land, affecting 10 villages.



 Infrastructure company NCC Ltd has been awarded the contract for the Daudhan Dam.

#### **Ken and Betwa Rivers**

- Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna.
- <u>Ken</u> originates near the village of Ahirgawan on the north-west slopes of the Kaimur Range in the district of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The river is the last tributary of the Yamuna before the Yamuna joins the Ganga.
- Ken meets with Yamuna near Banda district of Uttar Pradesh
- Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve (the project poses a threat to the Panna Tiger Reserve).
- <u>Betwa</u> River rises in the Vindhya Range just north of Hoshangabad (Narmadapuram), Madhya Pradesh
- Betwa joins Yamuna in Hamirpur district of UP.
- Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.

#### **SHORT NEWS**

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav said that the sacrifice and valour of Sahibzades of Guru Govind Singh will be included in the school curriculum in Madhya Pradesh.

#### Jharkhand

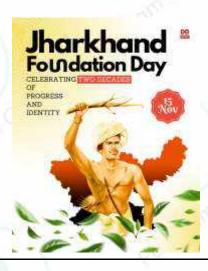
- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas
- mica mines in Jharkhand 'child labour free
- 4. East India's First Disabled Varsity
- 5. Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana
- 6. Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana

### 15 November - Jharkhand Foundation Day

- The state was carved out of Bihar in 2000 (as India's 28th state) after the Parliament passed the Bihar Reorganization Act, 2000.
- Also known as "The Land of Forests" or "Bushland. "
- Governor: Santosh Gangwar
- CM : Hemant Soren
- State Animal Of Jharkhand Indian Elephant
- State Bird Of Jharkhand Asian Koel
- State Tree Of Jharkhand Sal
- State Flower Of Jharkhand Palash

### Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary
- Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mahuadand Wildlife Sanctuary
- Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary
- Crocodile breeding Centre (Muta)
- Singhbhum Elephant Reserve
- Topchachi Wildlife Sanctuary
- Udhuwa Lake Bird Sancutary
- National Park Hazaribagh, Betla-Palamu



#### **Dances**

Agni dance Jhumar dancePaika dance Chhou dance

#### **Institutions**

- Central Fuel Research Institute Dhanbad.
- Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research (CMRI), Dhanbad.
- National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur.
- Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi.
- Uranium Corporation of India, Jaduguda Mines, Jamshedpur

### Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM for third time on November 28



- The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) -led alliance won 56 of the 81 seats in the Assembly elections
- A day after securing a grand victory, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren submitted his resignation to Governor Santosh Gangwar
- He will take charge on November 28
- Chief Minister Hemant Soren won from the Barhait Assembly constituency.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: PM Modi inaugurates, lays foundation stone for ₹6,600 cr development projects in Jamui, Bihar



### Prime Minister Inaugurated and Lay Foundation for Key Development Projects:

- Grih Pravesh Ceremony: Prime Minister to participate in the inauguration of 11,000 houses under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).
- Mobile Medical Units (MMUs): Inauguration of 23
   MMUs under PM-JANMAN and 30 additional
   MMUs under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh
   Abhiyan (DAJGUA) to enhance healthcare access in
   tribal areas.



- Focus on bridging gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihoods in 63,000 tribal villages
- Benefits over 5 crore tribal people across 549 districts and 2,740 blocks
- Covers 30 states and Union Territories

A Quick Look at

Government Initiatives for

Iribal Welfare in India

### Eklavya Model Residential Schools:

- Aims to provide quality education to ST children in remote areas
- Each school accommodates 480 students from Class VI to XII
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 40 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and laid the foundation for 25 more, with a total investment of over 22,800 crore

2/3

Tribal Entrepreneurship & Education: Inauguration of 300 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs), 10
 Eklavya Model Residential Schools for tribal students (worth Rs 450 crore) and foundation

- stone for 25 more Eklavya Model Residential Schools (worth Rs 1,110 crore).
- Cultural Preservation: Inauguration of two Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums in Chhindwara and Jabalpur, MP and two Tribal Research Institutes in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, and Gangtok, Sikkim.

### 1st Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyaan (PM-JANMAN)



- The Prime Minister launched the PM JANMAN Mission on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15th November, 2023.
- A budget of Rs. 24,104 crores for FY 2023-24 to 2025-26
- The PM-JANMAN (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The scheme aims to provide crucial interventions such as permanent housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, hostel construction, 'Anganwadi' facilities and skill development centres etc.

### Hemant Soren resigns, Champai Soren named new Jharkhand Chief Minister



 Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan accepted the resignation of Hemant Soren

- Hemant Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.
- He has challenged his arrest in the Jharkhand High Court.
- Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's (JMM) senior leader and Transport Minister Champai Soren is chosen the legislative party leader. He is a five-time MLA from Seraikela

### NCPCR declares mica mines in Jharkhand 'child labour free'

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) declared the mica mines of Jharkhand' child labour-free' at an event in Koderma, Jharkhand.
- 20,000 kids were previously engaged as child labour in these mines.
- Working children up to 14 years of age are called child labour in India.
- Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi's non-profit organisation Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), spearheaded the 'Child Labour-Free Mica' campaign in collaboration with the district administration and local communities

### National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- A statutory body set up under the provisions of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The NCPCR came into existence in 2007
- It is under Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The NCPCR also has to ensure the rights of the children as provided by the Right to Education Act,
   2009, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, POCSO Act 2012.
- Children up to 18 years of age are considered a child by the NCPCR.
- NCPCR consists of one chairperson and 6 members, of which two are women.
- Chairperson: Priyank Kanoongo

### Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986

- As per the Act, "child" means a person who has not completed his 14th year of age.

 The onus of enforcement of the provisions of the Act lies with the State Governments as envisaged in Section 2 of the Act.

#### **Production of Mica**

- China is the largest producer of Mica in the world.
- India is the eighth-largest producer of Mica in the world.
  - India is the largest exporter of Mica in the world, followed by China.
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest mica producer in India, followed by Rajasthan





- The Jharkhand government is working on a plan to open eastern India's first university for physically challenged students in Ranchi (Jharkhand)
- Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyanga University in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh was the country's first dedicated university for the physically challenged.
- Chief minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren
- · Governor of Jharkhand: C. P. Radhakrishnan
- Jharkhand was founded: 15 November 2000
- Jharkhand (before was): Part of Bihar

### Hemant Soren government to launch financial assistance scheme for women

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said the government would soon organise village-level camps to enrol women in the financial assistance scheme under which ₹1,000 would be given every month.
- The government has named it Mukhyamantri
  Behan-Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana, for
  which the State government has to bear an extra
  expenditure of roughly ₹400 crore per month

### Nature festival Karam starts with great pomp in Jharkhand

 Also known as 'Karma', is held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of a full moon (Purnima) of the Hindu month of Bhadrapad



- The tribals worship the Karam tree on the occasion and pray to Mother Nature to ensure a rich harvest in the kharif season after the sowing season ends.
- This festival also reflects the bonding between brothers and sisters. The festival is also known as Karma as it inspires people to do good deeds in life

### Coal India Limited Partners with EdCIL for Educational Transformation in Coal Mining Districts of Jharkhand

 Under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, CIL has entered into a MoU with EdCIL (India)
 Limited for "Digitizing Education in eleven districts of Jharkhand" within a period of three years

### PM Modi launches development projects worth 35,700 crore rupees in Jharkhand



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth 35,700 crore rupees in Jharkhand from Sindri in Dhanbad district.
- dedicated to the nation the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd's (HURL) Sindri fertiliser plant, to attain self-sufficiency in the urea sector.
- also dedicated power projects
  - including Unit 1 of North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) at Chatra.
- inaugurated the North Urimari coal handling plant of Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd (CIL), in the Ramgarh district.

### Jharkhand government launched 'Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana'



- The widow remarriage incentive scheme is a first of its kind initiative in the country launched by Champai Soren, CM of Jharkhand
- under which, women who chose to get married again after the death of their husbands, will be given an incentive of Rs 2 lakh by the government.
- the beneficiary should be of marriageable age and not a government employee, pensioner or income tax payer.
- To avail the benefits, the beneficiary will have to apply within one year from the date of remarriage and submit the death certificate of her late husband.

### What is the Upasthiti Portal?



- Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the 'Upasthiti Portal' to track daily attendance of health workers in Jharkhand.
- This system will verify biometric attendance to ensure accountability.

### Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren launches "Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana" before Raksha Bandhan



- Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the "Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana" a day before Raksha Bandhan.
- Launching this scheme at Pakur district of the state.
- women aged from 21 to 50 years will receive financial assistance of one thousand rupees each per month, amounting to 12 thousand rupees annually.

Jharkhand launches Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana for women



- The Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana was earlier called Jharkhand Behan Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana.
- It is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme in which eligible women beneficiaries receive Rs 1000 per month from the state government directly in their bank accounts.
- Chief Minister Hemant Soren and State Women and Child Development Minister Baby Devi will transfer the first instalment to the beneficiary's account on 16 August 2024.
- Women in the age group of 21-50 years are eligible for the scheme.
- The beneficiary's annual income shall be less than Rs 8 lakhs.
- An estimated 48 lakh women are estimated to be eligible for the scheme.
- The scheme is expected to cost the state government around Rs 4000 crore per month.
- The state government, in order to ensure the enrollment of the eligible women, will set up special camps in all the panchayats and wards of all the districts from 3-10 August 2024.

### Vulture with 'Dhaka collar' found in Jharkhand

 A sick vulture of an endangered species, with 'Dhaka' inscribed on a metallic ring on one of its legs, was found in a dam in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district.

- The white-backed vulture is a Schedule 1 endangered species.
- An inscription 'gpobox-2624, Dhaka, b67', and a tracking device were also found on the vulture, along with a note: "If found, please contact john.malot@rspb.org.uk."



## JMM's Rabindra Nath Mahato elected unopposed as Jharkhand assembly Speaker

- Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) MLA Rabindra Nath Mahato was elected the Speaker of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly .
  - The Nala MLA is the first leader who has been elected as the Speaker for the second consecutive term.
- Protem speaker Stephen Marandi
- Chief Minister Hemant Soren

### Chhattisgarh

- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme
- 3. Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024
- 4. 17th Divya Kala Mela

### 1 November - Chhattisgarh Foundation Day (24th)

 Chhattisgarh was established as a new state from Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000

CM: Vishnu Deo SaiGovernor: Ramen Deka

Capital: Raipur

State Animal: Wild Water Buffalo

State Bird : Hill mynaState Tree : Sal

#### **National Park**

- Kanger valley
- Guru Ghasidas
- Kankerghati
- Indravati
- Tiger Reserve
- Indrawati Tiger reserve
- Achanakmar Tiger reserve

### **Biosphere Reserve**

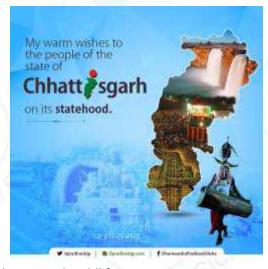
Achanakmar – Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve

#### Rivers

- Mahanadi
- Indravati
- Son
- Pain
- Hasdo
- Sabari
- Narmada

### Wildlife

- Badalkhol Sanctuary
- Sitanadi wildlife Sanctuary
- Barnawapara Sanctuary
- Semarsot Wildlife Sanctuary



- Bhairamgarh wildlife Sanctuary
- Bhoramdeo Sanctuary
- Gomarda Sanctuary
- Pamed Sanctuary

### **Dances**

- Panthi
- Raut Nacha
- Karma
- Soowa
- Saila



### Small village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar just made it to the UN's list of potential tourism picks



- A small village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, Dhudmaras has been selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for its Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme.
- Under the Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme, it will receive support to enhance tourism infrastructure, promote cultural heritage, and improve the quality of life for residents.
- Dhudmaras is situated in the heart of Kanger Valley National Park.

### **Chhattisgarh Announces Introduction of** Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme



- Approximately 20,000 pilgrims will be taken for the Shri Ram Lala Darshan annually to Ayodhya.
- Residents in the 18-75 age group, found medically fit, will be eligible for a free travel under the scheme. In the first phase, those above 55 years will be able to avail this facility.
- An MOU will be signed with IRCTC for the implementation of this scheme.

### **Chhattisgarh Launches Mahtari Vandana** Yojana 2024



Under this initiative, the government aims to provide economic assistance of Rs. 1000 to women every month, amounting to a total annual financial aid of 12,000 rupees.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Mahtari Vandana** Yojana 2024

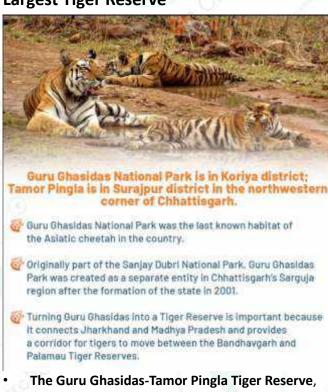
- Only married women from Chhattisgarh are eligible for this scheme.
- The annual income of the beneficiary's family should be less than 2.5 lakh rupees.
- Women should be between 23 to 60 years old.
- Widows, orphans, and abandoned women can also benefit from the scheme.

### PM Modi launched Mahatari Vandan Yojana in Chhattisgarh



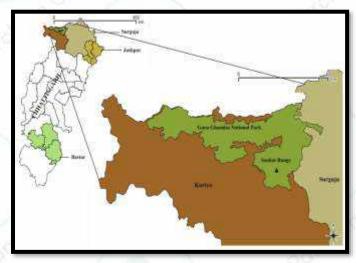
- Under the scheme, an amount of **1000 rupees** will be transferred online every month to over 70 lakh eligible women.
- Women applying for the scheme should be between 23 to 60 years old.

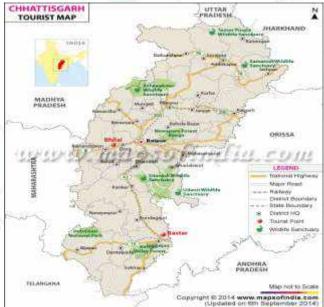
### **Chhattisgarh Approves Country's Third Largest Tiger Reserve**



which integrates an existing national park with a

wildlife sanctuary, is **Chhattisgarh's fourth reserve for the big cats.** 





- It spans 2,829 square kilometres across four northern districts of the state.
- Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Koriya, Surajpur and Balrampur.
- Guru Ghasidas National Park was made a tiger reserve in 2021, but it could not be notified due to opposition.
- Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve is the country's largest tiger reserve, covering 3,296.31 sq km.
- Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam is the second largest with an area of 2,837.1 sq km. Both have 58 tigers.

### 17th Divya Kala Mela in Raipur

- Dr Virendra Kumar, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, inaugurated the 17th Divya Kala Mela in Raipur
- Organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

- From 16 August to 23 August 2024.
- The Divya Kala Mela was started by the government of India in 2022 to economically empower disabled (Divyang) artists by providing market access to their products.

### **SHORT NEWS**

 Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Sugam App' for online property registration and curbing frauds

### **HUDCO Launches Gift Milk Programme to Combat Malnutrition in Chhattisgarh**

- HUDCO, a Navratna PSU, has recently launched the Gift Milk Programme in the Rajnandgaon, Bilaspur, and Mungeli districts of Chhattisgarh under its CSR initiative to combat malnutrition among government school children.
- The program will provide 200ml of fortified flavoured milk daily to 8,000 children in 83 government schools for 1 year, with a focus on girls' schools and tribal areas.

### Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in Chhattisgarh notified as India's 56th tiger reserve

- Chhattisgarh government, on the advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, notified the Guru Ghasidas -Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve. Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav
- Chhattisgarh is now home to 4 Tiger Reserves.
- The other three tiger reserves Indravati in Bijapur district, Udanti-Sitanadi in Gariaband and Achanakmar in Mungeli.
- spread over 2,829 sq km makes it the third largest tiger reserve in the country after Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam.

### **About Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve:**

- It is located in the northern part of Chhattisgarh, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- It is spread across the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh.
- It is contiguous with the Sanjay Dubri Tiger
   Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
- Further, the tiger reserve is connected to the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh to the West and Palamau Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand to the East.

 Rivers: It serves as the origin of significant rivers such as Hasdeo Gopad and Baranga





### Odisha

- 1. formation day
- 2. 'Tsunami Ready villages
- 3. Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor
- 4. melanistic tiger safari
- 5. LABHA MSP scheme
- 6. 'Swayam' scheme
- 7. Talabira Thermal Power Project
- 8. Project ODISERV
- India's First Indoor Athletics and Aquatic Centres
- 10. Ratna Bhandar
- 11. Subhadra Scheme
- 12. India's First Grain ATM
- 13. India's First Silicon Carbide Facility
- 14. Nuakhai festival

### 1<sup>st</sup> April Odisha formation day

- Odisha Day, also known as Utkal Dibasa, is celebrated on April 1st
- Capital
  - Cuttack (Till 1948)
  - Bhubaneshwar (After 1948)
- Date of Formation: August 1947
- State Border: Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal,
   Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bay of Bengal
- Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Governor: Raghubar Das
- State Animal Sambhar
- State Bird Blue Jay / Indian Roller
- State Flower Ashoka
- State TreeAshwatha or Peepal
- Language Odiya

### Mangrove

- Bhitarkanika
- Chilika
- Dharma
- Mahanadi
- Subarnarekha

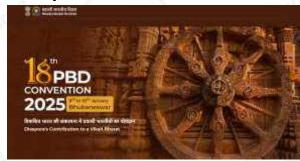
#### Lakes

- Anshupa Lake
- Kanjia Lake
- · Chillika Lake

### Wildlife

- Nandankanan National Park
- · Simplipal National Park and Biosphere Reserve
- Satkosia Tiger Reserve
- Chandaka Elephant Reserve
- Bhitarkanika National Park
- Gahirmatha
- Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

### Website Launched for 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar



- The website marks the start of online registration for participants.
- The 18th PBD Convention will be held from January 8 to January 10, 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The event is organized in collaboration with the Odisha Government.
- The convention will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The theme for the 2025 PBD Convention is "Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat".

### 24 coastal villages in Odisha recognised by UNESCO as 'Tsunami Ready'

- Twenty-four coastal villages in Odisha were recognised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO as 'Tsunami Ready'.
- The recognition was given during the 2nd Global Tsunami Symposium held in Indonesia
- These villages are located in Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam districts

### PM Modi attends All-India Director General and Inspector General of Police Conference in Bhubaneswar



- The event is being held in the Odisha capital for the first time (from November 29)
- The conference will also be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Police chiefs from all states,

- along with **leaders from** the Central Reserve Police Force **(CRPF)**, Research and Analysis Wing **(RAW)**, National Security Guard **(NSG)**, Vigilance Bureau, and Special Protection Group **(SPG)**, will also take part.
- Discussions will focus on national security challenges and the evolving responsibilities of law enforcement.
- As on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2024:
  - CRPF Head Anish Dayal Singh
  - RAW Chief Ravi Sinha
  - NSG Head— B Srinivasan
  - SPG Head Alok Sharma

### Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor at Puri in Odisha open for public



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 800 crore
 'Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa' (SPP) or <u>Jagannath</u>
 <u>Temple</u> heritage corridor project around Sri
 Jagannath Temple in Puri.

### **Puri Heritage Corridor Project**



- Project aims to transform the holy town of Puri into an international place of heritage.
- The total project is valued at Rs 3,700 crore.
- It includes sub-projects like the redevelopment of the Srimandir reception centre, Shree Setu, Jagannath cultural center, beachfront development, Puri Lake, and Musa river revival plan.
- The project is a part of the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme

### **Jagannath Temple**

- Constructed by a famous king of Ganga Dynasty Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva during 12th century.
- Shri Jagannath along with sister Devi Subhadra and elder brother Shri Balabhadra are worshipped in Puri
- Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha'
- This temple was called the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).
- Festival: The World famous Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival) & Bahuda Yatra.

### Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal lays foundation stone for 'Ayush Diksha' Centre at Bhubaneswar

- Sarbananda Sonowal Union Minister of AYUSH and Ports, Shipping & Waterways
- 'Ayush Diksha,' a pioneering center dedicated to the development of future Ayush professionals.

### Odisha to establish a melanistic tiger safari – a first of its kind in the world

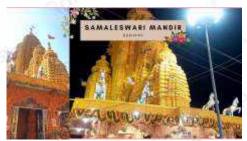




- The safari will be established near Baripada, district headquarter town of Mayurbhanj.
- the site is about 15 km from the Similipal Tiger
   Reserve (STR) matching the same landscape.
- Surplus tigers from the Nandankanan Zoo and rescued or orphaned tigers which are not fit for

- wild but fit for display will be housed in the safari in an open enclosure
- The Similipal Tiger Reserve is the only home for melanistic tigers in wild in the world.

## Odisha launches SAMALEI Plan to transform Samaleswari Temple into a spiritual hub



- The Odisha government led by Chief Minister
  Naveen Patnaik launched the SAMALEI
  (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and
  Local Economic Initiative) Plan a
  comprehensive redevelopment project to
  enhance the temple area of Maa Samaleswari in
  Sambalpur.
- Samaleswari Temple is a 16th-century temple, situated on the Mahanadi's bank in

### Odisha launches LABHA MSP scheme for minor forest produce



- LABHA 'Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya' Yojana
- is a 100% state-funded scheme in Odisha
- that provides a minimum support price (MSP) for minor forest produce (MFP). The scheme aims to empower tribal primary collectors.
- The government will set the MSP for MFPs each vear.
- The Forest Rights Act of 2006 defines "minor forest produce" as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.
- Example Tamarind, Mahua seed, Sal seed, Karanja seed, Sal leaves, Harida, Chironjee seed, Lac.
- Tribal primary collectors can sell their MFP at the MSP at procurement centers by the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation Limited of Odisha (TDCCOL).

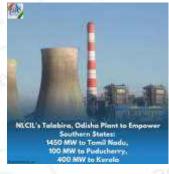
- These procurement centres will be managed by SHGs and any other notified agencies assisted by TDCCOL
- Odisha is home to 62 distinct tribes, including 13
   Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)
- It ranks as the third largest concentration of a tribal population, after Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Odisha govt to give interest-free loans to youth under 'Swayam' scheme

# SWAYAM YOJANA ODISHA 2024 1 Lakh loan for all Age limit- 18-35 No Interest WWW.ODISHAGOVIJOB.ORG

- The state government has decided to provide interest-free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to youth of the state under the new government scheme 'Swayam.'
- The entire burden will be borne by the state government.
- They can take Rs 1 lakh at a time to enhance their existing business or to start a new business.
- 1 lakh eligible rural and an equal number of urban youth in the age group of 18-35 years will receive interest-free loans
- The scheme will be operational for two years and Rs 672 crore will be spent

### Talabira Thermal Power Project in Odisha





Prime Minister

Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Talabira Thermal Power Project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited, under the Coal Ministry in Sambalpur, Odisha.

- the project worth over 27,000 crore rupees
- will focus on producing electricity at a cost of 3.65 rupees per unit.

- the thermal power plant will ensure higher efficiency, reduced carbon footprint
- NLC India Ltd:
  - Navratna Company
  - incorporated in 1956 under Ministry of Coal
  - CMD Prasanna Kumar Motupalli (M Prasanna Kumar)

First ever three-day-long 'World Odia Language Conference' in Bhubaneshwar



- Odisha government hosted the first-ever 'Biswa Odia Bhasha Sammilani' (World Odia Language Conference) from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.
- to strengthen and popularise the language, the conference will be held every 5 years.
- Odia is a classical language, listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- Mr. Patnaik conferred linguist Devi Prasanna
   Patnaik with the first World Odia Language Award
   for his lifelong dedication to the development of
   Odia
- given a certificate and ₹20 lakhs.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated two
   Odia Jnanpith awardees winners:
  - Padma Vibhushan Sitakanth Mahapatra
  - Padma Bhushan Pratibha Roy.

### The Olive Ridley turtles arrive in India's eastern coast to nest



- Between December and April every year.
- The Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- mainly found in the warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.

 Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is known as the world's largest rookery (a colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles.

#### **Conservation status**

- > IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1
- CITES Appendix I



## Odisha declares Gupteswar Forest in Koraput district as its fourth biodiversity heritage site



- The 350-hectare forest is located in the Dhondrakhol reserve forest, which is part of the Jeypore Forest Division.
- The Gupteswar Forest is next to the Gupteswar Shiva temple and is home to a variety of flora and fauna.
- The local community has traditionally worshipped the groves in the forest, which adds to its sacred significance.
- The limestone caves of Gupteswar boast of 8 species of bats out of the total 16 species found in southern Odisha.
- 3 earlier Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) in Odisha:
  - > Mandasaru in Kandhamal district
  - Mahendragiri in Gajpati district
  - Gandhamardan in Bargarh and Bolangir districts

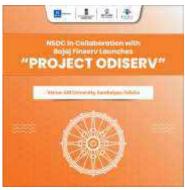
### About the biodiversity heritage sites:

- Mentioned in Section 37 of the <u>Biodiversity Act</u> 2002.
- According to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the state government can designate areas of biodiversity importance as BHSs in consultation with local bodies. BHSs can be terrestrial, coastal,

### inland water, or marine areas that exhibit rich biodiversity. This can include:

- A large number of wild and domesticated species
- High endemism
- Rare and threatened species
- Keystone or evolutionarily significant species
- · Wild ancestors of cultivated varieties
- Fossil beds that denote past biological life

### Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Project ODISERV For Odisha's Graduates



- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Bajaj Finserv Ltd. launched their first skill development initiative - Project Odiserv
- The project aims to impart knowledge and skills to graduates through Bajaj Finserv's Certificate
   Programme for Banking Finance & Insurance
   (CPBFI) programme
- The 100-hour training program under Project ODISERV aims to equip Odisha's youth with essential skills for the banking, finance, and insurance industries.

## Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates India's First Indoor Athletics and Aquatic Centres



- India's first indoor athletics centre at Kalinga Stadium.
- He also inaugurated an indoor aquatic centre with Olympic size swimming pool, and laid the foundation of an indoor diving centre at the stadium.

 The indoor athletics centre, which has a 10,000 square metre track, is capable of holding continental and regional championships.

### Odisha celebrated Pakhala Dibas, or Pakhala Day on March 20



- Marking the popularity of the state's main staple food for ages.
- Pakhala is the Odia term for an Indian dish consisting of cooked rice that is lightly fermented in water.
- Pakhala dish has its origin from Lord Jagannath Temple.

### Mithuna Sankranti/Raja Parba 2024: Celebrating Womanhood and Nature's Bounty



- Raja Parba, also known as Mithun Sankranti, is a three-day long festival celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur in Odisha.
- The festival is dedicated to Basu- Mata, the Earth Goddess and during this festival, all the agriculture activities are stopped to allow the Goddess to rest.
- This three-day festival, falling on June 14th to 16th in 2024, is a joyous celebration of womanhood that coincides with the arrival of the monsoon season.

| DAY                                | EATE                    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pahili Raja (First Day)            | Friday, June 14, 2024   |
| Mithuna Sankranti / Raja Sankranti | Saturday, June 15, 2024 |
| Basi Raja (Last Day)               | Sunday, June 16, 2024   |

#### **World-Famous Rath Yatra In Puri**

The Jagannath Rath Yatra is a yearly Hindu festival that commemorates the pilgrimage of Lord Jagannath, elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra, as they embark on a nineday annual sojourn to his birthplace.

The Yatra is going to be a two-day affair after 53
years. Some celestial arrangements have made it a
two-day event which was last held for two days in
1971.



- The Rath Yatra takes place on the second day of the Odia month of Ashadha Shukla Tithi (bright fortnight) every year to commemorate this journey.
- The idols are taken to the Gundicha Temple, where they stay till the 'Bahuda Yatra' (returning car festival).
- The wheels of the chariots of Jagannath Rath Yatra are made from phasi tree logs.
- The festival dates back to at least the 12th century CE, when the Jagannath temple was built by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva.

### THE THREE RATHS

|                       | NANDIGHOSA        | DARPADALAN          | TALADHWAJ  |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Presiding<br>Deity    | Lord<br>Jagannath | Goddess<br>Subhadra | Lord<br>Balabhadra   |
| Wheels                | 16                | 12                  | 14   |
| Wooden<br>pieces used | 832               | 593                 | 763  |
| Height                | 44.2 feet         | 42.3 feet           | 43.3 feet  |
| Colour<br>of cloth    | Red & yellow      | Red & black         | Red & green  |
|                       |                   |                     |  |
| f                     |                   |                     | ALL  |
| 2.0                   | 400               | V-                  |  |
| A stan                |                   | A CONTRACTOR        | The second secon |
|                       | I A               | - HITCH             | A  |
|                       |                   |                     | <b>静</b> 解音  |

### Jagannath Puri Temple - Odisha

- Also known as the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).
- It is a splendid example of Kalinga architecture
- Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha'
  where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power
  of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in
  Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

### Hera Panchami Ritual Observed During Puri Rath Yatra



- The Hera Panchami ritual, an integral part of the Rath Yatra in Puri, is a captivating tradition where Goddess Laxmi expresses her anger towards Lord Jagannath by damaging his chariot, Nandighosha.
- Observed on the festival's fifth day, this ritual is marked by a grand procession.
- 'Hera' means to search or look for and 'Panchami' means fifth.
- Servitors carry Goddess Laxmi to the Gundicha temple in a palanquin, accompanied by a vibrant procession through Puri Grand Road.
- To express her frustration of not meeting Jagannath, she instructs her servitors to damage part of Lord Jagannath's chariot.
- Feeling remorseful for her actions, Goddess Laxmi secretly returns to Srimandir
- Hera Panchami also marks the beginning of the process of Bahuda Jatra (the return journey) as the chariots are turned southward in a process called Dakhina Moda.

### Ratna Bhandar, sacred treasury of Puri Jagannath Temple, opened after 46 years



- Odisha government unlocked the revered Ratna Bhandar of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri after 46 years for repairs and taking inventory of valuables
- The Ratna Bhandar is a valuable collection of treasures, located on the northern side of the Jagamohana (assembly hall of temple).

- It contains the priceless jewelry of the sibling deities Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra
- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the custodian of the temple
- One of the oldest Hindu temples to still be in use.
   Present temple was built by Anantavarman of the
   Chodaganga dynasty. The deities within the shrine, however, are believed to be much older and are associated with the great mythical ruler of the
   Satya-yuga, King Indrayumna.
- It is known as the "White Pagoda" and is one of the chardhams - Puri, Dwarika, Badrinath & Rameswar
- It is also part of the Golden Triangle of Odisha including Bhubaneswar (City of Temples) and Sun Temple of Konark (Black Pagoda).
- It is also called as 'Yamanika Tirtha'

| Gate            | Direction | Belief               |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Singhadwara     | East      | Attain moksha        |
| (Lion's Gate)   |           | (liberation from the |
|                 |           | cycle of birth-      |
|                 |           | rebirth)             |
| Hastidwara      | North     | Brings wealth        |
| (Elephant Gate) | V         |                      |
| Aswadwara       | South     | Helps one shed       |
| (Horse Gate)    |           | kama (lust)          |
| Vyaghradwara    | West      | Reminds one of       |
| (Tiger Gate)    | Male      | one's dharma         |
|                 | 100       | (cosmic law          |
|                 | Sec.      | underlying right     |
|                 |           | behaviour and social |
|                 |           | order)               |

### Divya Kala Mela & Shakti: India Celebrates Divyang Talent at KIIT Campus in Bhubaneswar



The Department of Empowerment of Persons
with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social
Justice & Empowerment, in collaboration with the
National Divyangjan Finance and Development

- Corporation (NDFDC), to celebrate the talents and craftsmanship of Divyang entrepreneurs and artisans from across the nation.
- The Divya Kala Mela & Divya Kala Shakti will be held from 5th to 11th of July 2024 at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

### Odisha CM Mohan Majhi Launches Subhadra Scheme



- Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, announced the implementation of the Subhadra scheme under which ₹50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore women between the ages of 21 and 60.
- The Scheme has been approved for implementation from the financial year 2024-25 to financial year 2028-29.
- An outlay of ₹55,825 crore has been made for this initiative
- A total of ₹10,000 per annum will be paid in two installments of ₹5000 each on Rakhi Purnima Day and International Women's Day (March 8).
- The payment will be made directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled single-holder (DBT) bank account through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS).
- A Subhadra Debit Card will also be issued to the beneficiaries.
- 100 beneficiaries with maximum digital transactions will be identified in each gram panchayat and urban local body and an additional incentive of ₹500 shall be given to each of them.
- women from economically well-off families,
   Government servants or Income Tax payees will not be eligible under this scheme.
- Besides, women who are receiving assistance of ₹1,500 or more per month or ₹18,000 or more per year under any other government scheme will also be ineligible for inclusion under Subhadra.
- Women and Child Development Department will establish a Subhadra Society for the implementation and monitoring of the programme.

### India's First Grain ATM Launched in Odisha



- WFP (World Food Programme) and the Government of Odisha launched India's first around the clock grain dispensing machine, the 'Grain ATM,' also known as 'Annapurti', in the state capital Bhubaneshwar.
- Odisha has become the first state in India to provide access to the public distribution system beneficiaries 24 hours a day.
- Annapurti is energy efficient and consumes only 0.6 Watts per hour and can be connected to solar panels for automatic refilling.

## Odisha to bring 5 Royal Bengal tigers from Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh by September

- 3 of these tigers will be released into the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Sambalpur
- 2 will be introduced into the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj.

#### Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

- STR is **located within the Mayurbhanj District**, in the Northernmost part **of Odisha**.
- It was declared a 'Tiger Reserve' in the year
   1956 and included under the national conservation programme 'Project Tiger' in 1973.
- The STR was included as a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO in the year 2009.
- It is the only landscape in the world that is home to melanistic tigers.
- Sal is the dominant tree species here.



### **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**

- The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located in the Bargarh district in Odisha.
- It is situated near the city of Sambalpur's Hirakud Dam
- It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1985.

### Odisha Launches PM-USHA to boost Higher Education

- The Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) programme is launched in Odisha by the state government.
- The government signed an MoU with the Union Education Ministry to launch PM USHA
- The Centre will provide financial assistance of Rs 500 crore for different higher education institutions across Odisha for infrastructural and other developmental activities
- PM-USHA is an important initiative of the Centre towards implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020
- While 60 per cent of allocated grants will be released by Centre and 40 per cent will be borne by the state.
- The Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) was launched in two phases:
  - > First phase: Launched in 2013
  - Second phase: Launched in 2018
- PM-USHA is a scheme that provides funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
- The scheme's goal is to improve access, equity, and excellence in the state higher education system

## Saoras become 5th particularly vulnerable tribal group to get habitat rights in the state

- With Saora tribals of Gajapati district getting habitat rights over their ancestral lands recently,
- Odisha has become the only state to provide such rights to the highest number of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).
- Saora is one of the ancient tribes of Odisha, which is also mentioned in the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- Though Odisha is the main land for the tribe, a small number of people are also found in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam.

| Details                                |  |
|--|--|
| Native language is Sora, a Munda       |  |
| language, with its own script called   |  |
| Sorang Sompeng.                        |  |
| Proto Australoid physical              |  |
| characteristics, common among          |  |
| aborigines of Central and Southern     |  |
| India.                                 |  |
| Unique art practices, religious        |  |
| customs, and a dying tattooing         |  |
| tradition called 'Tantangbo.'          |  |
| Worship multiple gods and spirits,     |  |
| believed to control their daily lives. |  |
| Sudha Saora (plains) rely on wet       |  |
| cultivation, wage earning, and selling |  |
| firewood; Lanjia Saora (hill) practice |  |
| shifting and terraced cultivation.     |  |
|  |  |

## Mankidia community becomes 6th PVTG to get Habitat Rights over forests in Odisha



- The Mankidia community is an Austro-Asiatic community that makes living mainly from the forests.
- They constitute a semi-nomadic section of the Birhor tribe.
- The Mankidia are a semi-nomadic community known for their traditional skill of rope making, trapping and eating monkeys.

- They are primarily a food gathering and hunting community.
- The temporary makeshift settlements consisting of temporary dome-shaped leaf huts known as Kumbhas.
- They speak a form of Munda language and some of them are also conversant in Odia.
- Logobir and Budhimai are their supreme deities.
- They are mainly found in Odisha, Jharkhand,
   Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

### Odisha Unveils India's First Silicon Carbide Facility



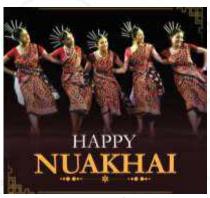
- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi graced the ground-breaking ceremony of India's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility to be set up in Odisha at an investment of Rs 620 crore.
- The project will be developed by RIR Power Electronics Limited, a leader in India's semiconductor power electronics technology at the EMC Park, Infovalley, Bhubaneswar.

### Odisha's second AIIMS will come up in Sambalpur



- Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced that the state's second AIIMS will be built in Sambalpur.
- The state got its first All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in 2014 during the UPA regime at Bhubaneshwar.

### Nuakhai festival



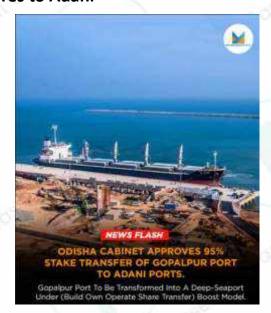
- Nuakhai is an agrarian festival where the first crop of the field is offered to the goddess in the western districts of Odisha and people seek the blessings of elders in each household.
- People exchange 'Nuakhai Juhar' greetings with friends, relatives and well-wishers
- The new rice made out of the first harvested paddy crop is offered to goddess Samaleswari

## PM launched Odisha govt's flagship initiative Subhadra Scheme in Bhubaneswar



- It is the largest, single women-centric scheme and is expected to cover **more than 1 crore women**.
- Named after Goddess Subhadra, the sister of Lord Balabhadra and Lord Jagannath
- All eligible women between the age of 21-60 years would receive Rs 50,000 over a period of five years between 2024-25 and 2028-29.
- An amount of ₹10,000 per annum would be credited in two installments directly to their accounts.
- He launched Awaas+ 2024 App, for survey of additional households for PMAY-G, and the Operational Guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0.

### Odisha Transfers 95% of Gopalpur Port Shares to Adani





 The Odisha government recently approved a proposal to transfer 95 percent of the equity shares of Gopalpur Port to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ).

#### **About Gopalpur Port:**

- It is a deep-draft, multi-cargo port located on the east coast of India in the mineral-rich state of Odisha.
- It has the capacity to handle 20 million metric tonne per annum of cargo.
- It lies between Paradip Port in the north and
   Visakhapatnam Port in the south, at almost equal distance from each.

- The hinterland of the port are the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh, thus providing access to a mix of minerals, steel, aluminium, cement, and power plants.
- The coal fields of IB and Talcher, which account for approximately 25% of India's coal reserves, form part of the hinterland of the port.

### Tata Steel commissions country's largest blast furnace at Kalinganagar



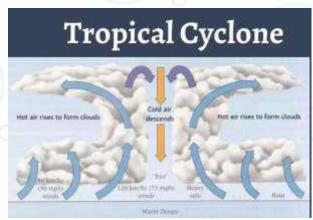
- Tata Steel Ltd. had commissioned 'India's largest blast furnace' at Kalinganagar, Odisha as part of the Phase II expansion its plant.
- The new blast furnace will significantly boost the plant's overall production capabilities
- Odisha has emerged as the largest investment destination in India for Tata
   Steel, with a total cumulated investment of over Rs 100,000 crore in the last 10 years.

### Odisha prepares for Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Dana,' Landfall Expected





- cyclonic storm 'Dana,' is expected to make a landfall on 24<sup>th</sup> October with a wind speed of 100 to 120 km per hour along the Odisha and West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island
- A low-pressure area formed over east-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman Sea
- The name "Dana" was contributed by Qatar



- A tropical cyclone is formed only over warm ocean waters near the equator.
- Warm, moist air rises up and away from the ocean surface, creating an area of low pressure.
- It causes the air from surrounding areas with higher pressure to move towards the low-pressure area.

#### WMO/ESCAP Panel

- It is an inter-governmental regional body jointly established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP) in 1972.
- Objective:
  - To promote measures to improve tropical cyclone warning systems in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea region.
- It comprises of 13 countries in the region -Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oma

n, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

### Odisha to Host 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar



- from 8th to 10th of January, 2025
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated since
   2003 to commemorate arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in India from South Africa on 9th of January, 1915.
- to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian Community in the development of the country.
- The last Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

### PM Modi Participated in 'Odisha Parba 2024' in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 'Odisha Parba 2024' programme on 24 November at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
- This year Odisha Parba is being organised from 22nd to 24th November.
- Odisha Parba is a flagship event conducted by Odia Samaj, a trust in New Delhi.
- Through it, they have been engaged in providing valuable support towards preservation and promotion of Odia heritage.

#### **Bihar**

- 1. formation day
- 2. Pitripaksha Mela
- 3. Afforestation project "Aranya"
- 4. Nalanda University In Rajgir
- 5. First Dry Port to Boost Exports
- 6. Bapu Tower in Patna
- 7. Mahila Samwad Programme

State Tree: Peepal

State Bird: House SparrowState Animal: Bullock

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March Bihar formation day

- Bihar Day (Bihar Diwas) is observed every year on March 22, marking the formation of the state of Bihar.
- · Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar
- Governor : Rajendra Arlekar
- Capital Patna
- Date of Formation: 26 January 1950
- · Languages: Hindi, Urdu, Santhali, Maithali, Bhojpuri
- State Flower: Genda/ Marigold

#### **Natural Wetlands**

- Kanwar Lake
- Baraila Lake
- Kusheswar nath Lake
- Udaypur lake

#### World Heritage site

- Mahabodhi temple complex at Bodh Gaya
- Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) at Nalanda

### Pitripaksha Mela Begins in Bihar



- In Bihar, the world-famous Pitripaksha Mela started in the pilgrimage city of Gaya.
- Pitripaksha is 15 days dedicated to tributing one's ancestors
- Pilgrims will perform the ritual at Vishnupad
   Temple and banks of Falgu river.

### Bihar Government Approves Culling of Nilgai and Wild Boars



- Bihar government decided to get rid of the menace of Nilgai (Blue bulls) and wild boars by giving permission to cull them.
- The farmers of the State are troubled most by the terror of Nilgai and wild boars damaging their crops at large scale.

### Nilgai (Boselaphus tragocamelus)

- Least concerned IUCN red list
- State animal of Delhi
- Largest Asian antelope
- Endemic to the Indian subcontinent.

#### Wildlife Sanctuaries and National parks

- Valmiki National Park, Tiger Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary
- · Gautam Budha Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kanwar Jheel Wildlife Sanctuary (BS) (Ramsar Site)
- Udaipur Wildlife Sanctuary
- Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Wildlife Sanctuary

### Wild boar (Sus scrofa)



- IUCN Red List- least concern
- It has become an *invasive species* in part of its introduced range.
- Indian boar, also known as the Andamanese pig or Moupin pig, is a subspecies of wild boar native to India.

## Bihar CM Nitish Kumar inaugurates sports university on occasion of National Sports Day at Rajgir



 Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Bihar's first Sports Academy and Bihar Sports University, a part of the International Sports Complex in Rajgir on the occasion of Sports Day.

### BPCL Launches afforestation project "Aranya" in Bihar

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
   announced a significant afforestation initiative in
   Bihar, aimed at enhancing the state's green cover.
- The project, will see the deployment of 1,00,000 seedballs across three key forest regions in the state, covering an area of 50 hectares.

### Nitish takes oath as Bihar CM for 9th time



- JDU President Nitish Kumar switched to the BJP after breaking ties with the 'Mahagathbandhan' alliance - Congress-RJD-Left coalition government
- Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar chief minister for the ninth time, as the JDU-BJP govt is formed in Bihar
- Oath was administered by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Samrat Chaudhary ji and Vijay Sinha ji on taking oath as deputy chief ministers.

### PM Modi Inaugurates Newly Built Campus Of Nalanda University In Rajgir



- The new campus of Nalanda University, an international University, is close to the site of the ancient ruins of Nalanda in Rajgir, Bihar
- PM visited the ancient ruins of Nalanda and planted a sapling of Bodhi tree in the campus brought from Bodh Gaya.
- The ruins of ancient Nalanda University in Bihar was declared as the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 2016.
- The Parliament of India established the Nalanda University through the Nalanda University Act, 2010.
- The Act formed the basis for implementing the decisions arrived at the second East Asia Summit (EAS) (Philippines, 2007) for the establishment of the university as an "international institution for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies" and at the forth East Asia Summit (Thailand, 2009).
- It started functioning in 2014 from a makeshift location with 14 students, the construction work started in 2017.

#### **GUESTS**

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and 17
   Ambassadors from participating countries attended the event.
- Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei
  Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos,
  Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal,
  Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and
  Vietnam.
- These countries have signed MoUs in support of the University.

• Bihar Governor : Rajendra Arlekar

• Chief Minister : Nitish Kumar

• Deputy CMs: Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha

Nalanda University Chancellor : Arvind Panagariya

Interim Vice-Chancellor: Abhay Kumar Singh

### Founding and early days of Nalanda University

- In 2007, following former President APJ Abdul Kalam's suggestion, the Bihar assembly passed a bill to establish a new university.
- Operating from a temporary location since
   September 1, 2014, with 14 students, the
   university in Rajgir was inaugurated by former
   external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj in 2014.
- In 2016, former President Pranab Mukherjee laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus in Pilkhi village, Rajgir, with construction starting in 2017



### **About the New Nalanda Campus**

- The design and architectural elements of the new 455-acre campus are inspired by the original monasteries and buildings at the ancient Nalanda Mahavihara.
- The new campus is also a 'Net Zero Green Campus' and includes over 100 acres of water bodies
   (Kamal Sagar ponds), an on-grid solar plant, a domestic and drinking water treatment plant, and a water recycling plant for reusing wastewater as well as over 100 acres of green cover.

- The University also has a 250-capacity Yoga Center, a state-of -the-art auditorium, library, an archival centre and a fully equipped sports complex.
- The University places emphasis on higher education and research, and offers Post Graduate and Doctoral programs in Buddhist studies, philosophy & comparative religions; languages and literature; ecology and environmental studies; sustainable development and environment; and, international relations and peace studies.
- At present, students from over 20 countries, including India, are enrolled in various courses at the University.

### **Ancient Nalanda University**

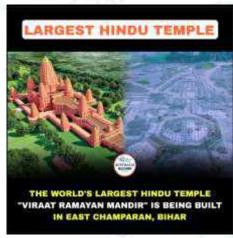
- Originally founded in 427 CE by Emperor Kumaragupta.
- The first attack occurred between 455 and 470 AD when the Hunas, a Central Asian tribal group, invaded Nalanda during the reign of Emperor Skandagupta.
- The second attack transpired in the early 7th century when Goudas Rajvansh, the emperor of Bengal, targeted Nalanda due to political tensions with Emperor Harshavardhana of Kannauj.
- In 1193 AD, Nalanda University suffered a devastating attack by Bakhtiyar Khilji, a general serving under Qutubuddin Aibak.



- Aryabhata, the father of Indian mathematics, is speculated to have headed the university in the 6th century CE.
- The first residential university in the world was at its zenith, as it boasted an impressive roster of 2,000 teachers and 10,000 students from far-flung regions like China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia.
- The university's library, a treasure trove of 9
  million handwritten palm-leaf manuscripts, was
  the world's richest repository of Buddhist
  knowledge known as "Dharma Gunj," or the
  "Mountain of Truth,"
- Nalanda was rediscovered in 1812 by Scottish surveyor Francis Buchanan-Hamilton and later

identified as the ancient university by Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1861.

### Second phase of construction of 'world's largest Ramayan temple' begins in Bihar



- The second phase of construction of the "world's largest Ramayan temple" began in East Champaran district of Bihar.
- spread over an area of 3.76 lakh sq.ft., began in
   June 2023 and is expected to be complete in 2025.
- With a length of 1080 feet, the Viraat Ramayan Mandir will be three times bigger than the Ram Temple in Ayodhya (360 feet).
- Similarly, the Ayodhya temple's height is 161 feet, while the Viraat Ramayan Temple will have height of 270 feet
- Being built at a cost of ₹500 crore, the temple will also have the world's largest shivling (33-foot-tall Shivling).
- There will be 22 sanctum sanctorum for different deities in the temple complex.
- There will be a total of 12 shikhars in the temple, with the main shikhar being 270 feet tall.

### Bihar Assembly Passes Bill To Combat Paper Leaks And Malpractices In Competitive Exams



- The Bihar Assembly passed a Bill aimed to curb the curse of questions paper leaks and other malpractices in government recruitment examinations in the State.
- The Bihar Public Examinations (PE) (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024,
- The Bill has the provision of an imprisonment term of three to five years and a fine of ₹10 lakh.
- if a service provider whether a government entity or a private agency engages in malpractices, it will face a fine of ₹1 crore and four year termination of it services.
- All crimes under this law will be cognizable and non-bailable. Now the paper leak will also be investigated by DSP rank officers.

### Bihar Inaugurates First Dry Port to Boost Exports



- Bihar Industry minister Nitish Mishra inaugurated the state's first dry port at Bihta, a town near Patna.
- The dry port is being seen as the state's big initiative to boost export of goods being produced in Bihar, in collaboration with a private company.

### What is a dry port?

- A dry port, or inland container depot (ICD), provides a logistics facility away from a seaport or airport for cargo handling, storage, and transportation.
- It acts as a bridge between sea/air ports and inland regions, facilitating efficient movement of goods.
- It is being run in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
  mode by Pristine Magadh Infrastructure Private
  Limited and the state industry department.

#### Why was it needed in Bihar?

- much needed initiative for a state like Bihar, where its export items — mainly agro-based, garments and leather products — are manufactured in diverse locations.
- Now, cargo from various shippers can be consolidated at the dry port, making it easier to transport

### Bihar to Establish Second Tiger Reserve in Kaimur



- The central government has given its in-principle approval for Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district.
- This decision follows a proposal from the Bihar government to develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) into a tiger reserve.
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in Bihar's West
   Champaran district was the only one till now currently home to 54 tigers, surpassing its capacity of 45.

### Prashant Kishore Launches Jan Suraj Party, Aims for Full Contest in 2025 Bihar Assembly Elections



- Election strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor officially launched his new political party, "Jan Suraaj Party,"
- Jan Suraj Party is now expected to contest in all constituencies in the Bihar assembly elections next year.
- The assembly elections in Bihar are likely to be held in October-November 2025.

## Bihar CM Dedicates Bapu Tower in Patna on Mahatma Gandhi's 155th Birth Anniversary

 The iconic five-storey building consisting of cylindrical and rectangular structures has several galleries dedicated to the life of the Father of the Nation  A special section on Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Bihar and Champaran Satyagrah





### **Festival of Chhath Puja begins**



- The four-day Chhath puja began on 5<sup>th</sup> NOV with Nahay Khay on Day 1 of the festivities
- Nahay Khay, which falls on the Chaturthi Tithi of Kartik Shukla Paksha is followed by Kharna on Panchami Tithi on day 2
- Chhath Puja on Sashti, and concludes with Usha
   Arghya on Saptami Tithi.
- The festivities will conclude on November 8.
- Chhath Puja is celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- festivals, involving strict rituals and fasting to express gratitude to the Sun God for sustaining life on Earth.

### Bihar Launches 'Mahila Samwad' Empowerment Programme

The Bihar Cabinet gave its nod for allocation of Rs
 225 crore for 'Mahila Samwad', an ambitious programme under which CM Nitish Kumar, ministers and top officials would visit districts to

- inform women about the ongoing policies of the state government for their empowerment.
- The interaction programme will be held at district and block level
- Launched from next month.
- The Bihar cabinet also decided to enhance the exgratia amount to Rs 21 lakh from Rs 11 lakh for kin of army and central armed police forces personnel hailing from Bihar, who are martyred in different operations or war-like situations.

### Sri Lankan President visits World Heritage Mahabodhi Temple in Bihar



- Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake visited Bodh Gaya in Bihar's Gaya district and prayed at the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO world heritage site (2002).
- It is in Bodh Gaya, in central Bihar, on the banks of the Niranjana River.
- It is one of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha, marking the spot of the Buddha's Enlightenment (Bodhi).



### **Centre Denies Special Category Status To Bihar**



 The Centre said that special status to any state is given on certain parameters and the request of Bihar for Special Category Status was denied in 2012.

#### What is Special Category Status (SCS)?

- SCS is a classification given by the Centre to assist development of states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.
- This classification was done on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission in 1969.
- Status was first accorded to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland in 1969
- Constitution does not make a provision for SCS.

#### The Gadail formula

- The issue of special category status was initially discussed in a National Development Council (NDC) meeting held in 1969.
- During this session, the DR Gadgil Committee proposed a formula for distributing central assistance to state plans in India.
- Before this, there was no dedicated formula for fund allocation, and grants were allocated based on individual schemes.

### Special Category States:

- · It is based on CADGIL formula. It is based an the parameters like Hilly terrain.

  - Low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal
- Economic and infrastructure backwardness.
- Strategic location along borders with neighbouring
- Nonviable nature of state finances.
- The classification was based on the 5th finance commission recommendations.
- It will be grant by central government.

Benefits to Special



- Category States: - Significant concessions are provided to these states in excise and custom duties, income tax, corporate tax.
- Centre pays 90% of the funds required in centrally sponsorecd scheme.
- The National Development Council provided plan assistance to states by using the Gadgil formula higher weightage to population and economic deprivation — after reserving 30 per cent of funds for the special category states (SCS) - ensuring that

their requirements were prioritised in the allocation of Central assistance.

- Parameters (Based on Gadgil Formula):
  - Hilly Terrain;
  - Low Population Density and/or Sizeable Share of Tribal Population;
  - Strategic Location along Borders with Neighbouring Countries;
  - Economic and Infrastructure Backwardness;
  - Nonviable Nature of State finances.
- However, with the dissolution of the Planning Commission and the establishment of the NITI Aayog in 2014, the 14th Finance Commission has done away with the 'special category status' for states, except for the Northeastern and three hill
- **SCS is different from Special status** which imparts enhanced legislative and political rights, while SCS deals with only economic and financial aspects.
- For instance, J&K used to have Special status before Article 370 was repealed.

### **Benefits of Special Category Status:**

- The Centre pays 90% of the funds required in a centrally-sponsored scheme to special category status states as against 60% or 75% in case of other states, while the remaining funds are provided by the state governments.
- Unspent money in a financial year does not lapse and is carried forward.
- Significant concessions are provided to these states in excise and customs duties, income tax and corporate tax.
- 30% of the Centre's Gross Budget goes to Special Category states.

#### **Concerns regarding Special Category Status:**

- It causes Increased burden on Central Finances.
- Leads to demands from other states too. Example demands from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar.

### **West Bengal**

- 1. Foundation day
- 2. Gangasagar Mela
- 3. Cyclone Remal
- 4. 'Prabodh' chatbox
- 5. Anti-rape bill
- Cyclone Fengal

### 20th JUNE West Bengal Foundation day Bihar Day (Bihar Diwas) is observed every year on March 22, marking the formation of the state of Bihar.

- A dispute emerged earlier in 2023 concerning West Bengal's Foundation Day when Raj Bhavan officially declared June 20 as the State Foundation Day.
- The Chief Minister of West Bengal argued that June 20, which carries associations with the **partition**, lacks relevance to the state's establishment.



 Also, the Assembly approved the proposal to make <u>Rabindranath Tagore's</u> 'Banglar Mati Banglar Jol' the official song of West Bengal.

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Governor: C. V. Ananda Bose

Capital Kolkata

• Date of Formation: 20 June 1947

State boundaries: Sikkim, Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand
 International boundaries : Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan

State Animal: Fishing Cat

State Bird: White-throated Kingfisher

State Flower: Night-flowering Jasmine
 State Tree: Alstonia scholaris – Chatim tree

State Fruit: Jackfruit

Official Language: Bengali, English

### Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Jaldapara
- Ballavpur
- Senchal
- Bibhutibushan
- Jorepamari
- Chapramari
- Raiganj
- Lothian Island
- Mahananda
- Ramnabagan

#### **National Park**

- Sundarbans National Park
- Singalila National Park
- Gorumara National Park
- Neora Valley National Park

#### **Tiger Reserves**

- Sunderbans
- Buxa Tiger reserve

Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan, the university town in West Bengal's Birbhum district, has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

### Gangasagar Mela to begin in West Bengal



- It is world's second largest Hindu Fair after
  Kumbb
- It happens every year during Makar Sankranti.
- The mela is held at Sagar Island.
- It has been mentioned in Indian epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata, putting its existence as early as 400 BCE.
- The pilgrims after taking a dip in Ganga also visit the temple of Kapil Muni.

### **Sagar Island Location**



 Sagar Island, westernmost island of the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta lies in West Bengal (South 24 Parganas district)  It lies at the mouth of the Hugli (Hooghly) River, an arm of which separates it from the mainland to the east.

### Some Important Fairs in India

| Fair/Celebration | Venue          | Location  |
|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Ambubachi Mela   | Kamakhya       | Assam     |
|                  | Temple         |           |
| Medaram Jatara   | Medaram in     | Telangana |
| 000              | Warangal       |           |
| Surajkund        | Surajkund in   | Haryana   |
| Handicrafts Mela | Faridabad      | 1         |
| Kumbh Mela       | Nasik, Ujjain, | Multiple  |
| 900 m            | Allahabad,     | states    |
|                  | Haridwar       | 100       |
| Sonepur Cattle   | Sonepur at the | Bihar     |
| Fair             | confluence of  |           |
| 1 1              | Ganga and      | 5         |
| 1                | Gandak         |           |

### Sri Sri Auniati Satra – a Vaishnavite monastery in Assam's Majuli island



- During his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sought blessings at the Sri Sri Auniati
   Satra, a more than 350-year-old Vaishnavite monastery in Assam's Majuli district.
- Sri Sri Auniati Satra was established in 1663 in Majuli, and occupied the highest position amongst the various Satras of Assam in the eyes of the Ahom Kings.
- Lord Krishna is worshipped as Govinda with the original idol having brought from the Lord Jagannath Temple at Puri.

### **About Majuli:**

- The biggest inhabited riverine islands in the world located in the river Brahmaputra.
- It is India's First island district.

- It is the nerve centre of neo-Vaishnavite culture. It has many 'Sattras' (Vaishnavite monasteries religious and cultural institutions).
- It has been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.



## PM Modi launches Multiple development projects worth Rs 7,200 crore in Arambagh, Hooghly, West Bengal

- Inaugurates Indian Oil's 518-km Haldia-Barauni
  Crude Oil Pipeline
- multiple projects for strengthening infrastructure at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
- Inaugurates three projects related to wastewater treatment and sewerage in West Bengal (about Rs 600 crore have been funded by the World Bank.)

### **IMD** issues alert for Cyclone Remal

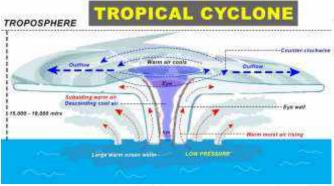
Cyclone Remal may hit Bengal by May 26, orange alert in Kolkata, other districts



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning for a potential severe tropical cyclonic storm that could impact the coasts of West Bengal and Bangladesh in the next couple of days.

- This will be the first cyclone developing in the North Indian Ocean basin this year.
- · The name 'Remal' is given by Oman





#### Cyclone

- Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area.
- The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere.
- Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.
- There are two types of cyclones:
  - 1. Tropical cyclones
  - 2. Extra Tropical cyclones (also called Temperate cyclones or middle latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones).

To combat high rates of child drowning deaths in the Sundarbans, India gets its first pond-based swimming pool



 Marking World Drowning Prevention Day, two pond-based swimming pools were opened in the Sundarbans in West Bengal [Baikunthapur

- village] to teach young children swimming and save them from adverse drowning situations. This initiative is expected to reduce the number of child drowning cases in the area and it has been designed as a preventive measure whereby young children [age- 6 to 10 years] will be taught swimming under controlled environment in local ponds.
- This initiative is the result of the combined efforts of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the World Health Organisation, and the West Bengal government, supported by an NGO-The George Institute for Global Health and the Child in Need Institute (CINI).
- According to UNESCO figures, almost 30 per cent of the land in the Sundarbans in West Bengal is covered by water bodies.
- The region also has the world's highest rate of child mortality due to drowning,
- WHO recognises July 25 as 'World Drowning Prevention Day'.



### Eastern Railway develops 'Prabodh' chatbox for easier access to railway rules



 The 161-year-old Kanchrapara Workshop of Eastern Railway (ER) in West Bengal — one of the oldest such establishments in the country — has come up with an **Artificial Intelligence-based chatbox** named 'Prabodh' to help ER employees remain abreast with the latest rules and regulations.

### West Bengal Government to Close Iconic Tram Service in Kolkata



- Kolkata was the only city in India with an operational tram network, and the closure of the tram services will mark the end of 151 years of service by the Kolkata tram.
- service on the Maidan, Esplanade, and Khidirpur stretch will continue but will be more of a heritage service.
- Tram, also called Light Rail Transit, is an urban transport system which in modern days uses electric-powered vehicles to transport passengers.

#### History of Tram System In India

- Trams were introduced in Kolkata by the British in 1873 which were driven by horses
- It was first introduced in Kolkata (then Calcutta) and later in Mumbai (then Bombay), Chennai (then Madras), Delhi, Nashik, Kanpur, Patna, Kochi (then Cochin) and Bhavnagar.
- country's first electric tram was introduced in Chennai in 1895 long before Kolkata and Mumbai. It was closed down in 1953.

### Anti-rape bill passed in West Bengal Assembly



- The West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024
- Proposed to amend the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita
   2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

- laws and the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 in their application to the state**to make punishment for rape and child abuse more stringent.
- The bill needs the Governor C V Ananda Bose and President's assent to become law.
- The proposed legislation:
  - Seeks capital punishment for persons convicted of rape if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state.
  - Stipulates a life sentence without parole for those convicted of rape and gang rape.
  - Includes a provision for time-bound and faster trial in rape cases.
- criminal procedure code and Indian penal code fall under concurrent list
- Any amendments made by the state that impose penalties differing from those outlined in the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) must receive presidential approval as stipulated by Article 254(2) of the Constitution.

### **Cyclone Fengal**

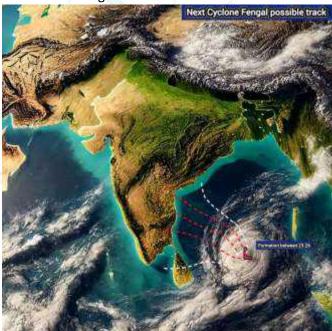


- A cyclonic circulation over the East Equatorial
   Indian Ocean and the Southeast Bay of Bengal has evolved into a low-pressure area
- India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting a the mild cyclonic storm is likely to make landfall near Puducherry by the end of this week.
- If the depression becomes a cyclone, it will be called 'Fengal'
- The name 'Fengal' was proposed by Saudi Arabia and is a word rooted in Arabic.

#### Who names cyclones in North Indian Ocean?

- Member countries of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) panel.
- This panel includes 13 nations: Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar,

- Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- Each member contributes a list of potential names, which are used sequentially as cyclones form in the region.



- For example, following Fengal, the next cyclone will be named Shakhti, as suggested by Sri Lanka, while Thailand has contributed Montha as a future name in the queue
- The system has been in place since 2004 to ensure easy public identification and efficient communication about storms.

### France to Feature Prominently at 30th Kolkata International Film Festival

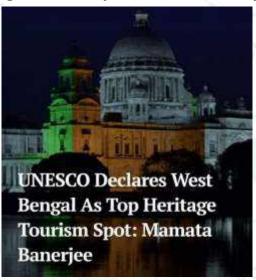


### KOLKATA SET TO HOST 30TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL WITH 180 FILMS FROM 29 COUNTRIES

The 30th Kolkata International Film Festival is set to kick off from December 4-11, featuring a diverse lineup of around 180 films from 29 countries. This year, France takes center stage as the focus country, with 21 of its notable films being showcased, as announced by festival chairman Goutam Ghose

- The 30th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF), slated to kick off on December 4, announced its lineup of 175 films from 29 countries, and revealed France as the focus country of this year's film festival.
- Screenings will take place in 20 venues in different parts of the city between December 5 and 11.

### **UNESCO Declares West Bengal As Top Heritage Tourism Spot: Mamata Banerjee**



### West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the "Banglar Bari" scheme

- housing scheme for rural poor
- Under the scheme, a total of ₹1.20 lakh will be given to a family for constructing a house, of which ₹ 60,000 in the first instalment.
- However, beneficiaries in some areas of Jangalmahal and Dargeeling hills will get ₹1.30 lakh.
- Mamta Banerjee also announced that government would build "Gangasagar Sethu" - five-km-long bridge over Muri Ganga river connecting the mainland with the Sagar Island, where the annual Gangasagar Mela is held.

#### **Assam**

- 1. Poba Reserve Forest
- 2. Assam Accord
- 3. Nijut Moina, Scheme to Boost Girls
- 4. Ambubachi Mela
- 5. 'School in a box' initiative
- 6. Laokhowa-Burachapori WLS
- 7. Karbi Youth Festival
- 8. Bronze Statue of Ahom General Lachit Borphukan
- 9. HaatiApp
- 10. MISSION BASUNDHARA 3.0
- 11. Kati Bihu
- 12. 2024 India International Science Festival

### December 2 Assam day

- Asom Divas is celebrated every year on December 2.
- Assam became a state in 1950, and since 1996, December 2 has been celebrated as Assam Day.
- Capital : Dispur
- State Boundaries: West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya.
- International Boundaries : Bhutan, Bangladesh
- Island: Majuli
- Chief Minister :Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor: Lakshman Acharya
- Animal: One-horned rhinoceros
- Bird: White-winged wood duck
- Tree : Hullung treeFlower : Kopou Phul

#### **National Parks**

- Nameri National Park
- Orang National Park
- Dibru Saikhowa National Park
- Kaziranga National Park
- Manas National Park
- Raimona National Park
- Dihing Patkai National Park

#### Tribos

Dimasa, Karbi, Lalung, Bodo, Khampti, Rabha, Deori, Chamka

### Biosphere Reserves:

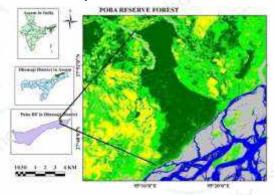
Dibru-Saikhowa (Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts) Manas

#### **Wildlife Sanctuaries**

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary

### The Poba Reserve Forest in Assam's Dhemaji district will soon be notified as a wildlife sanctuary

- Assam as on day has 17 wildlife sanctuaries and two "preliminary notified" wildlife sanctuaries and seven national parks.
- The new Poba Wildlife Sanctuary will encompass an area of 257.29 sqkm, including the Poba Reserve Forest, Kabu Chapri Proposed Reserve Forest, and the surrounding riverine areas.
- Poba Reserve Forest is a rainforest in the northeastern part of Assam.



## Assam Cabinet decides to implement Justice Biplab Sarma committee recommendations on Clause 6 of Assam Accord

- The Assam government has decided to implement most of the recommendations of the Justice Biplab Sarma Committee report appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to apply Clause 6 of the Assam Accord by April 15, 2024.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that 57
  of the 67 recommendations of the committee
  headed by Justice (retired) Biplab Sarma would be
  implemented.

#### What is the Assam Accord?

- Signed in 1985, the Assam Accord was an agreement to address the issue of illegal immigration in Assam.
- It states that all foreigners who came to Assam after March 24, 1971, must be deported.
- Clause 6 of the Accord focuses on safeguarding the rights and identity of Assamese people through

constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures.

### What is the Biplab Sarma Commission?

- The Justice Biplab Sarma Commission was set up to speed up the implementation of Clause 6.
- Its goal was to explore legal and policy changes to protect Assamese culture and identity.
- Set up in 2019, the commission led by Justice Biplab Sarma also looked into police reforms to improve accountability and public trust in Assam's law enforcement.
- Approvals would be taken from the authorities of the Bodoland Territorial Region, the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council – all Sixth Schedule areas – to avoid hurting "sensitivities around language, culture, and traditions" while implementing the recommendations.
- "The 57 recommendations will be implemented instantly in the State barring the Sixth Schedule areas and the Barak Valley.

## IIT Guwahati signs agreement with Airbus India to establish global training center in Guwahati

- The agreement is to set up a global training centre for aviation and logistics business, aligned with the Centre's UDAAN Scheme
- the collaboration will pave the way for Assam to emerge as a logistics hub in providing skilled personnel in aerospace technology.
- Airbus will enable IIT Guwahati faculty to conduct 'Train the Trainer' programs, allowing them to independently deliver Airbus courses while maintaining the curriculum, materials, and tools.

### Arunachal, Assam districts marked best in preventing drug abuse among children

- Assam's Darrang and Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh have been recognised as two of the best 30 performing districts in implementing a joint action plan on the "prevention of drugs and substance abuse among children and illicit trafficking".
- The plan was prepared by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the Narcotics Control Bureau and released in February 2021.

### Assam to set up new IIM Kamrup after Centre's nod, IIM-Ahmedabad to mentor

- The Centre has approved an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) for Assam, and it would come up near Guwahati
- Of the 21 IIMs across the country, only one IIM Shillong — is located in the Northeast.

## Assam Launches 'Nijut Moina, Scheme to Boost Girls' Education, Curb Child Marriage



- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that his government would provide monthly stipends to all girl students from class 11 to post-graduation over the next five years under 'Nijut Moina' scheme, aiming to prevent child marriages.
- A married girl will not get the benefit. The only exception will be those married girls who are enrolled in PG courses, they will also benefit.
- All girls studying in classes 11 and 12 will get Rs
  1,000 every month, it will be Rs 1,250 for degree
  students and Rs 2,500 for girls doing postgraduation.
- Except for daughters of ministers, MLAs and MPs, and those students studying in private colleges, all girls irrespective of their financial background will be included in the scheme.
- In June and July, during summer vacation, no money will be given.
- The stipend will be deposited to the bank accounts of the students for 10 months in a year

## Assam secretariat becomes India's first eco-friendly State government headquarters

 The Assam Secretariat has become country's first green secretariat with the inauguration of a 2.5 MW solar power project on its campus.

- Installed at a cost of ₹12.5 crore, the gridconnected rooftop solar power plant will save ₹30 lakh in electricity bills every month
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria

### Ambubachi Mela Begins At Kamakhya Temple



- The Hindu Fair will be from 22nd -26th of June
- The event celebrates the annual menstruation of the goddess Kamakhya, symbolising fertility and womanhood
- Celebrated during the monsoon season that happens to fall during the Assamese month Ahaar, around the middle of June.
- Also known as Ameti or Tantric fertility festival since it is closely associated with Tantric Shakti cult prevalent in eastern parts of India.

#### Key facts about Kamakhya Temple

- It is situated on Nilachal Hill and adjoining the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati.
- It is one of the most revered centres of Tantric practices.
- It is regarded as one of the oldest of the 51 Shakti Peethas in India.

#### Temple Architecture:

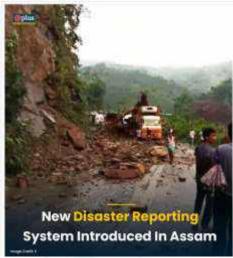
- A combination of the traditional nagara or North Indian and Saracenic or Mughal style of architecture.
- This unusual combination has been named the Nilachala Style of Architecture.

## 'School in a box' initiative for children in Assam flood relief camps

 The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), in collaboration with UNICEF, is

- providing "School in a Box" kits to children aged 6-18 in flood-affected relief camps.
- These kits contain learning materials aiming to address the psychological impact of displacement on children and teenagers.
- The program initially focused on children up to 6 years old, but now includes older children.

# Assam unveiled the "DRIMS" platform For Disaster Management



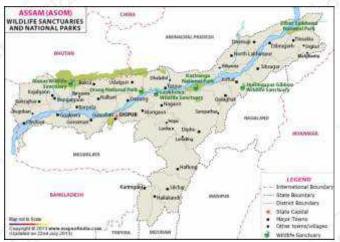
- The Disaster Reporting and Information
   Management System (DRIMS) platform, launched
   by Assam Government facilitates efficient disaster
   reporting and aid distribution, in collaboration
   with UNICEF.
- DRIMS captures critical impact data, expediting relief delivery for damaged crops, livestock losses, and other post-disaster restoration efforts.
- Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

### Rhinos Make Homecoming to Assam's Laokhowa-Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries



- two rhinos have been spotted in the Laokhowa-Burachapori wildlife sanctuaries, which are part of 'Greater Kaziranga', after almost a gap of 40 years.
- the population of pachyderms in the area was wiped out due to poaching

#### Laokhowa-Burachapori WLS



 These 2 are located on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River

#### **About Kaziranga National Park**

- It is located in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.
- It was declared a national park in 1974. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
- It is home to two-thirds of the total world population of greater one-horned rhinoceros.
- Kaziranga National Park (KNP) Director Sonali Ghosh

| S. No. | National Parks in Assam          |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1      | Dibru-Saikhowa National Park     |
| 2      | Kaziranga National Park          |
| 3      | Manas National Park              |
| 4      | Nameri National Park             |
| 5      | Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park |
| 6      | Dehing Patkai National Park      |
| 7      | Raimona National Park            |

Assam: Chandubi Festival celebrated its 14th anniversary



- Chandubi Festival was celebrated along the Chandubi Lake in Assam.
- It is organised every year from 1-5 January
- Aim to **promote eco-tourism** in this biodiversity hotspot of Assam.
- The festival provides an opportunity to generate livelihood to different tribes – Rabhas, Garos, Gorkhas and tea tribes

#### Chandubi lake:



- This freshwater lake was created during a massive earthquake in the year 1897.
- The name Chandubi is derived from two words where Chand means five and Dubi means sinking in Khasi language.

# 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Karbi Youth Festival (KYF)



- The Golden Jubilee celebration of the Karbi Youth Festival will be held from January 12 to 19 in Assam.
- In a first for any ethnicity-based festival in the Northeast, President Droupadi Murmu will attend the celebration on January 17 at Taralangso in Assam's Karbi Anglong district
- Starting in 1974 Karbi Youth Festival that has been working to establish the Karbi culture, customs, indigenous games, foods and Karbi language on the global stage

### PM Modi unveils projects worth ₹11,600 cr in Assam



- The **Kamakhya temple corridor project,** to be developed by the Centre at a cost of ₹498 crore, "It will become the gateway to the Northeast.
- Government has pledged to spend Rs 11 lakh crore on infrastructure this year
- Foundation stone for multiple road upgradation projects worth over Rs 3400 crores
- foundation stone for projects to boost the sports and medical infrastructure.
- PM landed at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati

#### **About Assam**

- · Capital Dispur
- It's the second largest state in the North-East region by area and the largest by population.
- bordered by Bhutan and the state of Arunachal Pradesh to the north; Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur to the east; Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, and Bangladesh to the south; and West Bengal to the west



3 physiographic divisions
 The Northern
 Himalayas (Eastern Hills), The Northern Plains
 (Brahmaputra plain), and Deccan Plateau (Karbi Anglong).

- Assam has the single largest tea growing area in the world, constituting around 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the global tea production.
- The state accounts for over 50 percent of the country's overall tea production.
- The national parks of Assam are Kaziranga national park, manas national park, nameri national park, Rajiv Gandhi-orang national park, dibru-saikhowa national park, raimona national park, and dihing patkai national park.
- UNESCO Sites in Assam Kaziranga National park and Manas National park



### **7 NATIONAL PARKS IN ASSAM**

- 6th : Raimona National Park (Notified in 2021)
- 7th: Dihing Patkai National Park (Notified in June 2021)

### Assam govt declares 'Kaji Nemu' state fruit



- Assam government has officially declared kaji nemu (Citrus limon), a variety of lemon unique to the region, as the 'State Fruit'.
- Kaji nemu, known for its juicy, aromatic nature, and immense nutritional value
- Kaji nemu received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2019.

In February 2016, the Assam government declared:

- One-horned rhino as the State Animal
- White-winged wood duck as the State Bird
- Hollong as the State Tree
- Foxtail orchid as the State Flower



### First Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 in Guwahati

- Held at Veterinary College Field in Guwahati,
   Assam from March 5–7, 2024.
- The expo aims to propel growth and efficiency of various industries that use steam boilers, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences.
- Held jointly by Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Oil India Ltd (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd (BCPL), Assam Petro Chemicals Ltd and NTPC Ltd.

### PM Modi Unveils Bronze Statue of Ahom General Lachit Borphukan in Assam's Jorhat



- The 'Statue of Valour', 125-foot bronze statue of the legendary Ahom general, Lachit Borphukan, at his burial site in eastern Assam's Jorhat district.
- designed and constructed by renowned sculptor
   Ram Vanji Sutar,
- stands on a pedestal of 41 feet, making the total structure 125 feet tall.
- The foundation of the statue was laid by former President Ram Nath Kovind in February 2022.
- Lachit Borphukan was a legendary army commander of the Ahom kingdom (1228-1826).
- He is celebrated for his pivotal role in the 1671
   'Battle of Saraighat,'



- where he successfully defended Assam against the mighty Mughal forces led by Raja Ramsingh-I, showcasing exemplary leadership and strategic prowess.
- The Assam Cabinet had filed plea in Supreme Court to de-notify a prime one-horned rhino habitat – the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary about 48 km east of Guwahati.



- The Assam Forest Department had notified
   Pobitora as a wildlife sanctuary on March 17, 1998
- The Assam government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking relief from demarcating the boundary of the 38.8 sq km sanctuary, removing encroachments and illegal activities within, and declaring an eco-sensitive zone around it.
- The 1998 notification was made without proper consultation with the Cabinet and the Chief Minister at the time.
- Additionally, it highlighted the unsettled rights of people residing in the area, especially those belonging to marginalized communities.
- The proposal for denotification of any Sanctuary/National Park requires
   recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife
   as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection)
   Act, 1972 and thereafter, approval from Supreme
   Court also.

### **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary**

- It is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' because of the similar landscape and the sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.
- Situated in the flood plains of River Brahmaputra in the district of Morigaon, Assam.

 It has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and second highest population in Assam after Kaziranga National Park

#### **One-Horned Rhino**



- Out of the 5 Rhino species, Only the Great One-Horned Rhino is found in India.
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I (Threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens).
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

### First Recorded Sightings of Mithun Bovine in Assam



- Assam has recorded the mithun (Bos frontalis) for the first time, generations after the semi-wild gaurlike animal began to be reared by tribals in the state's hill district of Dima Hasao.
- Mithun is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland and found also in the hills of Mizoram and Manipur. It is primarily reared for its meat.
- The bovid was presumed to be found nowhere else in India until specialists visited three remote pockets of central Assam's Dima Hasao district a few days ago.
- The region is inhabited by the Zeme Nagas
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recognized mithun as a meat animal on September 1, 2023.
- The day will be celebrated as Mithun Day in the Northeast.

#### The 'HaatiApp', developed in Assam

An Assam-based biodiversity organisation has developed a mobile phone application for all stakeholders toward mitigating human-elephant conflict and coexisting with the large animals in the State and elsewhere in the northeast.

 The 'HaatiApp', envisaged as an early warning system about the presence of wild elephants in



the proximity of human settlements, is scheduled to be launched along with a solar fence manual.

 The app will contain the ex-gratia application form against damages caused due to depredation by wild elephants.

#### To prevent underage marriages, Assam



# govt approves bill to abolish Muslim Marriages, Divorce Registration Act & Rules

- The Assam cabinet approved the Assam
   Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriage and
   Divorce Bill, 2024, mandating Muslims to register
   marriages and divorces with the government.
- This will eliminate the role of "qazis" in this process, and aims to curb child marriages.

#### **Key Points**

- Objective: The Assam government approved a new bill aimed at abolishing the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act, 1935.
- Main Focus: To prevent underage marriages and streamline the registration of Muslim marriages and divorces under government authority.

- Child Marriage: The new bill prohibits the registration of child marriages (males under 21 years and females under 18 years).
- New Process: All Muslim marriages and divorces will now be registered at the sub-register's office, instead of by qazis (traditional religious authorities).
- Compliance: The government intends to take control over marriage records to ensure transparency and legality in registration processes.

#### **Major Difference**

- Old Law (1935 Act):
  - Allowed qazis to register Muslim marriages and divorces.
  - Gave room for the registration of underage marriages, which was against modern laws on child marriage prevention.
- New Law (2024 Bill):
  - Transfers registration power to government authorities (district commissioners, registrars).
  - Bans the registration of underage marriages entirely.
  - Ensures that all marriages and divorces are documented according to government standards, reducing loopholes for illegal practices like child marriage.

### Asiatic Golden Cat Rediscovered in Manas National Park



- Asiatic golden cat (Catopuma temminckii) has been rediscovered in Assam's Manas National Park.
- The Asiatic golden cat is a medium-sized wild feline found across Northeast India, Southeast Asia, and southern China.
- Protected under India's Wildlife (Protection) Act,
   1972 and listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN.

#### **About Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve:**

- · foothills of Himalayas in Assam.
- It is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.
- The area has a unique distinction of being
  a Natural World Heritage Site, a Tiger Reserve, an
  Elephant Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and
  an Important Bird Area.
- The Manas River is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the Manas National Park.



# MISSION BASUNDHARA 3.0 aims to provide land rights to Indigenous people in Assam



- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched Mission Basundhara 3.0 in Guwahati
- to provide land rights to indigenous people.
- Under this, steps will also be taken to digitize various land-related services and publish maps for the benefit of the people of the state.
- Mission Basundhara was started in 2021.
- To be entitled to land rights under this mission three generation ancestry is required.
- However, people belonging to SC, ST, tea tribes and gorkhas will not need to prove three generation ancestry.
- Sarma also launched the Project Closed User Group (CUG) of ASDMA (Assam State Disaster Management Authority)

 Under project CUG, government officials of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department will be equipped with specially allocated SIM cards for critical communications.

### Northeast to hold first ever India International Science Festival



- **10th edition** of the India International Science Festival (IISF)
- to be hosted at IIT Guwahati from November 30th to December 3rd 2024
- theme "Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub"
- The IISF-2024 is being coordinated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

# Assam Government to Revive 129 Wetlands to Mitigate Floods with the help of ADB



- In a bid to enhance flood resilience and increase fish production, the Assam government has launched a major initiative to restore 129 beels (wetlands)
- These wetlands, crucial for regulating floods, recharging groundwater, and preventing erosion, are vital to Assam's ecosystem and fisheries.
- Years of siltation, low water levels, and poor fish auto-stocking have significantly reduced the productivity of the beels.
- The project focuses on dredging, desilting, and constructing water-retaining structures, aiming to improve water storage capacity and create optimal conditions for fish breeding.
- The initiative is being implemented in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Rs
   796.88 crore project

 80 per cent fund from ADB, while the state government will cover the remaining 20 per cent.

### Kati Bihu celebrated throughout Assam on 17th October 2024



- Celebrated in the month of Kati (Kartik), which is usually in mid-October
- The festival of Bihu has three forms: Bohag Bihu, Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu.
- Bohag Bihu: also called Rongali Bihu or Xaat Bihu

   Celebrated in the month of Bohag (Baisakh),
   which is usually in mid-April (onset of the seeding season). It is the Assamese New Year and is celebrated with great fanfare.
- Magh Bihu: Also called Bhogali Celebrated in the month of Magh, which is usually in mid-January. It marks the end of the harvesting season
- Kati Bihu: It is also known as Kongali Bihu.
   (Kongali means poor) usually in mid-October.
   While Bohag and Magh Bihu are celebrated with
   exuberance, Kati Bihu emphasizes humility,
   reflection, and prayers for prosperity.
- It emphasizes gratitude towards nature, hope for a good harvest, and the importance of perseverance in times of hardship.

# In Assam's Goalpara district, a unique initiative called "Comics Commandos" has been launched



combat labour child

and marriage using grassroots comics.

to

child

 30 local youths trained to create comic strips with minimum text and humour for better public engagement.

### Karimganj District Gets New Name Sribhumi, Says CM Sarma



- Karimganj district in Barak Valley is now officially
   Sribhumi district, and Karimganj town is renamed
   Sribhumi town.
- Over 100 years ago, Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore had described modern-day Karimganj district in Assam as Sribhumi - the land of Maa Lakshmi
- The State of Assam is divided into 35
   Administrative Districts.
- Karbi Anglong is the largest district of Assam with nearly 10,434 square kilometers
- · Majuli is the first river island district of India.



## IIT Guwahati hosts 2024 India International Science Festival



- The India International Science Festival is the largest science event in the country,
- For the first time being held in the country's Northeastern region.

- The IIT Guwahati will host the 10th India International Science Festival 2024 from 30 November to 3 December 2024.
- Theme is "Transforming India into an S&T-driven Global Manufacturing Hub"
- The 9th edition of the India International Science Festival 2023 was held in Faridabad, Haryana, in January 2024.
- The 1st edition was held at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi in 2015.
- The India International Science Festival is organised by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and the Union Ministry of Earth Science in association with Vijnana Bharati.

### Assam Bans Beef Consumption in Hotels and Public Places



- The consumption of beef in hotels, restaurants, festivals, and community events has been prohibited from
- This decision aligns with the Assam Cattle
   Preservation Act, passed in 2021, which aims to regulate cattle slaughter.
- Currently, the Act bans cattle slaughter and the sale of beef in areas where Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs are in the majority, and within a five kilometre radius of their places of worship.

# India conducts first-ever Ganges River Dolphin tagging in Assam



- first-ever Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista* gangetica) has been tagged in Assam.
- This initiative, conducted under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate

Change (MoEFCC), was implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and Aaranyak, with funding from the National CAMPA Authority.

- This is the first tagging, not only in India, but also for the species.
- will deepen our understanding of conserving our National Aquatic Animal
- Approximately 90% of the species' population resides in India, historically distributed across the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli river systems

#### **Protection Status:**

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 : Schedule I
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Appendix I
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):Appendix 1

#### Manipur

- 1. foundation day
- 2. 9th Amur Falcon Festival
- 3. Endangered Meitei Ponies
- 4. Khongjom Day
- 5. School On Wheels
- 6. Mera Hou Chongba 2024

### 21st January Manipur foundation day

- Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh
- Governor :Lakshman Acharya
- Capital: Imphal
- Date of Creation: 21st January 1972
- State Language: Manipuri
   State Emblem: Kangla Shaa
   State Bird: Nongyeen
   State Animal: Sangai
   State Flower : Siroi Lily

Lake: Loktak

The only Floating Lake in the world Largest freshwater lake in North - East India

*Tribes*: Aimol, Angami, Gangte, Koirao, Lamgang, Maring, Monsang, Purum, Ralte, Suhte, Thadou, Zou, Tarao, Kharam

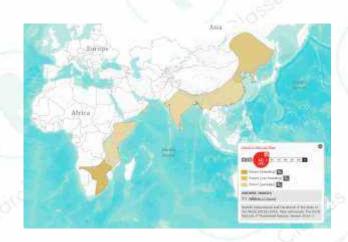
Manipur has only one national park, which is called Keibul Lamjao National Park(**The world's only floating park**). It is situated in the Bishnupur district of the Indian state of Manipur. It was established in 1966 as a wildlife sanctuary before becoming a national park in the year 1977.

#### Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Yangoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bunning Wildlife Sanctuary
- Jiri-Makru Wildlife Sanctuary
- Keilam Wildlife Sanctuary
- Shiroy Community Forest
- Zeilad Lake Sanctuary
- Dzukou Valley

# 9<sup>th</sup> Amur Falcon Festival celebrated with great fervour in Manipur

- The 9th Amur Falcon Festival was celebrated in Tamenglong, Manipur
- to raise awareness about Amur falcons
- Theme Rhythm of Migration
- Amur Falcons (Falco amurensis) are small raptors named after the Amur River, bordering Russia and China.
- Locally known as Akhuipuina, the bird arrives mainly in Manipur and Nagaland.



They breed in southeastern Siberia and northern
 China and migrate across India to Africa, returning to Mongolia and Siberia.



- These falcons roost in Tamenglong during
   October-November, migrating to southern and
   eastern Africa.
- The one-way journey via India is about 20,000 km long and the birds do this twice a year.
- · Nagaland -"Falcon Capital of the World".
- It is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act
   1972 and included under its Schedule IV.
- IUCN: Least Concern.
- It is also listed in Appendix II of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- Threats: Illegal trapping and killing during migration, habitat loss from agricultural practices and land reclamation.

# Rs 371-crore proposal submitted to MHA for Cyclone Remal damages



- Manipur Water Resources Minister proposal of Rs 371 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to cover the damage caused by Cyclone Remal in late May.
- Remal is the first of the frequent storms expected to pound the low-lying coasts of India and Bangladesh this year as climate change drives up sea surface temperatures
- It was the first depression and the first cyclonic storm of the 2024 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.

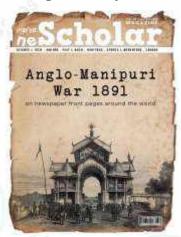
- The storm's speed was between 100 and 135 kilometres per hour during landfall in the coastal area.
- The name 'Remal' has been suggested by Oman and means 'sand' in Arabic.

### Manipur Assembly has constituted a 12member committee to study illegal migration in the state



- The Manipur State Assembly formed a house committee to investigate illegal migrations in the state.
- Awangbow Newmai, Minister of Water Resources and Relief & Disaster Management, has been appointed as the committee's Chairman.

### Manipur Observes Patriots' Day with Tributes to Anglo-Manipuri War Martyrs



Manipur observed Patriots' Day on 13<sup>th</sup> august , remembering those martyrs who laid down their lives during the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891.

#### Timeline of the Anglo-Manipur War (1891):

- 1891
  - Pre-1891: Succession dispute in Manipur; British interference increases tension.

- 24 Mar. 1891
  - British political agent and officials killed in Manipur during the palace revolt.
- Apr. 1891
  - British launch a military expedition against Manipur.
- 27 Apr. 1891
  - Battle at Kangla Palace; British forces capture the palace after fierce fighting.
- May 1891
  - Manipur formally annexed by the British; Tikendrajit Singh and other leaders captured.
- 13 Aug. 1891
  - Execution of Tikendrajit Singh and other leaders; British establish direct control over Manipur.

### Manipur Takes Steps To Save Endangered Meitei Ponies



- · Chief Minister N Biren Singh
- To protect the endangered Manipuri Pony, government allotted 30 acres of grassy fields at Lamphelpat, Imphal West where they can freely roam and graze.
- The Manipur State Government has been taking up various measures to protect the Manipuri Pony or Meitei Sagol which is closely tied to the state's history & culture.
- The Meitei Sagol is one of the seven recognised horse and pony breeds of India.
- The others include the Marwari Horse, the Kathiawari Horse, the Zanskari Pony, the Spiti Pony, the Bhutia Pony and the Kachhi-Sindhi Horse.
- The population of the Manipuri Pony, a highly valued breed, has been dwindling rapidly in recent times - from 1,898 animals in the 17th Quinquennial Livestock Census 2003 to only 1,089 in the last livestock census done in 2019
- The Manipur government declared the Manipuri
   Pony as an Endangered Breed in 2013.

 The breed is regarded as the original polo pony as modern polo is derived from the traditional Sagol Kangjei sport of Manipur.

### Khongjom Day: Observed To Pay Tribute To Fighter Of Anglo-Manipuri War



- In Manipur, Khongjom Day is observed annually on 23rd April to pay tribute to brave souls who, led by Paona Brajabashi, fought against the British at the Kheba hills of Khongjom during Battle of the Anglo-Manipuri War, 1891.
- In March 1891, the British Army fired the first shot at Kangla with the objective of arresting Yuvaraj Tikendrajit
- The war lasted between 31 March and 27 April 1891, ending in a British victory.
- Following this, Manipur lost its sovereignty to the British.

# Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey Inaugurates 'School On Wheels'



- Manipur, Governor Anusuiya Uikey inaugurated
   'School on Wheels' at a ceremony held in Imphal.
- The initiative which is being implemented by Vidya Bharati Shiksha Vikash Samiti Manipur aims to reach out to the students in the relief camps in the State.

 The school bus is equipped with a library, computers and sports items with a teacher and visits relief camps in different places in the State.

### Ahead of Amur falcon's arrival, Manipur district bans their hunting

- Manipur's Tamenglong district gears up to welcome Amur falcon (Falco amurensis), locally known as 'Kahuaipuina'.
- Also organises 'Amur
   Falcon' festival annually.



- Thousands of migratory birds arrive in Tamenglong and bordering areas from their breeding grounds in Northern China, Eastern Mongolia and far East Russia in the first half of October and roost until November-end, before resuming their journey for the wintering grounds in South Africa.
- Poaching and destruction of wildlife (including migratory birds Amur falcon) is a punishable offence under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and included under its Schedule IV.
- IUCN: Least Concern.

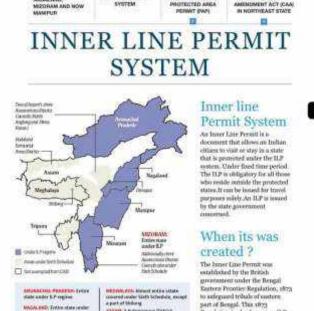


### Manipur celebrated Mera Hou Chongba 2024



Mera Hou Chongba – an annual festival observed in order to strengthen the cordial bond between the indigenous communities living in hills and valley people, held at Imphal.  It is only a festival wherein both hills and valley indigenous communities are observed together in the State and the day is General Holiday in Manipur.

## Manipur marks 5 years of Inner Line Permit system



- The Manipur government celebrated the 5th anniversary of the reimplementation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) System at a commemorative event held at the City Convention Centre.
- The Inner Line Permit (ILP) system is an offshoot of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, by which an "Inner Line" was prescribed for the tribal areas.
- It is an official document issued by the state governments of ILP states for visiting any restricted or protected areas of these states, as defined by the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order of 1958.
- The Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, to give effect to the Foreigners Act, 1946, defines the 'Inner Line'
- It is the last point, up to the international border, where a foreign traveller can visit on a visa and Indian citizens can visit without the requirement of any special permit. Beyond this point, the visitor needs to have the Special Permit.
- Inner Line Permit: The Inner Line Permit is the travel document that must be availed by domestic tourists to visit these Protected and Restricted Areas of the ILP states, for a limited period.
- ILP States: Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur.

 Types of ILP: There are different types of ILPs, one for tourists and another for people who plan to stay for an extended period, often for work.

Who is not eligible for an Inner Line Permit?

Ans. NRIs (Indians who are staying abroad for more than 6 months), PIO Card holders, and OCI holders are not eligible for Inner Line Permit.

# Manipur: Nupi Lal Numit-2024 observed, paying tribute to Manipuri women freedom fighters



- Manipur commemorated Nupi Lal Numit on 12<sup>th</sup>
   December by offering profound tributes to women freedom fighters who participated in 'Nupi Lal' (women's war) against British actions in 1904 and 1939.
- On this day in 1939, hundreds of Manipuri women took to the streets of Imphal demanding a complete stoppage of the indiscriminate export of rice by the British rulers which resulted in a famine-like situation in the state.
- The protest led to a confrontation with the British troops and triggered the Nupi Lal (Women's War) of 1939.
- A similar uprising had also taken place in 1904.

### Amit Shah To Initiate Talks With Meiteis And Kukis To Iron Out Ethnic Issues In Manipur



 Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the government will engage in talks with both Meiteis and Kukis to address the ethnic divide in Manipur as soon as possible.

- The Home Minister called for "strategic deployment of central forces to restore peace and tranquillity in Manipur
- Ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023 after a tribal solidarity march in the hill districts of the state to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.
- Meiteis account for about 53% of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley
- While tribals, which include Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40% and reside mainly in the hill districts.

#### Meitei

- The Meitei people, also known as the Manipuri people, are the predominant ethnic group of Manipur State.
- speak the Meitei language (officially called Manipuri), one of the 22 official languages of India and the sole official language of Manipur State.
- The Meitei ethnic group represents about 53% of Manipur's population.
- They are divided into clans, the members of which do not intermarry.
- Rice cultivation on irrigated fields is the basis of their economy.
- Religion: A majority follow Hinduism, around 16% believe in Sanamahi religion named after god Sanamahi, while more than 8% are Muslims.
- Yaoshang Festival is celebrated by the Meitei people at the same time as Holi and is known as 'Manipur's version of Holi'.

#### Kukis

- They are an ethnic group comprising multiple tribes who originally inhabited the North-Eastern states of India, parts of Myanmar, and Bangladesh.
- They are present in all Northeast Indian states except Arunachal Pradesh.
- Around 50 tribes of Kuki peoples in India are recognised as scheduled tribes.
- The Chin people of Myanmar and the Mizo people of Mizoram are kindred tribes of the Kukis and are collectively known as the Zo people.
- Normally they do not arrange any marriage alliance outside their community.
- Traditionally they were not Christian but animist and worshipped different deities and spirits.
- But for the last 90 years, the majority of them have embraced Christianity as their religion.
- LAL is a term used to denote village chief.

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### Meghalaya

- 1. formation day
- 2. Seng Khihlang Festival
- 3. OTT Platform 'Hello Meghalaya'
- 4. GREEN Meghalaya Plus Scheme
- State Animal Clouded Leopard
- State Bird Hill Myna
- State Flower Lady Slipper Orchid
- State Tree Gamhar
- Language Khasi, Pnar, Garo & English

**Biosphere Reserve**: Norkek Biosphere Reserve National Park: Balphakram National Park

*Tribes*: Khasis (largest group) followed by the Garos then the Jaintias.

# Khasi Tribe's 34<sup>th</sup> Seng Khihlang Festival Concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya



- The Khasi people are an indigenous ethnic group residing in the eastern part of Meghalaya, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills of north-eastern India.
- They are the largest community in the state

## India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair Established at IIM Shillong



- India's first Gati Shakti Research Chair to be established at Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.
- An MoU was signed between ministry of ports, shipping and and waterways (MoPSW) and the IIM

### 21st January Meghalaya foundation day

- Meghalaya was formed by carving out two districts from the state of Assam: the United Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills, and the Garo Hills.
- Capital Shillong
- Date of Formation 02, April 1970 (autonomous state)21,
   January 1972 (full-fledged state) State Boundaries Assam
- Chief Minister: Conrad SangmaGovernor: C. H. Vijayashankar

#### Wildlife Sanctuaries:

- Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary
- Siju Sanctuary
- · Baghmara Sanctuary

The Chair will contribute towards high-quality academic research on multimodal logistics with a North-East focus: building knowledge on multimodal logistics development strategies and practice in the North-Eastern region, facilitate knowledge and innovation for logistical capacity building in the region.

# Govt Launches OTT Platform 'Hello Meghalaya'



- The platform would provide film-makers up to ₹5
  lakh per film with additional funding for
  nationally or internationally acclaimed films.
- To cater for the huge youth population base, the Government of Meghalaya introduced Hello Meghalaya OTT platform that intends to engage them in productive activities and enable economic growth.
- Set with an aim to promote regional languages with a limited reach or small market
- It is the second such State-owned platform for creative content creators after CSpace was launched by the Kerala government

### GREEN Meghalaya Plus Scheme Unveiled by CM in Tura



 Conrad K Sangma, Meghalaya Chief Minister launched the GREEN (Grassroot level Response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing) Meghalaya Plus (GMP) Scheme

#### **Objective**

- The scheme focuses on expanding forest conservation across the state by offering monetary rewards for protecting forested areas.
- The GREEN Meghalaya Plus initiative is part of the state government's Payment for Ecosystem
   Services (PES) program, which was launched in 2022,
- PES Program supports villages, communities, clans, or individuals that commit to conserve and protect natural forests for a minimum period of 30 years.

## Centre says Meghalaya polio case is vaccine-derived

- A case of vaccine-derived polio has been confirmed in a two-year-old child from Tikrikilla in Meghalaya.
- this is not a case of wild polio, but an infection that presents in some people with low immunity.
- The World Health Organisation declared India polio-free in 2014 after the last case of wild poliovirus in the country was reported in 2011.
- Polio (poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious viral disease that enters the body through the mouth, multiplying in the intestine before invading the nervous system.
- It mainly affects children under 5 years of age.
- Initial symptoms of poliovirus infection include fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs.
- Up to 90% of those infected with poliovirus experience no or mild symptoms, often going unrecognised.
- Global Polio Eradication Initiative: It was launched in 1988 by national governments and spearheaded by the WHO, Rotary International, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

World Polio Day: It is observed every year on **24**<sup>th</sup> **October** in order to call on countries to stay vigilant in their fight against the disease

#### **Pulse Polio Immunization Programme**

- With the global initiative of eradication of polio in 1988 following the World Health Assembly resolution in 1988,
- Pulse Polio Immunization programme was launched in India in the financial year 1994-95.

#### **Inactivated Polio** Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) Vaccine (IPV) **Advantages:** Advantages: IPV is made OPV is less expensive from killed or to produce and inactivated administer compared to IPV. poliovirus, which OPV only requires a means it cannot single or a few doses cause the disease. IPV is safe for use in to provide effective immunocompromis immunity. ed individuals, as it OPV can provide does not contain better mucosal live virus. immunity, which IPV provides longhelps to interrupt the transmission of the lasting immunity and does virus. not require multiple doses to maintain **Disadvantages:** protection. OPV contains live, weakened poliovirus, Disadvantages: which in rare cases IPV is more can mutate and cause expensive to vaccine-derived produce and poliovirus (VDPV) administer outbreaks. compared to OPV. OPV is not **IPV** requires recommended for use multiple doses in immunocompromis (usually a series of ed individuals, as the 2-4 shots) to live virus can pose a

risk. OPV-

derived immunity

derived immunity.

lasting as IPV-

may not be as long-

achieve full

IPV does not

provide the same

level of mucosal

immunity as OPV,

which can limit its

ability to interrupt the transmission of

immunity.

the virus.

#### **Mizoram**

- 1. formation day
- 2. Chapchar Kut festival
- 3. 'Bana Kaih' scheme
- North: Assam and Manipur
- East and South: Myanmar
- · West: Bangladesh and Tripura
- Chief Minister: PU LALDUHOMA
- Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
- Capital: Aizawl
- Date of Formation: Feburary 1987
- State Border: Assam, Tripura, Manipur
- International Border: Myanmar, Bangladesh
- State Animal: Serow (Saza)
- State Bird: Hume's Bartailed Pheaasant (Vavu)
- State Flower: Dancing Girl (Aiting)
- State Tree: Mesual Ferrea/ Nahar (Herhse)

#### Wildlife sanctuary

- Dampa Tiger Reserve
- Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary
- Khawnglung Wildlife sanctuary
- Lengteng Wildlife sanctuary
- Tawi Wildlife sanctuary
- Thorangtlang Wildlife sanctuary
- Pualreng Wildlife sanctuary
- Tokalo Wildlife sanctuary

### Mizoram's Aizawl to Become the Fourth Capital in Northeast India to gain Railway Connectivity

- The city of Aizawl in Mizoram will be the fourth capital in Northeast India to have train service by July 2025.
- Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is laying the new Broad Gauge (BG) track up to Sairang, near Aizawl
- Assam's main city of Guwahati (adjoining capital Dispur), Tripura capital Agartala, and Arunachal Pradesh's Naharlagun (adjacent to capital city Itanagar) are already connected with the railway network.

#### **Project Overview**

- Bairabi-Sairang railway project goes from Bairabi to Sairang in Mizoram's Aizawl District and is 52 km long.
- This project, which started in 2008-2009 and cost about Rs 8,213.72 crore, is meant to improve transportation in the area.

### 20th February Mizoram foundation day

- Mizoram became the 23rd State of the Union in 20<sup>th</sup> February 1987.
- Mizoram is a landlocked state in the northeast of India.
- It shares borders with the following states and countries:

#### **National Park**

- Murlen National Park
- Phawngpui National Park

#### Tribes

- Chakma
- Garo
- Hajong
- Lakher
- Mikir
- Synteng



### Chapchar Kut festival celebrated across Mizoram

- Chapchar Kut the **biggest festival of Mizoram** was celebrated across the state with full traditional fervor and festivities.
- Chapchar Kut is celebrated to thank God after completion of their most arduous task of jhum

**operation - jungle clearing** (clearing of the remnants of burning) at the beginning of a year.



## Mizoram launches 'Bana Kaih' scheme to support farmers and entrepreneurs

- The Chief Minister of Mizoram, Pu Lalduhoma, launched the state's new flagship initiative, the Handholding Scheme (Bana Kaih)
- To provide financial assistance and support to entrepreneurs and farmers across the state
- The Handholding Scheme comprises five key components
- collateral free and Interest free bank loan



- financial support package for selected progress partners (beneficiaries) - loans up to Rs. 50 lakh through partner banks
- state government will serve as a guarantor for these project loans under existing national credit guarantee schemes
- Beneficiaries who consistently repay their loans may also benefit from interest subvention of up to 100%.
- also includes the Chief Minister's Special Category
   Scheme, which provides grant-in-aid of up to Rs. 1
   lakh
- the government has introduced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for four key crops: Ginger, Broom, Turmeric, and Mizo Birdeye Chilli
- Another important component is support to the implementing department.
- the financial year 2024-2025 has been declared as the Year of Consolidation for Mizoram. This means that the state will focus on improving its fiscal health, reducing debt, and curbing fiscal deficits

#### **Nagaland**

- 1. formation day
- 2. First State to Implement Disaster Insurance
- 3. Rusoma Orange Festival 2024
- 4. Hornbill Festival
- 5. 17th district of Nagaland

### 1st December Nagaland foundation day

- Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Governor: La. Ganesan
- Date of Formation: December 1st, 1963
- Nagaland statehood day also marks the beginning of Hornbill festival in Nagaland.
- Capital: Kohima
- State Border : Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur
- International Border: Myanmar (Burma)
- Languages: Nagamese, Cerole, Assamese, English

State Animal: Mithun

State Bird: Blyth's Tragopan

State Tree: Alder State Flower : Kopou

#### **Tribes**

- Angami
- Khiamniungan
- Lotha
- Sumi
- Ao
- Kuki

### Dances

Aaluyattu

Phom

Sangtam

- Sadal Kekai
- Rangma
- Chang Lo
- Monyo Asho



#### **National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary**

- Ntangki National Park
- · Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary

### Nagaland Becomes First State to Implement Disaster Insurance



- CM Neiphiu Rio govt and SBI General Insurance inked an MoU for DRTPS, making Nagaland the first state in the country to implement a disaster risk management insurance solution.
- Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance
   Solution (DRTPS) will aid in protecting the state's
   critical infrastructure and reduce economic losses
   due to a disaster.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Rusoma Orange Festival 2024 held In Nagaland



- The fourth edition of the annual Orange Festival began at Local ground Rusoma village, Kohima.
- Theme "Organic Orange".

## Tizu Zunki River to boost Nagaland's economic development

 Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced the harnessing of Tizu Zunki River for cargo and passenger transport, alongside plans to develop Doyang River Lake with community jetties and ferries to boost tourism.

- Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary
- Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary
- Rangapahar Forest Reserve



- This river is a part of the National Waterway 101.
- The **Tizu River** forms an important drainage system in the **eastern part of Nagaland.**
- It originates from the central part of Nagaland state and runs through a northeast direction, and confluneces in the Chindwin River of Myanmar, which further enters into Irrawaddy River - the largest river of Myanmar
- The Zunki River which is the tributary of Tizu, starts from the north-eastern part.

### **Konyak Union Seeks Boundary Correction from Nagaland CM**

- A tribal group in Nagaland called the Konyak
   Union has raised concerns with the Chief Minister
   of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio, about mistakes in how
   the boundary between Mon district (in Nagaland)
   and Charaideo district (in Assam) is shown on
   Google Maps.
- The boundary line covers 80-85% of Tizit town (in Mon district) within Assam
- Nagaland became a state in 1963 when parts of Assam were reorganized.

### Nagaland Partners with Wales for 25<sup>th</sup> Hornbill Festival



 The Department of Tourism, Nagaland, is all set to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Hornbill Festival, scheduled from December 1 to 10 at the Heritage Village, Kisama.



- Wales is in the southwestern part of the island of Great Britain. It borders England on the east. On the other three sides it is surrounded by water.
- The Hornbill first festival was held in 2000.

There are 9 hornbill species in India of which Great Hornbill is the most famous.

#### **Great Hornbill:**

- > Scientific name: Buceros bicornis.
- Common name: Great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill.

#### Conservation:

- > IUCN Status: Near Threatened.
- > It is listed in Appendix I of CITES.
- The great hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal in India.
- Nagaland's state bird: Blyth's tragopan.



## Meluri officially becomes 17<sup>th</sup> district of Nagaland



 The State government has upgraded Meluri subdivision under Phek district to a full-fledged district with immediate effect, becoming the 17th district of Nagaland.  bifurcation of Phek district to make Meluri subdivision a new district for the Pochury community.



- Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio
- Governor La Ganesan

### Japan and Wales to Partner with Nagaland for Hornbill Festival 2024



- Japan has been announced as the country partner for the upcoming Hornbill Festival in Nagaland, alongside Wales, which was previously confirmed as a partner country.
- The Hornbill Festival, also known as the "Festival of Festivals," is an annual celebration that showcases the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland.
- This year's festival, scheduled to take place from December 1 to 10 at Kisama near Kohima.
- There are 9 hornbill species in India of which Great Hornbill is the most famous.
- Great Hornbill:
  - > Scientific name: Buceros bicornis
  - Common name: Great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill.
- Range:
  - It is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
  - The bulk of the population is found in India, where it is restricted to the Himalayan foothills, hill forests in northeast India and, disjunctly, the wet evergreen forests of west India.
- Conservation:
  - IUCN Status: 'Vulnerable'
  - It is listed in Appendix I of CITES.

#### **Sikkim**

- 1. formation day
- 2. rare Tibetan Brown Bear
- 3. Sonam Lhosar festival
- 4. Sikkim's First Railway Station In Rangpo
- 5. 'Savera' program
- 6. Saga Dawa Festival

State Animal: Red Panda
 State Bird: Blood Pheasant
 State Tree: Rhododendron

State Flower: Noble Orchid

· National park: Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve

Kanchenjunga National Park is the first mixed site of UNESCO's World Heritage list.

River: Lachung, Rangeet, Tista,

Passes: Nathu La, Jelep La, Dingkia

· Tribes: Limboo, Bhutia, Tamang, Lepcha

• Borders: Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north and northeast, Bhutan to the southeast, Indian state of West Bengal to the south and Nepal to the west.

# India records its first-ever confirmed sighting of a rare Tibetan Brown Bear

 India's wildlife officials confirmed the first-ever sighting of the rare Tibetan Brown Bear (scientific

name: Ursus arctos pruinosus) in the high altitudes of North Sikkim. IUCN status -Endangered





### Sonam Lhosar celebrated in Nepal

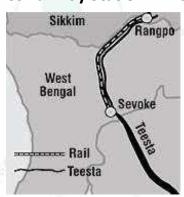


- Sonam Lhosar is a festival celebrated by the Tamang and Hyolmo communities of Nepal and the Sikkim and Darjeeling regions of India on New Year's Day.
- It falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice, which is usually the Magh Sukla Pratipada on the eastern lunar calendar.
- The tiger year enters after completing the cow year.

### 16th may Sikkim foundation day

- In 1950, the Indo-Sikkimese treaty was signed. With this, Sikkim became a protectorate of India.
- The Namgyal dynasty ruled Sikkim till 1975.
- Sikkim joined the Union of India on May 16, 1975.
- Sikkim is the first state in the country to become 100% organic.
- Chief Minister: Prem Singh Tamang (Shri PS Golay)
- · Governor: Om Prakash Mathur

### PM Modi laid Foundation stone for Sikkim's First Railway Station In Rangpo



 Sikkim is the only state that does not have a railway line.

#### Part of Sevoke-Rangpo Railway Line

- spanning 45 kilometers from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim
- The government has signed this project in three phases. In the first phase, Sevoke to the Rangpo rail project; in the other phase, from Rangpo to Gangtok; and the third phase, from Gangtok to Nathula

### 'Savera' program for early detection, prevention of breast cancer launched in Haryana

 Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the Savera program

- The Savera scheme will leverage the assistance of visually impaired women for breast cancer screening
- Visually impaired people can detect breast cancer up to half a centimeter, whereas a normal doctor can detect it up to one centimeter, after examination
- initiated by the Medanta Foundation in collaboration with the Health Department in Gurgaon.
- The initiative is first-of-its-kind in the country

# Sikkim INSPIRES, a world bank assisted programme launched in state



- Sikkim INSPIRES (Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Revising Economics) is a World Bank-assisted program that was launched on February 15, 2024 in Gangtok.
- The program is a collaboration between the Government of Sikkim and the World Bank. It is the first direct partnership between the two.
- Aimed at fostering economic growth and inclusion.
- The programme focuses on providing better economic opportunities for women and youth through training and employment initiatives.
- The initiative will engage 9 government departments over the next 5 years to create an ecosystem for economic prosperity, emphasizing collaboration and capacity-building across various sectors.

#### **About Sikkim**

- Sikkim is the least populated and second smallest state in India.
- On May 16, 1975, the Indian Parliament passed the 36th Amendment to the Indian Constitution, which formally recognized Sikkim as the 22nd state of the Indian Union.
- Before 1975, Sikkim was a small Buddhist kingdom ruled by the Namgyal Dynasty.

• Sikkim is bordered by Bhutan to the east, Nepal to the west, Tibet Autonomous Region of P.R.C. to the north, and West Bengal to the south.



- Sikkim is home to **Kanchenjunga**, the world's third tallest mountain and India's highest peak.
- It is a glacier hotspot and has the highest lakes in India (Cholamu or Tso Lhamo)
- It is India's largest producer of cardamom.
- Capital Gangtok
- Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang

### Sikkim Celebrates Saga Dawa Festival



- Sikkim is celebrating Saga Dawa, a festival that falls annually on the 15th day (full moon) of the fourth month of the Northern Buddhist Calendar
- Saga Dawa is considered the most sacred Buddhist festival, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana (passing away) of Buddha Shakyamuni.
- This day is also known as the 'Triple Blessed Occasion'.
- Tibetan Buddhist calendar is a lunisolar calendar:

#### Imp. Buddhist festivals in Sikkim:

- Losar (Tibetan New Year):
  - When: 1st day of the 1st month (February-March)
- Saga Dawa:
  - When: 4th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (May-June)
  - Description: This festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death (parinirvana) of Lord Buddha.

#### **Buddhist festivals in Sikkim:**

- Drukpa Tshechi:
  - When: 6th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (July-August)
  - Description: Celebrates the first sermon of Lord Buddha at Sarnath.
- Pang Lhabsol:
  - When: 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (August-September)
  - Description: This unique festival is dedicated to Mount Kanchenjunga

# Sikkim High Court introduces menstrual leave policy for its women employees

- In a first-of-its-kind move, the Sikkim High Court has introduced a menstrual leave policy for its women employees in the registry.
- The Sikkim High Court registry stated that women employees may avail "2-3 days of menstrual leave" in a month.
- However, such leave would only be granted on the prior recommendation of the Medical Officer of the High Court.



- This leave will not be counted against the employee's overall leave account
- The Sikkim HC, the country's smallest High Court, has three judges, with just 9 officers in the registry including one woman officer.
- The Sikkim High Court is the first High Court to introduce a menstrual leave policy. Currently, there is no national policy or law for menstrual leave.

#### **Arunachal Pradesh**

- 1. formation day
- 2. Longte festival
- 3. transitioning from jhum Cultivation
- 4. Sela Tunnel
- 5. Gorsam Kora Festival
- 6. 6th Arunachal Literature Festival

Animal : BlackbuckBird : Indian Roller

Tree : Neem

Flower :Water lily

 Biosphere Reserve: Dehang Bebang (Musk Deer, Mishmi Takin)

#### Dances

- Chham
- Mask dance (Mukhauta Nritya)
- War dance
- Buiya
- Chalo
- Wancho Pasi Kongki
- Ponung
- Popir
- Bardo

### 20th February Arunachal Pradesh foundation day

- Mizoram, as well as the state of Arunachal Pradesh, came into existence on 20 February 1987.
- · Chief Minister: Pema Khandu
- Governor: Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
- Capital : Itanagar
- State Boundaries: Assam, Nagaland
- International boundaries: Myanmar (440Km), Bhutan (160Km) and China (1030Km)Separated from China by McMohan line, which is disputed.

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

- Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary & Tiger reserve
- Talle Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary
- Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mouling National Park

#### **Mountain Pass**

- Bombdila Pass (India-Tibet)
- Bum La Pass (India-Tibet)
- Tunga Pass (India-Tibet)
- Dihang Pass (India-Tibet)



### Nyishi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh celebrates Longte festival

- The Longte is one of the oldest and agriculturally significant festivals of the Nyishi tribe
- It is a harbinger of a new season after which the sowing of seeds begins on cultivated fields.
- The largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh is the Nyishis community

#### Popular festivals in Arunachal Pradesh:

- Siang River Festival
- Pangsau Pass Winter Festival
- Ziro Festival of Music
- Solung
- Nyokum
- Losar Festival
- Dree Festival
- · Boori Boot
- Loku
- Sanken

## Arunachal fast transitioning from *jhum* to settled farming

- Subsistence farming in Arunachal Pradesh is fast transitioning from *jhum* or shifting cultivation to settled agriculture
- a new study brought out by MSME Export
  Promotion Council and the Confederation of
  Organic Food Products and Marketing Agencies, for
  the period of 2018-19 to 2022-23, stated that
  Arunachal has a huge potential for agro, forest,
  mineral-based micro, small and medium
  enterprises.
- The study, titled 'Arunachal Pradesh Investment, Growth, and Development with Immense Opportunities with Asian Countries',

### **Shifting Cultivation**



 Shifting agriculture, in which tracts—called jhum are cleared by burning the vegetation, is cultivated for several years, and then is abandoned in favour

- of another site when the productivity of the soil declines.
- After about a decade, the old site may be reused for cultivation. This method of cultivation is also known as Slash and burn agriculture.

## PM Modi inaugurates Sela Tunnel connecting Assam to Arunachal



- Sela Tunnel is constructed by the Border Roads
   Organisation (BRO) at an altitude of 13,000 feet on
   the road
- connecting Tezpur, Assam to Tawang in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Built at a total cost of Rs 825 crore
- It is the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude above 13,000 ft
- The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang across Sela Pass on the Balipara -Chariduar - Tawang Road.
- This tunnel will also ensure that the Chinese are not able to monitor traffic movement in the area.
   The Sela Pass, at 13,700 feet, is currently visible to the Chinese and hence can observe all kinds of military movement.
- The Sela Tunnel consists of one main tunnel and one escape tunnel — both 1,555 metres-long besides a shorter tunnel of 980 metres and a 1.2 km road.
- The Sela Tunnel has been constructed using the new Austrian Tunnelling Method.
- The foundation stone of the tunnel was laid by the Prime Minister on February 09, 2019, and the construction commenced on April 01, 2019.

### Bichom Becomes Arunachal Pradesh's 27th District



- Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, became the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Earlier in March, Keyi Panyor, carved out of Lower
   Subansiri, became the 26th district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- In February 2024, the state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 for the creation of Bichom and Keyi Panyor districts.

# PM lays foundation stone for 2,880 MW Dibang Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh



- Dibang Multipurpose Hydropower Project of NHPC
   <u>Limited</u> near Munli village in Lower Dibang Valley
   district of Arunachal Pradesh is scheduled to be
   commissioned in February 2032.
- To be built at a cost of more than Rs. 31,875
   crores, the project will have a 278-metres-high
   dam, which would be the highest Concrete-Gravity
   Dam of India.
- The Dam is planned to be constructed with Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) technique and it will be the highest RCC Dam of the World.
- Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. Gen Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik;
- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu:
- Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Chowna Mein.

## Gorsam Kora Festival in Tawang's Zemithang

 This annual festival, the Gorsam Kora was celebrated at Gorsam Chorten, a 93-foot-tall Stupa from 7-10 March.





- Zemithang Valley along the Nyanmjang Chu River holds historical significance as the sanctuary where the 14th Dalai Lama found refuge upon his escape from Tibet in 1959.
- This landmark and icon for Himalayan Buddhism is older than the Tawang Monastery



- This year theme 'Zero Waste Festival'
- Thousands of devotees including a large number of Bhutanese nationals visit during the Gorsam Kora festival
- Zemithang Valley has many villages nominated under the central government's Vibrant Village Program

#### **Vibrant Village Program**

- a Centrally sponsored scheme, approved on 15th
   Feb, 2023
- development of villages on the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages.
- It will cover the border areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh.
- opportunities for livelihood generation through promotion of tourism & cultural heritage, skill development & entrepreneurship and development of cooperative societies etc.

 The interventions also include providing road connectivity to unconnected villages, housing & village infrastructure, energy including renewable energy, television & telecom connectivity.

# Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Passed The Arunachal Pradesh Public Examination Bill, 2024 Unanimously

- The bill on recruitment tests is aimed at providing effective measures to prevent and curb offences of question paper leaks and use of unfair means in examinations for the purpose of recruitment to any post under the state government
- Punishment with imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years, which may be extended to 5 years, and with a fine up to Rs 1 crore.
- provision of debarring convicted candidates for a lifetime from appearing in any recruitment examinations in the state

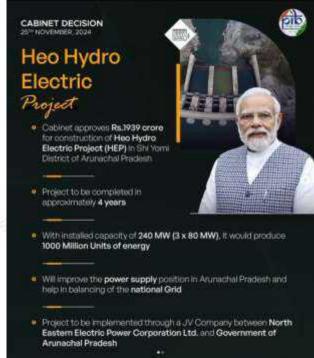
## 6th Arunachal Literature Festival begins in Itanagar

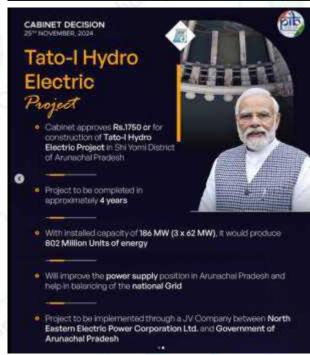


- The three-day event was inaugurated by Governor
   Lt Gen KT Parnaik (Retd)
- a book titled "Myth, Memory and Folktale of the Wancho Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh" jointly authored by Tara Douglas from England and Jatwang Wangsa from Arunachal Pradesh was also released by the Governor

### CCEA Approves two Hydro Electric Projects in Arunachal Pradesh

- The two hydropower projects in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh.:
  - 186 MW Tato-I Hydro Electric Project
  - > 240 MW Heo Hydro Electric Project
- Central govt will extend budgetary support
- The projects will be implemented through joint venture companies between Northeastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.





### Arunachal Pradesh launches Mission Arun Himveer



- The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has launched Mission Arun Himveer to enhance market linkages for local agricultural and horticultural producers.
- The Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board (APAMB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), North East Frontier.
- Under the MoU signed, the state government will supply fruits, vegetables, meat and poultry products to the ITBP procured from local farmers, Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations and farmer cooperatives, through the APAMB.
- Under the Mission, 100% of the funds will go directly to the farmers.

# Arunachal Pradesh CM unveils new logo of 4th Edition of Eaglenest Bird Festival

 The 4th edition of the Eaglenest Bird Festival is scheduled to take place from January 17-19, 2025, at Khellong (Doimara) and Thongre village in Arunachal Pradesh.





- The announcement was made during the grand finale of the 4th Mon Sergyeling & Mon Rigzung Sergyeling festival in Tawang, where the festival's new logo was also unveiled.
- Notable highlights include the declaration of the "Trail of His Holiness the Dalai Lama," a culturally significant route, and the opening of the Eco Bio-Diversity Park at Atho-Nyo (Doimara Khellong), which features a tree planted by His Holiness during his historic 1959 visit.

#### **Tripura**

- 1. formation day
- 2. 46th Kokborok Day
- 3. Kharchi Puja Festival
- 4. CM-SATH Scheme
- 5. Reang tribe

### 21st January Tripura foundation day

- On 21 January 1972, the states of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.
- The princely states of Tripura and Manipur were merged with India in October 1949.
- Agartala is the capital of Tripura .
- Tripura shares an international boundary with Bangladesh.
- The Indian states bordering Tripura are Assam and Mizoram.
- The official languages of Tripura are Bengali, English, and Kokborok (Tripuri).
- · Chief Minister: Manik Saha
- Governor: Shri Indrasena Reddy Nallu
- State Animal: Phayre's Langur (Trachypithecus phayrei)
- State Bird: Green Imperial Pigeon (Ducula aenea)
- State Tree: Agar (Aguilaria malaccensis)
- State Flower: Nageswar (Mesua Ferrea)

#### **National Park and Wildlife sanctuaries**

- Shepahijala Wildlife sanctuarie
- · Trishna Wildlife sanctuarie
- Rowa Wildlife sanctuarie
- Clouded Leopard National Park

Tribes: Bhil, Bhutia, Riang, Santal, Uchai, Orang, Noatia, Kuki, Khasia, Jamatia, Garoo, Chakma

### Tripura celebrated 46<sup>th</sup> Kokborok Day



- The Indian State of Tripura observes Kokborok Day, also known as Tripuri Language Day, to foster the Kokborok language.
- "Kok" means language, "borok" means people.
- This day honours the year 1979 when Kokborok became officially recognized for the first time.

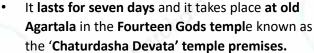
#### Kharchi Puja Festival in Tripura

- It occurs during the month of 'Ashad' on the 'Shukla Ashtami' day.
- It is performed during the months of July-August on the eighth day of the new moon.
- Tripuri words "Khar"

  or Kharta meaning sin

and "Chi" or si meaning cleaning. Hence it signifies the cleansing of our sins.

Kharchi Puja



- The Kharchi Puja deities do not have a full body; they have only heads which are worshipped.
- On the day of the puja, the fourteen Gods are taken from the temple to the river Saidra by the Chantai members (Royal Priests) and given bathe with the holy river water, then carried back to the temple.

## ADB Funds Rs 530 Crore for Tripura's Water Supply Upgrade

- Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha launched the 'Mukhyamantri Nagar Unnayan Prakalp,'
- a Rs 530 crore water supply project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Completion within three years
- a major drinking water problem of over 75,000 families in 12 cities in the state would be resolved.

#### Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- A multilateral development bank established on 19th December 1966.
- Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- India is a founding member of ADB and the bank's fourth-largest shareholder (after Japan, US, China)
- The ADB is a bank that provides loans, grants, technical assistance, and equity investments to help its members and partners in the Asia and Pacific region develop economically and socially.

# CM-SATH Scheme Officially Launched in Tripura to Support Meritorious Students"



- Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha officially launched the CM-SATH scheme to boost the educational prospects of the state's brightest students.
- The CM-SATH project has been designed to provide financial support of Rs 60,000 (Rs 5,000 monthly) to 200 students -- 100 at Madhyamik level and 100 at Higher Secondary level, on the basis of merit for two and three years respectively, for higher learning.

## Reang tribe seeks recognition for its language



- The Tripura government announced that it is committed to the development of all languages and to preventing their extinction.
- This statement came after members of the Reang community, one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India, requested the government for:
- recognition for the Kau Bru language and the declaration of a holiday on the day of the Hojagiri festival
- A new expert committee on the Kau Bru language, chaired by MLA Pramod Reang, was established on September 30, 2023 to evaluate the recognition of Kau Bru as a separate minority language.

### Rajasthan

- 1. formation day
- 2. Ratle Hydroelectric Project
- 3. NTPC's First Solar Project in Rajasthan
- 4. 'Lakhpati Didi sammelan'
- World's First Om-Shaped Temple
- 6. Rajasthan's first aviation academy
- 7. 33% quota for women in police force
- 8. World-famous Pushkar fair

#### **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

**Keoladev National Park** 

Amer Fort(Amber)

Ranthambore Fort

The Gagron Fort

Jantar Mantar

Jaisalmer fort

Chittorgarh fort

Kumbhalgarh Fort

#### **FOLK DANCE AND MUSIC**

- Ghoomar Dance
- Gair dance
- · Chari Dance
- Kachhi Ghodi
- Fire Dance
- Terah thali
- Kathputlis
- Pabuji Ki Phach
- Maand

#### Main Waterfalls in Rajasthan

Waterfalls River Place

Chulia Falls Chambal River Bhainsrodgarh (Kota)

Bhimtal Falls Mangli River Bhimtal, Bundi Menal Falls Menal River Begu (Chittorgarh)

Dir falls Kankur River Torgarh-Rawali

Bhil Berry Falls Bhil Berry Waterfall Sanctuary

(Pali)

# Ratle Hydroelectric Project to Power Rajasthan for 40 Years

Ratle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL), a joint venture company of NHPC Limited and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC), has entered into a Power

### 30th March Rajasthan foundation day

- March 30 is celebrated across the state to mark the formation of the state of Rajasthan.
- On this day in 1949, the four states, namely Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer, joined with the United State of Rajasthan, and the region came to be known as Greater Rajasthan.
- Governor: Haribhau Bagade
- Chief Minister: Bhajan Lal Sharma
- · Capital: Jaipur
- Ancient name of State: Marukantar, Rajputana
- · State tree: Khejri
- State domestic animal: Camel
- State animal: Chinkara
- State bird: Godavan
- State Sports of Rajasthan Basketball

#### **LAKES**

- Fateh Sagar Lake, Udaipur
- Gadsisar Lake, Jaisalmer
- Jaisamand Lake, Udaipur
- Kaylana Lake, Jodhpur
- Nakki-Lake-Mount-Abu
- Pichola Lake, Udaipur
- Pushkar Lake, Pushkar
- Rajsamand Lake, Rajsamand
- · Sambhar Lake, Jaipur
- Sardar Samand Lake, Pali

#### **National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary**

- 1. Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur
- 2. Ranthambore National Park, Sawai Madhopur
- 3. Sariska Tiger Reserve, Alwar
- 4. Tal Chapper Sanctuary, Churu
- 5. Desert National Park, Jaisalmer
- 6. Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary
- 7. Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary, Rajsamand
- 8. Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary
- 9. Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary
- 10. Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- 11. Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary

Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited

**for offtake of power generated from 850 MW** Ratle Hydroelectric Project, **on the Chenab River, in** Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir for 40 years.



#### **Short news**

 Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma announced that the state government will provide domestic LPG cylinders at a subsidised rate of Rs 450 from January 1 for BPL, Ujjwala Yojana

### NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. (NTPC-REL) Inaugurates First Solar Project in Rajasthan



- The first solar project of NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. (NTPC-REL) at Chhattargarh in Rajasthan has commenced commercial operations of 70 MW capacity
- the installed capacity of NTPC Group has reached 73,958 MW.
- The slated full capacity of Chhattargarh Solar project is 150 MW and is expected to be commissioned by March 2024.
- designed to generate 370 million units of energy per year, sufficient for 60,000 households, while also saving 3 lakhs tons of CO2 emissions every year and conserving 1,000 MMTPA of water.
- This is adequate for over 5,000 households in a year.

### President Draupadi Murmu addressed 'Lakhpati Didi sammelan' at Beneshwar Dham



 Beneshwar Dham in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan.  The program was organized by Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council - Rajivika, in which women associated with self-help groups participated.

#### Lakhpati Didi Initiative

- It was announced by PM Modi in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2023.
- Objective: To encourage women to start microenterprises within their villages.
- This scheme aims to train two crore women in various skills, such as plumbing, LED bulb making, drone operation and repair, and tailoring and weaving.
- The programme is aimed at training women in selfhelp groups (SHGs) so that they can earn a sustainable income of at least Rs 1 lakh per annum per household.
- The 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme has been initiated under the government's poverty alleviation programme — Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

### Large deposits of iron ore found in Rajasthan's Karauli



- Deposits of more than 840 million tonnes of iron ore near Hindon in Karauli.
- Indications of both magnetite and hematite of iron ore have been found.
- Iron ore is a rock or mineral that can be used to extract metallic iron.

## World's First Om-Shaped Temple in Rajasthan



- The 'Om Aakar' temple in is in Jadan village in Pali district of Rajasthan
- The monumental task commenced with the laying of the temple's foundation stone in 1995

- One notable aspect of this temple is that it can hold 1,008 idols of Lord Mahadev and 12
   Jyotirlingas within its sacred boundaries.
- The central feature of the temple complex is the tomb of Guru Madhavanand ji.
- Towering at a height of 135 ft, the temple stands supported by 2,000 pillars

# Rajasthan to become first State to adopt a road safety action plan for 10 years

- The action plan, to be accompanied by a government policy, will be aimed at reducing road accidents in the State by 50% till 2030.
- The World Bank would render assistance to the State government in the preparation of an action plan
- The action plan will be implemented in three stages: first from 2025 to 2027, second from 2027 to 2030 and the third from 2030 to 2033
- It will lay emphasis on different aspects of speed limit, safe distance, traffic signals, use of road barriers, pedestrian safety, use of seatbelts, helmets, and vehicle insurance

## Rajasthan's first aviation academy launched at Kishangarh airport



- Rajasthan's first flight training academy has been launched at Kishangarh airport in Ajmer district.
- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma inaugurated the Avyanna Aviation Academy in Kishangarh
- The focus will be on cutting-edge technology and innovative teaching methods.

### Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurates GST Bhawan at Udaipur



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the new GST Bhawan in Udaipur, located in the Hiran Magri area.
- During the event, Sitharaman launched ICETAB 2.0, a handheld device designed to enhance customs operations by enabling real-time report uploads and faster cargo clearance.

## Rajasthan approves 33% quota for women in police force

### 5% RESERVATION FOR SPORTSPERSONS



- > 5% additional allowance for pensioners
- Inclusion of specially-abled children in pension payment
- > 3,150MW solar energy projects in Jaisalmer



No decision on new transfer policy, 'one state, one election' & formation of new dists

 The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Rajasthan approved 33% reservation for women in the police force by deciding to amend the State Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989.

# "Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas": Pandemic Preparedness Drill Under One Health Mission

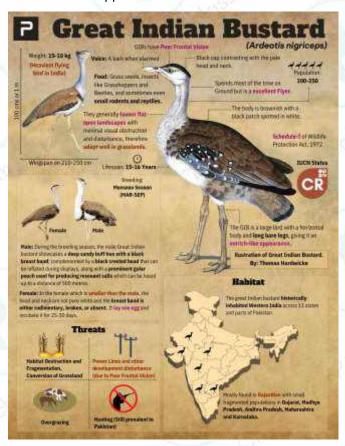
- Under the aegis of National One Health Mission (NOHM), a comprehensive national mock drill, "Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas" (Virus War Exercise), was conducted in Ajmer district of Rajasthan state, from August 27 to August 31, 2024 to assess zoonotic pandemic preparedness
- this first-of-its kind exercise aimed to evaluate the readiness and response of the National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT) composed of experts from human health, animal husbandry and wildlife sectors.
- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Shri J P Nadda

### First Baby Great Indian Bustard Chick Born via Artificial Insemination





- at the Sudasari Great Indian Bustard Breeding Centre in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district.
- Scientific Name: Ardeotis nigriceps
- It is among the heaviest of the flying birds.
- Conservation Status:
  - > IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
  - Wildlife (Protection)Act, 1972: Schedule 1
  - CITES: Appendix 1



# RTI Museum Foundation Laid in Rajasthan, Focus on Digital Exclusion



- The foundation stone for a people's Right to Information Museum was recently laid at Beawar, the birthplace of the RTI movement, with focus on digital exclusion in social security pensions.
- About 13.5 lakh people in Rajasthan have been waiting for release of their pensions, which were stopped following a discrepancy in the digital database.
- The museum will document the RTI movement's history and serve as a resource center for rightsbased education.

#### **Additional Facts on RTI**

- The RTI movement began in 1996 with a 40-day dharna led by the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, advocating for transparency and accountability.
- The movement forced the Rajasthan government to pass the State RTI Act in 2000, after which Parliament enacted the RTI Act in 2005.
- First RTI law developed by Sweden in 1766.
- Idea of RTI in India brainchild of former PM, V.P.
   Singh in 1990.
- Tamil Nadu became first Indian state to pass RTI law in 1997.

### Rajasthan Government Launches Scheme to Lure Investments

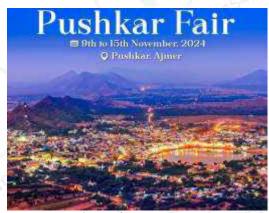
- The Rajasthan government has introduced the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024 to offer increased financial incentives to a wider range of sectors.
- The new flagship scheme, which has been launched ahead of the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024, improves upon RIPS 2022
- It encompassing a wider range of sectors and offering increased financial incentives to support the establishment and operation of industries within these areas
- RIPS 2024 expands its focus to include new sunrise sectors and manufacturing and services thrust sectors, while also enhancing incentives for tourism businesses, IT/ITeS companies, and women-led startups

# Supreme Court's new guidelines aim to eliminate child marriages in Rajasthan by 2030



- The Supreme Court's recent guidelines for complete elimination of child marriages with an emphasis on holding local panchayat, school authorities and child protection officer accountable has come as a shot in the arm for civil society groups working for the cause in Rajasthan.
- According to the National Family Health Survey-5, 25.4% women aged between 20 and 24 years in the State were married before the age of 18 years.
- Supreme Court ruled that the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, cannot be restricted by personal laws and that marriages involving children violate the free will to choose a life partner.

### World-famous Pushkar fair begins



- started on 9<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> November in Pushkar, near Ajmer in Rajasthan.
- Pushkar Fair is also known as Pushkar Camel Fair, Kartik Mela
- This period is also an important season for pilgrimage to the holy Pushkar Lake
- Every year, the cattle fair used to be the highlight of the fair. Farmers from all across the state gather at this fair to trade livestock such as cattle, camels, and horses.

# PM Modi inaugurates Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 in Jaipur



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 at Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC) in Jaipur
- The investment summit to be held from December
   9 to 11
- The event aims to showcase Rajasthan's potential as a key investment hub.
- Theme is 'Replete, Responsible, Ready'.

# Rajasthan govt to celebrate December 10 as Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas every year



- 'Pravasi Rajasthani Divas' will be celebrated every year on December 10, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced.
- Also, a separate department will be created for migrant Rajasthanis.
- "If the families of migrant Rajasthanis face any problem, a 'single point contact' will be created in every district to resolve their issues"
- in a first, the state government has decided to confer 'Pravasi Rajasthani Samman' to eminent personalities from the state who live abroad.

# 'Ek Varsh - Parinam Utkarsh' program, in Jaipur

- organized to mark the completion of one year of the Bhajanlal Sharma-led BJP government in Rajasthan.
- PM Modi inaugurated & lay foundation stone for 24 projects worth over ₹46,300 cr in Rajasthan

#### **Gujarat**

- 1. Formation day
- 2. Gujarati New Year (Bestu Varas)
- 3. All India Police Science Congress
- Cottage and Rural Industries Policy 2024-29
- 5. Largest Surya Namaskar Assembly
- 6. Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit
- 7. Vantara Initiative
- 8. Shramik Basera Scheme
- 9. India's first non-suburban metro
- 10. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

#### Multi-purpose projects:

- Sardar Sarovar Project Narmada River
- Kakrapa Project Tapi river
- Mahi Project Mahi Project
- Ukai Project Tapi river

#### **National Parks**

- Blackbuck (Velavadar) National Park
- Gir National Park
- Marine (Gulf of Kachchh) National Park
- Vansda National Park

### **Gujarati New Year (Bestu Varas)**



- In Gujarat, the New year is celebrated on the first day of Kartik month of the Hindu calendar Vikram Samvat (Gujarati calendar is amanta).
- Traders and business houses will perform Pooja at the places of their business and close their shops for five days.
- The Vikram Samvat calendar is named after King Vikramaditya and is said to have been started in 57 B.C.
- The Kartik month is the eighth month of the Hindu calendar and is considered sacred for worshiping Lord Vishnu

#### 1<sup>st</sup> May Gujarat foundation day

- Gujarat has the longest seashore compared to any other Indian state.
- · Gujarat is the only home of Asiatic Lions.
- The British East India Company set its first footsteps in Surat in 1818.
- Jamnagar refinery is the largest oil refinery in the world.
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- · Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai PatelDate of Formation: 1st May 1960
- Largest city : Ahmedabad
- State Animal: Asiatic LionState Bird: Greater Flamingo
- State Tree: MangoState Flower: Golgotha
- Biosphere reserve: Great runn of Kuch biosphere reserve

#### **World Heritage Site:**

- Rani-Ki-Vav, Patan
- Champaner-Pavagarh Archeological Park
- · Historic city of Ahmedabad

#### **Dances**

- Garba
- Dandiya Raas
- · Tippani Juriun
- Bhavai

# PM Modi participated in 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Shree Swaminarayan Mandir



in Vadtal, Gujarat.

#### **Lord Swaminarayan:**

- He is also known as Sahajanand Swami.
- He was born in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh in 1781.
- In 1792, he began a 7year pilgrimage across
   India at the age of 11 years, adopting the name Nilkanth Varni.



- He settled in the modern-day Indian state of Gujarat around 1799.
- He was a yogi and ascetic around whom the Swaminarayan Sampradaya developed,
- Swaminarayan developed a good relationship with the British Raj.
- He had followers not only from Hindu denominations but also from Islam and Zoroastrianism.

# Amit Shah inaugurated golden jubilee edition of All India Police Science Congress in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

 On this occasion, Gujarat's Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Home Secretary Shri Govind Mohan, Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Shri Rajiv Kumar Sharma, along with many other dignitaries, were present.

# HM Amit Shah inaugurates Gujarat's largest waste to energy plant in Ahmedabad



- The 15-megawatt power plant will use solid waste to generate electricity.
- set up near Piplaj village on the outskirts of Ahmedabad under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model

# Gujarat Launches Cottage and Rural Industries Policy 2024-29



- The Gujarat government announced its new cottage and rural industries policy, offering higher loans and subsidies to artisans and entrepreneurs to set up units in the state.
- increased the maximum loan amount under this scheme from the current Rs 8 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.
- The subsidy under the scheme has been increased from Rs 1.25 lakh to Rs 3.75 lakh, adding that the policy will generate about 3.3 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities through this component in the next five years.
- Under the 'Dattopant Thengadi Artisan Interest Subsidy Scheme', the maximum loan amount for handloom and handicraft artisans has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh.
- Over the next five years, nearly 60,000 microentrepreneurs will be trained to enhance their skills.
- To help artisans sell their products, the government is building 'PM Ekta Mall' in Surat at Rs 280 crore.
- The state government will also register nearly 5,000 artisans and entrepreneurs on leading ecommerce platforms to help them sell their products across India and the world.
- About 5,000 small manufacturers from these industries will be provided with compensatory assistance on sales to help them survive in a competitive environment.
- The state will provide incentives to nearly 2,500 artisans to boost the export of handloom and handicraft products.
- An artisan census will be conducted to identify and uplift potential beneficiaries of this sector.
- The artisans will also be facilitated to obtain Geographical Indication (GI) tags to protect the intellectual property rights of their products, it added.

### **Gujarat State Education Minister Launches Shiksha Reform**

- Gujarat's Minister of State for Education, Praful Pansheriya, launched the online learning platform Shiksha Reform in Surat to revolutionize education, particularly in technology.
- Shiksha Reform offers short-term courses in cutting-edge fields like artificial intelligence and cyber security in association with Microsoft and the Finnish university.

## Mysterious crater in Gujarat could be result of an Asteroid impact

- Scientists have revealed that the colossal 1.8 km wide crater nestled in Gujarat's Kutch region could be the outcome of one of the most monumental asteroid crashes ever witnessed on Earth.
- Known as the Luna structure, this enigmatic crater has long been linked to the ancient Harappan Civilisation.
- Scientists have conducted a geochemical analysis
  of the crater which revealed a notable presence of
  iridium in the soil. This finding indicates a likely
  impact from an iron meteorite.

# Gujarat closer to sending captive-bred wolves into the wild, after 'soft release'



- 5 wolves, which were bred in captivity, were brought to the soft-release facility in Banaskantha from the Sakkarbaug Zoological Park in Junagadh
- to integrate them to the wild and prepare them to be able to hunt as 'biocontrol agents' of wild herbivores
- The project, undertaken by Gujarat's Forest
  Department, to introduce wolves bred in captivity
  into the wild is the first of its kind outside the US

# Gujarat Breaks Guinness Record: Largest Surya Namaskar Assembly

- performed simultaneously at 108 places in the state on the first day of the new year.
- The venues also included the iconic Modhera Sun Temple



## Czech PM to be Chief Guest at Vibrant Gujarat Summit

- Prime Minister of Czech Republic Petr Fiala is expected to be the Guest of Honour at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit to be held from January 10-12 in Gandhinagar.
- Czech Republic is also a partner country in the 10th Summit
- The global event will have participants from over 30 countries.
- Theme 'Gateway to the Future'

# The tenth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit will commence in Gandhinagar



- from 10 to 12 January 2024 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- being held after a gap of four years as the summit was canceled in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Theme 'Gateway to the Future'.
- During the summit, a roadmap to achieve the vision of Developed India by 2047 will be launched.
- There are 34 Partner countries and 16 Partner organisations for this year's Summit.
- The Summit will host various events including seminars and conferences on globally relevant topics

#### iDEX at Vibrant Gujarat 2024

Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence
Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) under India's
Ministry of Defence is participating at the 10th edition
of prestigious Vibrant Gujarat Summit



#### **About iDEX Scheme**

Launched in 2018 by PM Narendra Modi <u>iDEX</u> serves as the **flagship innovation scheme of India's Ministry of Defence.** 

Its primary goal is to foster an innovation ecosystem by collaborating with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia.

### 800 BCE Ancient Human Settlement Discovered at Vadnagar, Gujarat

- Conducted by a team of experts from IIT
   Kharagpur, the Archaeological Survey of India
   (ASI), the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL),
   Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and Deccan College
- The **traces** of a human settlement are **contemporary to late-Vedic/pre-Buddhist Mahajanapadas or oligarchic republics** (उत्तर-वैदिक/पूर्व-बौद्ध महाजनपद या स्वल्पतंत्र गणराज्य).
- The has found evidence of cultural continuity in Vadnagar even after the Harappan collapse, thus making it likely that the "Dark Age" was a myth.

#### What is the 'Dark Age'?



The period between the collapse of the Indus
Valley Civilisation (at 4000 year before present)
and the appearance of the Iron Age and cities such
as Gandhar in present-day Afghanistan and Koshal
in present-day Uttar Pradesh (somewhere between
3000 to 2500 year) in India is known as the Dark
Age.

#### **About Vadnagar**

 This evidence makes Vadnagar the oldest living city within a single fortification, unearthed in India, so far.

- Vadnagar the Prime Minister's native village is a town and municipality in Mehsana district of Gujarat.
- It is mentioned often in the Puranas and even in the travelogue of the great Chinese traveller, Hieuen-Tsang (7th century), as a rich and flourishing town

# Reliance Foundation launches animal rescue and rehabilitation initiative 'Vantara'



- Reliance Foundation announced an innovative animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation initiative, in Gujarat's Jamnagar.
- Named Vantara, the program is dedicated to the rescue, treatment, and rehabilitation of injured, abused, and endangered animals, both in India and abroad.
- Equipped with cutting-edge technology, the veterinary hospital boasts MRI and CT scan machines, robotic endoscopic surgery facilities, and six surgical centers.

### Occasion Of Ashadhi Bij, the Kutchi New Year



- Ashadhi Bij falls on the second day of Shukla paksha of Ashada month of Hindu calendar.
- The festival is associated with the beginning of rains in the Kutch region of Gujarat.
- During Ashadhi Bij, the moisture in the atmosphere is checked to predict which crop would do best in the coming monsoon.

## Four Children Died Due To Suspected Chandipura Virus Infection In Gujarat



- In Gujarat's Sabarkantha district
- Chandipura virus is a rare and potentially deadly pathogen that causes fever, flu-like symptoms, and acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).
- The virus is transmitted through vectors like mosquitoes, ticks, and sandflies, and can lead to rapid progression of illness, coma, and even death.

### Gujrat State Govt Launches Shramik Basera Scheme For Labourers



- CM Bhupendra Patel launched the 'Shramik Basera' scheme to offer temporary housing to 15,000 construction workers at a cost of ₹5 per day.
- The initiative includes the construction of 17 new dwelling structures in major cities like
   Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, and Rajkot.
- A plan to build additional facilities for 300,000
  workers over the next 3 years, at a projected cost
  of ₹1,500 crore.

### **Gujarat to Establish GRIT Think-Tank**



- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel announced plans for the Gujarat State Institution for Transformation (GRIT), modeled after NITI Aayog.
- The initiative aims to support PM Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.
- Patel introduced the 'Gujarat@2047 Dynamic
   Document-Roadmap' to achieve a 'Viksit Gujarat'
   for a 'Viksit Bharat'.

### PM Modi inaugurated 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat



- The central theme of RE-INVEST 2024 is Mission 500 GW.
- Hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- The 3-day conference is poised to highlight India's impressive progress in renewable energy manufacturing and deployment.
- The important contributing states & industries to India's remarkable achievement of over 200 GW of installed non-fossil fuel capacity were felicitated by Prahlad Joshi (Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy).
- Gujarat leads the country in solar power installation
- Nation's goals to achieve the target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030
- Key international partners for this year's event include Australia, Denmark, Germany, and Norway. Additionally, Indian states such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh will actively participate.

# India's first non-suburban metro, 'Vande Metro train' to connect Gujarat's Kutch district with Ahmedabad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to flag off Vande Metro, the country's first non-suburban metro train service between Bhuj and Ahmedabad
- In India, non-suburban train services cover long distances, while suburban train services are for short distances, generally up to 150 kilometres. Suburban trains are used to help

passengers move quickly within cities, suburbs, and extended suburbs.



Vande Metro Set to Revolutionize Rail Travel in Gujarat

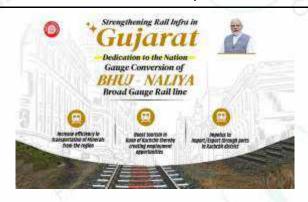
# Barda Wildlife Sanctuary Inauguration in Gujarat



- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary second home of Asiatic lions in Gujarat after Gir
- It is situated approximately 15 kilometres from Porbandar and 100 kilometres west of Gir Forest National Park.
- 1979 establishment as a wildlife sanctuary
- The inauguration of the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary and Phase-1 of the Barda Jungle Safari took place on Dhanteras, at Kapurdi Check Post in Devbhumi Dwarka aiming to ease the burden on Sasan.
- The presence of a historical Asiatic lion population in Barda until 1879 indicates its potential for successful recolonization efforts.

# Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the Gauge conversion of the Bhuj-Naliya rail line to the nation

- Bhuj-Naliya Rail Gauge Conversion Project will play a crucial role in enhancing the socio-economic development of Kachchh district.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of projects worth around Rs 4,900 Crore at Amreli, Gujarat.
- Prime Minister will inaugurate the Bharat Mata Sarovar in Dudhala, Amreli.



### **Gujarat Govt observes Vikas Saptah**

- The Gujarat government announced to celebrate 23 years of the state's "development journey" under the then Chief Minister and current Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a 'Vikas Saptah' starting from October 7 to 15
- Modi had taken oath as state CM on October 7, 2001.

### Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil inaugurates Gujarat's 1st semiconductor assembly & testing plant in Surat



- Suchi Semicon, a Gujarat-based semiconductor company, has officially inaugurated its Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing (OSAT) plant in Surat – Gujarat's first.
- The state-of-the-art facility was inaugurated by Union Minister CR Patil and Gujarat's Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi.
- The plant will provide essential assembly, testing, and packaging services for semiconductor components, supporting industries such as automotive, consumer, electronics, and industrial applications

### Masali Village in Gujarat Becomes India's First Solar Border Village

- Masali village of Suigam taluka in Banaskantha has become the first border solar village in the country
- Home to a population of 800 people, the village is located nearly 40 kilometers from the international Pakistan border.

Lothal to become global hub for maritime heritage with National Maritime Heritage Complex



- Under the Sagarmala Programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways is developing the NMHC at Lothal in Gujarat.
- The complex will have museums, amusement parks, educational institute, hotels and resort. It will also recreate Lothal cities in the complex.
- Discovery: Lothal was discovered by SR Rao, an Indian archaeologist, in 1954.
- Lothal, a prominent city of the ancient Indus
   Valley Civilisation dating back to 2400 BCE, holds
   historical significance for its advanced dockyard,
   thriving trade, and renowned bead-making industry.
- Lothal's strategic position on the Sabarmati River made it a key trading hub, connecting the Harappan cities of Sindh and Saurashtra.

#### **About National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC):**

Being developed under the Sagarmala programme The project will be completed in phases:

- Phase 1 will have NMHC museum, which also includes an Indian Navy & Coast Guard gallery envisaged to be one of the largest in the country, replica model of Lothal township, Light house museum which is planned to be the world's tallest
- Phase 2 will have Coastal States Pavilions (to be developed by respective coastal states and union territories), Hospitality Zone (with maritime theme eco resorts and museuotels), Recreation of real time Lothal City, Maritime Institute and hostel and 4 theme-based parks (Maritime & Naval Theme Park, Climate

Change Theme Park, Monuments Park, and Adventure & Amusement Park).



#### **Lothal Dockyard**

- Lothal is a combination of two words; Loth and thal, which in Gujarati means 'the mound of the dead'
- The most distinctive feature of Lothal is the dockyard, which is located on the eastern edge of the site.
- The dock is roughly 200 meters long and about 35 meters wide.
- To minimize siltation and ensure accessibility during high tides, the dock was strategically positioned away from the river's main current.
- A sluice gate and a spill channel maintained a consistent water level in the dockyard.
- Lothal's location was perfectly suited for a dock, as the Gulf of Khambhat's high tidal amplitude and the river estuary's flow tides created favourable conditions for ship movement.
- Architecture: Lothal was divided into two parts:
   the Citadel or Upper town and the Lower town.
- Citadel: Instead of a traditional fortification wall, the citadel was surrounded by 4-meter-tall mudbrick platforms. A warehouse was also discovered inside the citadel.
- Lower town: A bead factory and tidal dockyard were discovered.
- A compass and an ivory scale were discovered at Lothal.
- Religion: The people of Lothal worshipped a fire god, speculated to be the horned deity depicted on seals named Atha(Athar) and Arka.

- **Burial practices:** At Lothal the burial pit was lined with burnt bricks, indicating the use of **coffins.** 
  - Twin Burial: The practice of pot burials is found at Lothal sometimes with pairs of skeletons
  - However, there is no clear evidence for the practice of Sati.
- Beads: Double-eye beads of agate, gold-capped beads of jasper, and carnelian beads are among those attributed as uniquely from Lothal.
  - It was very famous for micro-cylindrical beads of steatite (chlorite).

# **Gujarat CM Launches SWAR Platform to Bridge Language Barriers**

 Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform on Good Governance Day

- The Chief Minister's Office (CMO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Bhashini Team (National Language Translation Mission), has developed the SWAR platform.
- This innovative platform leverages technology to overcome language barriers.
- The Speech-to-Text feature has also been integrated into the Gujarat CMO website.
- With the Speech-to-Text functionality, citizens can dictate their messages instead of typing them manually.
- The SWAR platform uses the indigenous artificial intelligence system, Bhashini, to facilitate this.
- In the future, the SWAR platform will support the Chief Minister's Office by incorporating advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities.

#### Maharashtra

- 1. formation day
- 2. 'Samvidhan Mandir
- 3. Vadhvan Port project
- 4. Prisons and Correctional Services Bill
- 5. Ladki Bahin' Scheme
- 6. tiger translocation to Sahyadri reserve
- 7. Atpadi Conservation Reserve
- 8. Kalaram Temple
- 9. India's First Dark Sky Park
- 10. 10% Reservation to Marathas
- 11. 'Kilkari' programme
- 12. Mumbai's first underground metro
- 13. Ladka Bhau' Job Training And Stipend Scheme
- 14. Rajyamata-Gomata" Tag
  Declared to Desi Cows
- 15. Banjara Virasat Museum

### 1<sup>st</sup> May Maharashtra foundation day

- Until 1995, Bombay was the official name of Mumbai.
- On May 1st, 1960, the bilingual state of Bombay was divided into two separate states by the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960:
   Maharashtra for Marathi speaking people and Gujarat for Gujarati speaking people.
- India's first Gold Refinery is located at Shirpur.
- Governor: C. P. Radhakrishnan
- Capital: Mumbai
- Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis
- State Animal: Indian Giant Squirrel
- State Dance: Lavani
- Tribes: Bhil, Gond-Madia, Katkari, Koli, Oraon, Warli

#### **UNESCO** World Heritage Sites

- Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
- Elephanta Caves
- Ajanta Caves
- Ellora Caves

#### Lakes:

- Lonar Lake
- Salim Ali Lake

#### **National Park**

- Tadoba National Park
- Navegaon National Park
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru National Park
- Sanjay Gandhi National Park
- Gugamal National Park
- Chandoli National Park

#### Dances

- Koli Dance
- Lavani Dance
- Dhangari Gaja
- Povadas Dance
- Tamasha Dance
- Lezim Dance



### Maharashtra govt approves renaming Pune airport



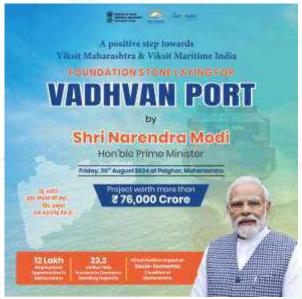
- Maharashtra govt approved a proposal to name
   Pune airport as Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj
   Pune International Airport
- Sant Tukaram was a Warkari saint and poet.
- The sect is spread across Maharashtra. Warkaris worship Vitthal, the presiding deity of Pandharpur, regarded as a form of Vishnu.
- Also, composed a Marathi genre of literature called Abhanga poetry which fused folk stories with spiritual theme

### Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates 'Samvidhan Mandir' at 433 ITIs in Maharashtra



- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar virtually inaugurated Constitution temple' (Samvidhan Mandir) at 433 Industrial Training Institutes across Maharashtra
- to educate students about the importance and sanctity of the Constitution

# PM Narendra laid foundation stone of Vadhvan Port project in Palghar, Maharashtra



- Vadhvan Port project worth around Rs 76,000 crore
- Vadhvan Port, located near Dahanu town in Palghar district, will be one of India's largest deepwater ports and will provide direct connectivity to international shipping routes, reducing transit times and costs
- Will be among the top 10 ports in the world when completed, the Vadhvan port will have the handling capacity of 23.2 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs)
- The project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL)
- The port will comprise nine container terminals, each 1,000 metres long, four multipurpose berths
- People living in Palghar fear a loss of livelihood, the erosion of their seaside villages, and a disruption of an ecologically fragile area.

# Ancient Maharashtra rock art declared 'protected monument' by Mah Govt.



 Geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments' under the Maharashtra

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960, reported TOI.
- The group of petroglyphs at Deud, Ratnagiri, dates back to the Mesolithic era (roughly 20,000-10,000 years ago).
- Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are different types of ancient art forms. They involve the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces.

### Maharashtra Approves Prisons and Correctional Services Bill

- The Maharashtra State government drafted and tabled the Maharashtra Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024.
- As 'Prisons' fall under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is within the exclusive domain of State governments to legislate on and regulate prisons in their jurisdiction.
- Maharashtra has over 60 prisons including nine central, 28 district, and 19 open prisons.

### **Legislative Framework**

- Prison Governance: Managed by the state according to the Constitution's Seventh Schedule.
- Current Law: Operates under the outdated Prisons Act of 1894.
- Overcrowding Issue: Facilities designed for 27,110 prisoners currently hold over 40,428 inmates.

#### **Current Issues in Prisons**

- High Prisoner Population: Among the top five states for prisoner population and undertrials.
- Outdated Rules: Existing rules from 1962 to 1979 are outdated and difficult to access.
- Concerns: Include deaths in custody and poor prison conditions.

#### Overview of the New Bill:

- Model: Based on the Union's Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023.
- Goals: Modernize operations, improve staffing, upgrade technology, and enhance mental health services.

#### **Notable Provisions:**

- Convict Overseer: Prisoners supervising others with certain privileges, a role facing criticism.
- Public Servant Status: Defines convict overseers as public servants, raising questions about its relevance.

- Prisons and Correctional Services Force: New body with arrest and weapon use powers, practical use unclear.
- Welfare Funds: Proposes funds for both staff and prisoners, unlike the Model Bill focusing only on prisoner welfare, facing potential implementation challenges.

### Maharashtra Launches ₹1,500 Monthly Aid under 'Ladki Bahin' Scheme



- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra
   Fadnavis announced that over one crore eligible women in the State
- will start receiving ₹1,500 per month under the government's 'Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin' scheme, which is set to launch on August 17.
- The flagship scheme modelled after the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' introduced by the previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government in Madhya Pradesh
- Under the Ladki Bahin scheme, underprivileged (annual family income capped at ₹2.5 lakh) women aged 21 to 65 years will get monthly financial assistance from the government.
- July will be considered the starting month.
   Consequently, eligible women will receive an initial installment of ₹3,000, covering two months.

### Indian Army and Punit Balan Group Collaborate to Develop India's First Constitution Park



- India's First Constitution Park inaugurated in Pune, Maharashtra.
- In order to propel India towards development by 2047, every citizen must honor the duties outlined in the Constitution.

 The park was inaugurated by General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Southern Command, Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh.

#### **Key Facts**

- The basic structure of the Indian Constitution stands on the Government of India Act, 1935.
- Originally, the Constitution of India was written in English and Hindi.
- Prem Bihari Narain Raizada had written the unique copies of the Constitution of India, now kept in a helium-filled case within the library of the Parliament
- The framing of the Constitution took over 2 years,
   11 months and 18 days.
- World's lengthiest Constitution.

## Maharashtra gears up for tiger translocation to Sahyadri reserve

- Maharashtra forest department is gearing up for translocation of a few tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur to Sahyadri Tiger reserve.
- The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) is one of only five tiger reserves in the country — Kaval in Telangana, Kamlang in Arunachal Pradesh, Dampa in Mizoram and Satkosia in Odisha being the other four — with zero tigers within the reserve
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had cleared the translocation plan in October 2023.
   Final go-ahead from the Union Environment Ministry is awaited.



#### Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR):

- located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats
- Notified in 2010 by amalgamating the Chandoli national park and Koyna wildlife sanctuary.
- includes the area around the Koyna Dam, the Warna River

- Tiger reserves of Maharashtra:
  - Melghat Tiger Reserve
  - Pench Tiger Reserve
  - Nawegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve
  - > Tadobha Andhari Tiger Reserve
  - Sahyadri Tiger Reserve
  - Bor Tiger Reserve

# Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde inaugurates 1st phase of Mumbai's Coastal Road



- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde inaugurated the south-bound phase of this high-speed corridor.
- The 9 km long corridor from Worli to Marine Drive is now open.
- The Mumbai Coastal Road will bring down travel time between Marine Drive and Worli to less than 10 minutes (earlier 45 minutes).
- The road is officially named Dharmaveer, Swarajya Rakshak Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Mumbai Coastal Road.
- The northbound road is likely to be opened in May this year after the completion of the connecting bridge between the Coastal Road and Bandra-Worli Sea Link.
- The ambitious Coastal Road project started in October 2018 at a projected cost of over 14000 crore rupees.

### Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Renaming Ahmednagar District as Ahilya Nagar



The Maharashtra Cabinet on March 13 formally approved the renaming of Ahmednagar district to 'Ahilyanagar' after the 18th century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.

 The decision to rename the district had already been announced by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in May last year on the 298th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar, who had established Maheshwar (in Madhya Pradesh) as the seat of the Holkar dynasty.

> ल्याबाइ होल्कर

#### Ahilyabai Holkar

- Ahilyabai (1725 -1795) was one of the women rulers of the Holkar dynasty of the Maratha Malwa kingdom
- Her husband Khanderao
   Holkar was killed in the battle
   of Kumbher in 1754
- ascended to the throne as the Queen of Malwa, ruling from 1767 to 1795.
- Rani Ahilyabai was a great pioneer and builder of Hindu temples.
- John Keay (British historian) gave the title 'The Philosopher Queen'

## Maharashtra to become first state to buy land in Kashmir



- Maharashtra is set to become the first Indian state to buy land in union territory Jammu and Kashmir in order to construct a tourist facility for the state's people.
- The J&K government has approved the transfer of land to the state government, subject to a payment of Rs 8.16 crore.
- Maharashtra Bhawan would be constructed in central Kashmir's Budgam--first-ever state Bhavan in the valley.
- Before the abrogation of Article 370, only the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir could buy land in the erstwhile state.

### Maharashtra Establishes Atpadi Conservation Reserve to Safeguard Endangered Canids

The Maharashtra government has established
 Atpadi Conservation Reserve in Sangli district

To protect endangered 'canid' family, including wild dogs, wolves, jackals, and foxes.



# Development projects inaugurated PM Modi on National Youth day in Maharashtra



- As part of his day-long visit to Maharashtra, the Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees.
- This includes the inauguration of Atal Bihari
   Vajpayee Sewari Nhava Sheva Atal Setu in
   Mumbai, the longest sea bridge in the country,
   built at 17,840 crore rupees.
- He also paid a visit to Shree Kalaram Temple
- He also inaugurated 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, during which he paid homage to Rajmata Jijabai on her birth anniversary

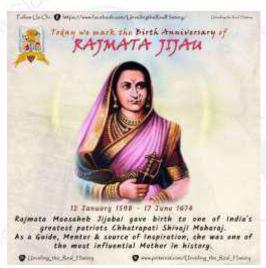
#### **Kalaram Temple**



- It is a temple situated in Panchavati area of the Nashik, dedicated to the deity Rama.
- The temple derives its name from a black statue of Rama. The literal translation of kalaram is "black Rama"



#### Rajmata Jijabai (1598 - 1674)



 She was the mother of Chattrapati Shivaji, the founder of the Maratha Empire

# Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve India's First Dark Sky Park



- The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia for protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution, making the facility ideal for astronomy enthusiasts.
- India's first Dark Sky Reserve is the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) in Ladakh. The reserve is 1,073 square kilometers and is located in the Changthang Cold Desert wildlife sanctuary. It's also adjacent to the Indian Astronomical Observatory, which is the second-highest optical telescope in the world

#### **About Pench Tiger Reserve**

- Pench Tiger Reserve or Pench National Park straddles across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- The fictional works of <u>Rudyard Kipling</u>, The Jungle Book and The Second Jungle Book, are set in the region.



# PM Initiates 8 AMRUT Projects Worth Rs. 2,000 Crores In Solapur, Maharashtra



- The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban
   Transformation (AMRUT) is a government initiative
   that aims to improve the quality of life in urban
   areas.
- PM dedicated over 90,000 completed houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-Urban) in Solapur, Maharashtra.
- Governor of Maharashtra Ramesh Bais
- CM of Maharashtra -Eknath Shinde,
- Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) is a government program that provides housing to eligible beneficiaries in urban areas.
- The program was **launched in 2015** as part of the "Housing for All" (HFA) initiative.
- The program's initial duration was until 2021-2022, but it has been extended to December 31, 2024
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- Launched on 25th June, 2015
- to provide the national priority basic services for e.g. water supply, sewerage, urban transport to households and build amenities in cities which will improve the quality of life for all, especially the poor

### Maharashtra Government Extends 10% Reservation to Marathas



 The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the report of the Maharashtra Backward Class Commission saying the Maratha community is a socially and educationally backward class and should get 10% reservation in education and government jobs.

# Arunachal Pradesh becomes first state in North-East India to achieve 100 % saturation of Har Ghar Jal

- Arunachal Pradesh has become the first state in the North-East India and 10th in the country to achieve 100 percent saturation of Har Ghar Jal under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- every household in the state has clean and safe piped water.
- PM Modi had announced the 'Jal Jeevan Mission -Har Ghar Jal' on 15th August, 2019.
- The mission aims at improving the 'quality of life' and enhanced 'ease of living' in rural areas by making a provision of assured tap water supply to every rural household in the country by 2024.
- Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented in partnership with States.

# 'Kilkari' programme and Mobile Academy launched in Maharashtra and Gujarat



- A Mobile Health Service 'Kilkari' and a Mobile
   Academy was launched in Maharashtra and
   Gujarat to Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure
- The Kilkari program was launched by the Ministry
  of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2016 to
  encourage new and expectant mothers to make
  healthier choices for their newborns.

- 'Kilkari' is a centralized interactive voice response (IVR) based mobile health service which delivers free, weekly, time-appropriate 72 audio messages about pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare directly to families' mobile phones from the second trimester of pregnancy until the child is one year old.
- Mobile Academy is a free audio training course designed to expand and refresh the knowledge of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and improve their communication skills via their mobile phones

# PM Modi Releases 16<sup>th</sup> Installment of PM Kisan Scheme Worth ₹21,000 Crore in Maharashtra



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release 16<sup>th</sup>
  instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman
  Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme worth over 21,000 crore
  rupees at a public meeting from Yavatmal,
  Maharashtra.
- 3 lakh crores rupees have been deposited till now into the bank accounts of 11 crore farmers of the country under PM-KISAN

#### PM KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM KISAN)

- Under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- PM Kisan is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
- It has become operational from 1.12.2018.
- Under the scheme an income support of 6,000/per year in three equal installments will be provided to all land holding farmer families.
- The fund will be **directly transferred to the bank accounts** of the beneficiaries.

### Tata Trusts to open India's 1st state-of-theart small animal hospital in Mumbai

- The hospital will be one of the largest of its kind in India and will be the latest addition to Tata Trusts' portfolio
- Scheduled for inauguration in March 2024, the hospital is poised to revolutionize the landscape of pet healthcare.



Capacity exceeding 200 beds, and round-theclock services aimed at safeguarding the wellbeing of pets.

### Mumbai's first underground metro to launch in July

#### A WALK-THROUGH OF THE FACILITY

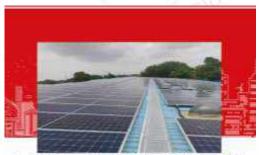


Mumbai's first underground metro line, launching in July, will span 33.5 km and include 27 stations, primarily underground.

#### Extra Facts:

- India's first metro railway was started in Kolkata.
- Delhi Metro is India's largest and busiest metro rail system and the second-oldest, after the Kolkata Metro.
- India's first underwater and deepest metro train service commences in Kolkata.
- Kochi, Kerala India's first city to have a Water Metro Project

### **Central Railway Installs Floating Solar Plant**



Central Zone Unveils Indian Railways First Floating Solar Plant

The Central Railway has installed a floating solar plant of 10 MWp capacity in the Igatpuri lake

located in the Western Ghats in Maharashtra, a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways.

Railway moving towards its ultimate goal of zero carbon emission by 2030.

### Age Limit For Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki **Bahin Yojana Extended To 65 Years**



- Announced by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath
- The scheme has been implemented from July 1.
- Under "Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin" scheme, women will get Rs 1,500 per month.
- Earlier, women between the age group of 21 to 61 were eligible
- The age limit for the scheme has been increased to
- Only Married, Widowed, Divorced, Destitute, and Abandoned Women are eligible to apply
- A single unmarried women in a family is also eligible to apply
- Those women whose family annual income is more than Rs. 2,50,000/- are not eligible.

### Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde Announces 'Ladka Bhau' Job Training And Stipend Scheme

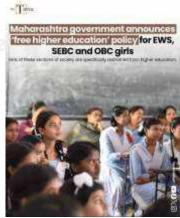
### LADKA BHAU SCHEME AFTER LADKI BAHI

Ladki Bahin Ladka Bhau Provides a stipend > Monthly stipend during internship for 6 of ₹1,500 a month for married, divorced, months - ₹6,000 for Class widowed, deserted and destitute 12 pass; ₹8,000 for ITI/Diploma; ₹10,000 for Degree/ PG women whose annual family income is below ₹2.5 lakh To make youth employable, One eligible unmarried woman training will be provided and from each family will also be assistance given, says govt considered for the scheme Educated unemployed Women aged 21 to 65 years are youth of the state aged 18 to eligible 35 years eligible Estimated to cost the Estimated to cost the exchequer ₹46,000cr a year exchequer ₹10,000cr a year

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced a job training and stipend scheme for youth, tentatively named 'Ladka Bhau' Yojana, days after it introduced a monthly financial assistance scheme for eligible women.
  - on the occasion of Ashadhi Ekadashi.

- under this scheme, job seekers who are class 12
   pass will receive 6,000 rupees, diploma holders
   will get 8,000 rupees, and those with a bachelor's
   degree will get 10,000 rupees per Month.
- They will receive this stipend from the government during their on-job training in the industry.

# Maharashtra announces free higher education policy for EWS, SEBC, OBC girls

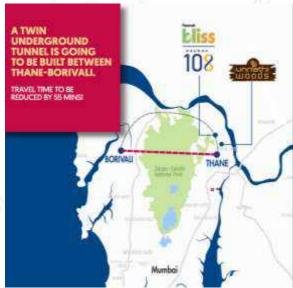


- The Maharashtra government has announced another women-oriented policy, making higher education free for girls belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC), and Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- This initiative, aimed at promoting women's education
- Additionally, tuition and exam fees for orphaned students of both genders will be waived
- The decision will be implemented from academic year 2024-25 and the government has approved an additional expense of Rs. 906 crore to roll out the scheme,
- So far, the girls from the OBC and EWS categories receive a 50% fee refund

# To make Mumbai global fintech capital, PM Modi launches Rs 29,000 crore infrastructure projects



- He laid the foundation stone for two underground twin tunnel projects.
- The projects will improve connectivity in Mumbai and its neighbouring areas.
- These include the Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) and the Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel Project
- The two projects are together valued at nearly Rs 23,000 crore.
- The 11.8 km-long Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel
   Project is slated to be India's longest and largest
   urban tunnel. It will reduce the distance between
   Thane and Borivali to 12 km.



He also inaugurated the Rs 5,600 crore
 Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana, an internship programme which seeks to provide employment to the youth.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates INS Towers in Mumbai



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated the Indian Newspaper Society's secretariat, INS

  Towers
- Appealing to Indian publications to enhance their global presence, the role of newspapers is crucial in the journey to Viksit Bharat in the next 25 years.

### Maharashtra: Govt To Establish Mukhyamantri Warkari Mahamandal To Facilitate Kirtankars & Warkaris Of State



- Every year, lakhs of Warkaris (followers of Lord Vithoba) from all sections of society, set out on foot on a pilgrimage to Pandharpur, which is a centuries-old tradition.
- Mukhyamantri Warkari Mahamandal will be working for the development of pilgrimage sites, providing medical assistance, food and security to the Warkaris and Kirtankars, insurance cover, infrastructure and other facilities
- The headquarters of this Corporation will be situated at Pandharpur.
- Pandharpur is a Popular pilgrimage town, on the banks of Chandrabhaga River, near Solapur city in Solapur District, Maharashtra

#### **ONE LINER NEWS**

 Largest Industrial Parks Among 12 Proposed In Budget Will Be Established Near Dighi Port, Raigarh In Maharashtra: Piyush Goyal

### "Rajyamata-Gomata" Tag Declared to Desi Cows In Maharashtra



The cabinet also cleared the proposal to provide a grant of Rs 50 per day per desi cow to "gaushalas".

### Baba Siddique, former Maharashtra Minister and NCP leader, shot dead in Mumbai



- Former Maharashtra Minister and Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader
- He was the MLA for three consecutive terms in 1999, 2004 and 2009,
- Had also served as Minister of State for Food & Civil Supplies (FDA) and Labour under Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh between 2004 and 2008.

### Maharashtra cabinet approves two riverlinking projects worth ₹15,710 crore

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Damanganga-Vaitarna-Godavari river-linking project along with Damanganga-Ekdare-Godavari
- which will resolve the problem of water scarcity in drought-prone Sinnar taluka of Nashik district and Marathwada regions.

# Maharashtra Government Renames Skills University After Ratan Tata



- The Maharashtra government announced, that the Maharashtra State Skills Development University will be renamed the "Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University"
- The Maharashtra cabinet has urged the central government to confer the Bharat Ratna on Ratan Tata.
- Additionally, the state government renamed the Udyog Ratna Award to the 'Ratan Tata Udyog Ratna Award,' with Tata being the inaugural recipient in 2023.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Banjara Virasat Museum in Pohardevi at Washim in Maharashtra



- The four-story museum has 13 galleries depicting the Banjara legacy
- Sant Sevalal and Sant Ramrao Maharaj are the spiritual leaders of the Banjara community.



- The word 'banjara' is derived from Vanaj meaning to trade, and Jara meaning to travel.
- Fire dance and Chari are traditional dance forms
- The Banjara people speak GorBoli, also known as Lambadi, which belongs to the Indo-Aryan group of languages
- As Lambadi has no script, it is either written in Devanagari script or in the script of the local language such as Telugu or Kannada.
- With roots in Rajasthan, live in several states and are known by different names like Lambada or Lambadi in Andhra Pradesh, Lambani in Karnataka; Gwar or Gwaraiya in Rajasthan

### PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Development Projects Worth Over ₹7,600 Crore in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister inaugurated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai. Established through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the institute is a collaboration between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and Tata IIS
- PM Modi virtually inaugurated the Vidya
   Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in Maharashtra, a data driven educational initiative designed to provide
   academic and administrative insights.

 The foundation stone for the upgradation of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur



 Also laid the foundation stone for the New Integrated Terminal Building at Shirdi Airport, a key destination for religious tourism.

### **Eknath Shinde resigns as Maharashtra CM**



- After the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance clinched landslide victory in Maharashtra Assembly elections, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has submitted his resignation to Governor CP Radhakrishnan
- The NDA group achieved a thumping majority of 235 seats in the 288-member assembly.
- The swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Minister is likely to be held on December 1

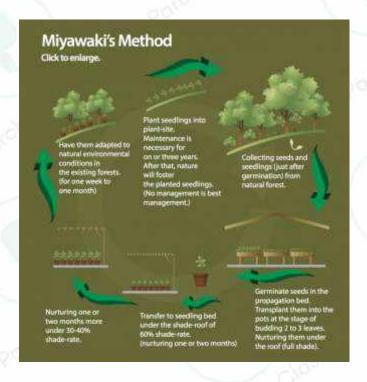
#### Mahayuti alliance wins majority with 230 out of 288 so

| Party                                  | 2019 | 2024 |
|--|------|------|
| Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)           | 105  | 132  |
| Shiy Sena                              | 56   | 57   |
| Nationalist Congress Party             | 54   | 41   |
| Shiv Sena (UBT)                        |      | 20   |
| Indian National Congress (INC)         | 44   | 16   |
| Nationalist Congress Party (SP)        |      | 10   |
| Jan Surajya Shakti                     |      | 2    |
| Samajwadi Party                        | 2    | 2    |
| All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen | 2    | 1    |
| Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi                  | 3    |      |
| Other parties                          | 9    | 5    |
| Independents                           | 13   | 2    |
| Total                                  | 288  | 288  |

## India's first Oxygen Bird Park Set To Be Inaugurated By Nitin Gadkari



- Near Jamtha, in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
   Strategically located at the Jamtha intersection of Nagpur-Hyderabad and Mumbai-Kolkata highways
- Spread across 8 hectares housing over 8,000 diverse plant species.
- Developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- The park features a 3.1-hectare Miyawaki forest an afforestation method developed that is fast growing, has dense vegetation and requires little to no management overtime.
- Additionally, a section of the park is dedicated to conservation of plant species that are on the verge of extinction
- Miyawaki forests or Miyawaki technique, refer to a unique approach to afforestation and ecological restoration developed by Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki.
- This method involves planting two to four different types of indigenous trees within every square metre



# Devendra Fadnavis back as Maharashtra CM, deputy CMs - Eknath Shinde, Ajit Pawar



- Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Legislature Party Leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the 21st Chief Minister of Maharashtra
- Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office
- BJP-led Mahayuti had victory in the State elections
- Outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, leader of a breakaway Shiv Sena faction, took the oath as Deputy Chief Minister, alongside Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Ajit Pawar
- This marks the third time Mr. Fadnavis, an MLA from Nagpur South-West, would occupy the Chief Minister's office
- His previous terms were from 2014 to 2019 and briefly in November 2019, when his government lasted only 72 hours due to a lack of majority support.
- BJP secured 132 seats in the 288-member
   Assembly. With allies the Shiv Sena and the NCP,
   the MahaYuti coalition holds a commanding majority of 230 seats.

### Rahul Narvekar Elected Maharashtra Assembly Speaker



- BJP MLA Rahul Narvekar was elected unopposed as the speaker of the 15th Maharashtra legislative assembly, marking his second consecutive term.
- Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) parties refused to file nomination
- From the Colaba constituency

# BJP MLA Kalidas Kolambkar sworn in as pro-tem speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly



- Senior BJP MLA Kalidas Kolambkar (December 6, 2024) took oath as pro-tem speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, a day ahead of the special session of the newly-elected house.
- Administered the oath of office by Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan
- The speaker's election will be held on December 9 and it will be followed by trust vote of the Devendra Fadnavis-led Mahayuti government

# Maharashtra's Proposal for UNESCO Heritage Site

The Maharashtra government plans to submit a proposal to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to include the famous Lonar Lake in Buldhana district in the Unesco World Heritage Sites list,

#### **About Lonar Lake:**

- It was created due to a meteorite.
- It is the only known saline crater lake in the world, formed by the impact of a meteorite about 50,000 years ago.
- Its water is seven times saltier than seawater.
- One of the most striking aspects is its color, which changes from green to pink depending on the season and the water conditions. This is caused by the presence of microorganisms that thrive in the saline and alkaline environment of the lake.

## India's First Bio-Bitumen National Highway Inaugurated

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways,
   Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first biobitumen-based National Highway stretch on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- This stretch has been developed using lignin-based bio-bitumen technology by Praj Industries, in collaboration with CSIR Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and Oriental.



- Bio-bitumen is a sustainable alternative to traditional asphalt. It's made from waste materials and other natural products, and it's designed to lower the carbon footprint of road construction
- greenhouse gas emissions by at least 70 per cent compared to fossil-based bitumen.

## Maharashtra Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2024

- The Maharashtra Assembly passed a Bill seeking to reform the prison system in the State.
- The Maharashtra Prisons and Correctional Services
  Act, 2024, is based on the Model Prisons Bill,
  2023, sent by the Centre to the States
- A high-security prison and detention centre will be set up in Mumbai
- The Bill provides for categories of prisons such as special prison, open prison for women, temporary prison and open colony.
- Open prisons and open colonies will help with rehabilitation and reintegration of former jail inmates after their release.
- The Bill also provides for the constitution of a 'prison and correctional prison force'.
- A welfare fund for the staff and another fund for the prisoners is also an important feature.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Third Eye Asian Film Festival to be held in Mumbai & Thane from Jan 10-16



- from January 10 to January 16, 2025.
- The Third Eye Asian Film Festival, initiated by the Asian Film Foundation in 2002
- Renowned lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar will be honoured with the Asian Cinema Culture Award, while journalist Rafique Baghdadi will receive the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award.

#### Goa

- 1. Formation Day
- 2. Gyan Kumbh'
- 3. 10th Century Kadamba Inscription Unveiled
- 4. Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' Scheme

### 30th May Goa foundation day

- Goa is located on the western coast of the Indian Peninsula, the state
  is separated from Maharashtra by the Terekhol River in the north,
  Karnataka in the south, the Western Ghats in the east, and the
  Arabian Sea in the West.
- On 19 December 1961, the Indian army with Operation Vijay resulted in the annexation of Goa, Daman and Diu into the Indian union.
- In May 30, 1987, India reorganized its territories, granting Goa the status of its twenty-fifth state while retaining Daman and Diu as Union Territories.
- The Portuguese were not only the earliest Europeans to arrive in India in 1498 but also the final ones to depart from the region in 1961.
- Founded: 30 May 1987
- Capital: Panaji
- · Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant
- P.S. Sreedharan Pillai 22nd Governor of Goa.
- Official Language: Konkani
- State Animal: Gaur
- State Bird: Flame-throated Bulbul
- State Tree: Indian Laurel
- Marine Protected Area: Chorao Island

#### **Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks:**

- Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary
- · Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary
- Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary
- Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary
- Mollem National Park

#### **UNESCO** World Heritage Site

Churches and Convents of Goa: It was declared as World Heritage Sites in 1986.

## National academic conclave 'Gyan Kumbh' in Puducherry



- in Puducherry from November 21-23, 2024.
- The three-day conclave, organized by Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas in collaboration with the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Pondicherry University,
- highlighted the transformative role of education in fostering sustainable development and cultural integration.

#### FLY91: India's Newest Regional Airline

 Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually flagged off the regional airline FLY91



- Inaugural flight from Goa's Mahohar International Airport (Mopa) to Agatti in Lakshadweep
- FLY91 is a Goa-based carrier.
- MD & CEO of FL91 Manoj Chacko
- it will begin its commercial services from March 18 with flights connecting Goa to Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

# 10th Century Kadamba Inscription Unveiled in South Goa's Sri Mahadeva Temple

An inscription written in Kannada and Sanskrit and said to be of 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Kadamba period has been discovered in the Mahadeva temple at Cacoda in southern Goa.



- T. Murugeshi, a retired associate professor from Udupi district, studied the inscription
- Sanskrit and Kannada were the official languages of Kadambas of Goa

### The International Purple Fest 2024, begins in Goa

- 2nd International Purple Fest will take place in Goa from January 8–13, 2024. The festival is a celebration of diversity and inclusivity
- The fest aims to showcase the talents of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through performances in music, dance, and entertainment during the Opening Ceremony.
- Opening Ceremony will have the Purple Anthem titled 'Dhumal'.

### Goa Launches 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' Scheme



 Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has launched the 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' scheme, aligning it with the Prime Minister's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

- The initiative is aimed at enhancing solar rooftop installations in Goa, enabling residential households to generate their own electricity and reduce reliance on traditional power sources.
- The Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan has an initial investment of Rs 35 crore. The Goa Energy Development Agency will cover the remaining cost for rooftop installations up to 5kW for consumers using 400 or fewer units annually.

### Pakistani Christian is first Goan to get Indian citizenship under CAA



- Joseph Francis A. Pereira, a Christian from Pakistan, has become the first person in Goa to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
- The Citizenship Amendment Act allows Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Parsis, and Buddhists from neighboring countries—Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—who entered India before December 31, 2014, to apply for citizenship after verification.

#### Karnataka

- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. Bali Padyami festival
- 3. Bengaluru's first digital population clock
- 4. first airport in Asia to receive Level 5
  Accreditation
- 5. MUDA scam
- 6. India's First Driverless Metro Train
- 7. Namma Yatri app
- 8. Kateel Yakshagana Mela
- 9. Yuva Nidhi Scheme
- 10. South India's First Leopard Safari
- 11. Nipuna Karnataka initiative
- 12. Nambike Nakshe system
- 13. Al Tool 'Shiksha Copilot' for Teachers

# 1 November - Karnataka Foundation Day (Kannada Rajyotsava)



- November 1, 1956 as Mysore (Kannada speaking people)
- Renamed as 'Karnataka' on November 1, 1973
- CM: Siddaramaiah
- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Capital Bengaluru
- Traditional Dance: Dollu Kunitha

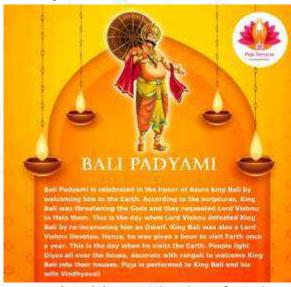
#### **National Park:**

- Bandipur National Park
- Anshi National Park
- Kudermukh National Park
- Nagarahole National Park
- Bannerghatta National Park
- Mudumalai National Park

#### **UNESCO** World Heritage Sites

- Hampi(Located on the shore of the Tungabhadra River.)
- Mysore
- Aihole
- Pattadakal Monuments
- Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somanathapur

#### **Bali Padyami festival**



- Karnataka celebrates Bali Padyami festival on the fourth day of Deepavali.
- It is believed that the Asura king Bali Chakravarty comes out of Pathala loka and visits Bhuloka as per the boon given by Lord Vishnu during Vamana Avatar.

### 'Kaalinga' will be the scientific name for 'Kalinga Sarpa'

- Karnataka's own king cobra found in the Western Ghats and known as 'Kalinga Sarpa' in the vernacular parlance will get its name 'Kaalinga' etched in the scientific world.
- officially named Ophiophagus kaalinga
- habitat spreads across the South and South-east

The king cobra species have been separated to be having four lineages —

- 1. Western Ghats lineage
- 2. Indo-Chinese lineage

#### **Dance**

- Yakshagana
- Huttari
- Suggi
- Kunitha
- Karga

The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary is a Ramsar site in Karnataka. It is located in the Mandya district on the banks of the Cauvery River.

- 3. Indo-Malaysian lineage
- 4. the lineage of Luzon Island in the Philippine Archipelago.



The king cobras are the **only snakes in the world to build nest**s that are 4 ft x 3 ft and the female king cobras are found ferociously guarding them.

### NTCA recommendations on declaring Nugu WLS as core area of Bandipur yet to be implemented



- The recommendations of NTCA, made a year ago, to notify the entire Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary as core and critical area of Bandipur Tiger Reserve is yet to be implemented.
- All India Tiger Estimation for 2022 showed the presence of tigers and elephants in the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary
- The area of Nugu Sanctuary was small about 30.32 sq km, it was part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and part of the larger tiger landscape comprising Bandipur and Nagarahole in Karnataka, Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu and Wayanad in Kerala.

#### About Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR):

- It is situated in two contiguous districts (Mysore and Chamarajanagar) of Karnataka and located at the tri-junction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- It was established in the year 1931 as Venugopala
   Wildlife Park by the Maharaja of Mysore.
- It was then expanded with the name Bandipur
   Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger in 1973.
- It is part of the larger Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- BTR is surrounded by:
- Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) in the Northwest (Kabini Reservoir separates the two).
- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in the South
- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the Southwest.

# Bengaluru's first digital population clock to be inaugurated



- will display real-time estimates of the population of Karnataka and the country
- will be inaugurated at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
- The population clock, a project jointly taken up by ISEC and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

 Similar digital population clocks are being installed in 18 Population Research Centres across India by MoHFW.

### Amazon launches facility in Bengaluru to train school students in tech

- Amazon launched its first free-of-cost Amazon
   Future Engineer Makerspace in Bengaluru.
- The initiative is aimed to empower about 4,000 students in grades 5-12 from low-income families with hands-on learning in robotics, AI, and 3D printing by 2025.

### Government declares Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuary

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mr. Bhupender Yadav said that the Central Government has declared Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuary.
- Several measures are being taken for the conservation of the national bird and the ministry has also set up breeding and conservation centers for peacocks.
- Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary sanctuary is situated in Nagamangala Taluk of Mandya District. It was first notified in 1981 and finally declared in 1999.
- Choolannur Pea Fowl Sanctuary or Mayiladumpara, as it is locally known, is located in Palakkad district. It was declared as a peacock sanctuary in 1996.

# KHIR-City to be launched in Bengaluru on Aug 23



Karnataka will officially inaugurate its ambitious
Knowledge Health Innovation Research-City
(KHIR-City)

- a cluster of world-class universities, hospitals, innovative industries, and research institutions, coming up on a parcel of 2,000 acres of land near the Kempegowda International Airport.
- With an estimated investment of over ₹40,000 crore, the entire project is expected to create about 50,000 jobs.

## KIA Bengaluru becomes first airport in Asia to receive Level 5 Accreditation of ACI

- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has become the first in Asia to receive Airports Council International's (ACI) highest Level 5 accreditation.
- KIA has made a 95.6% reduction in Scope 1 and 2
   Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, attaining the
   highest emission elimination by an Indian airport,
   achieved seven years ahead of the initial target of
   2030.
- The airport aims to attain net zero GHG emissions by 2050, encompassing Scope 3 emissions.

#### What is the Karnataka MUDA scam?



- The Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), originally called the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) when it was created in 1904, is responsible for urban planning and development in Mysuru.
- One of its roles is to acquire land for residential layouts. However, MUDA has faced legal problems due to incomplete land acquisitions.
- Media reports alleged gross irregularities in the allotment of residential sites by MUDA to land losers as compensation, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi.
- It was alleged that she had been allotted 14 sites in an upmarket residential layout in lieu of her 3 acres and 16 guntas of land that had been acquired by MUDA to develop a layout.
- Mr. Siddaramaiah and the Congress leaders have clarified that the allotment of residential sites to Ms. Parvathi was within the legal framework of the 50:50 ratio scheme envisaged by the cashstrapped MUDA to compensate land losers

 MUDA started a 50:50 ratio scheme in 2020. This plan gives 50% of the developed land to the original landowners and allows MUDA to keep the other half.

#### What is the 50:50 ratio scheme?

- While an acre of land comprises around 43,000 to 44,000 square feet, only about 23,000 square feet of developed land is available for residential sites as the remaining goes towards roads, parks, civic amenities (CA) site and other amenities.
- Out of the 23,000 square feet of developed land for every acre, 50% or 11,500 square feet is allotted to the land loser and the remaining 11,500 is retained by the MUDA, .

### Bengaluru to Get India's First Driverless Metro Train



The driverless Bengaluru Metro train is set to be commissioned for the under-construction 18.8 km yellow line, connecting RV Road and Bommasandra.

- The new driverless train will use Communicationbased Train Control (CBTC) system
- CBTC technology is a modern communicationbased system that uses radio communication to transfer timely and accurate train control information.
- The new train will also use artificial intelligence
   (AI) for safety purposes.
- The coaches for the driverless Bengaluru Metro are manufactured by Chinese firm CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co Ltd, along with their domestic partners Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd. as part of the Make In India Initiative.

# Namma Yatri app partners with Bengaluru police to induct women autorickshaw drivers

- Ride booking app Namma Yatri announced plans to enrol 1,000 women drivers in the next six months in collaboration with Bengaluru police and NGOs.
- the company launched Mahila Shakti, an initiative designed to empower women from diverse

backgrounds to become proficient in driving electric vehicle (EV) autorickshaws.

### 13<sup>th</sup> State Level Philatelic Exhibition, 'KARNAPEX 2024 - A festival of Stamps', organised by the Karnataka Postal



#### Kateel Yakshagana Mela



 NEWS: The over-a-century old Yakshagana mela, the Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita
 Yakshagana Mandali, in Dakshina Kannada will revert to all-night shows from January 14, after the High Court of Karnataka gave the go-ahead for the same last month subject to adherence to noise pollution rules.

#### About Yakshagana:

- It is a traditional folk dance-drama that originated in the 16th century in the Karnataka.
- Unusual blend of dance, music, song, scholarly dialogues, and vibrant costumes.
- Yakshagana literally means, "song" of the yaksha (demi-gods/spirits).
- The mela or troupe consists of two main parts:
  - Mummela (foreground actors)
  - Himmela (singers and instrumentalists in the background).
- Originally an all-night performance where the mela travelled from one village to another.
- Yakshagana is performed in open-air theatres.

 Historically, men traditionally played all roles, but nowadays women are also involved in Yakshagana troupes.

#### Important Dance Drama or Folk Theatre

| Folk drama/theatre | State                |  |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| Therukoothu        | Tamil Nadu           |  |
| Koodiyattam        | Kerala               |  |
| Bhavai             | Gujarat              |  |
| Nautanki           | Mainly Uttar Pradesh |  |
| Tamasha            | Maharashtra          |  |
| Jatra              | Mainly West Bengal   |  |

# Yuva Nidhi Scheme launched by Karnataka government for unemployed youth

- Launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar
- The scheme offers financial aid to graduates and diploma holders who are yet to get a job, but only for a maximum of two years.
- Training will be provided to the graduates and diploma holders who register themselves on the skill connect portal of the State Government.
- The government has promised ₹3,000 per month to degree holders and ₹1,500 per month to diploma holders who were unable to get a job in the past six months and are not pursuing higher studies.

# Lakshmana Tirtha River Dries Up Amidst Drought and Heat



- It is a tributary of the river Kaveri in Kodagu or Coorg District of Karnataka.
- Lakshmanatirtha Falls or the Irupu Falls on the river, bordering Kerala
- Farmers in South Kodagu are struggling to irrigate their crops due to a dire situation. They rely on the river for their coffee plantations, but the water scarcity has made it difficult.

## South India's First Leopard Safari Opens at Bannerghatta



- South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), Karnataka.
- An area of 20 hectares has been demarcated and fenced for the safari. Currently eight leopards have been released for the safari in the open forest area.
- Created at a cost of ₹4.5 crore

#### Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP):

- It is the first biological park in India to have a fenced, forested elephant sanctuary.
- It has been an integral part of Bannerghatta
   National Park and emerged as an independent establishment in 2002.

#### **Bannerghatta National Park:**

- It is located near Bangalore, Karnataka, in the hills of the Anekal range.
- It was declared a National Park in 1974.
- In 2006, India's first butterfly enclosure was inaugurated at the park.

# Yelahanka gas power plant to be commissioned on September 24



- Karnataka's first gas-based power plant, the 370-MW Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP), is scheduled to be commissioned on September 24 at Yelahanka,
- Established by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)
- In 2016, the then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah laid the foundation stone for the Yelahanka CCPP. Now he will inaugurate it

- A gas power plant, also known as a gas-fired power plant, natural gas power plant, or methane gas power plant, is a thermal power station that uses natural gas to generate electricity
- Natural gas power plants are cheap and quick to build.
- Natural gas power plants produce considerable carbon dioxide, although less than coal plants do.
- On the other hand, the process of getting natural gas from where it's mined to the power plants leads to considerable release of methane

### Karnataka government launched 'Nipuna Karnataka'

- An initiative aimed at equipping youth in the State with industry-specific skills, particularly within the State's rapidly growing IT sector.
- The government has outlined a strategy to bridge the skill gap that currently exists between fresh graduates, including engineers and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) professionals, and industry requirements.

# First-of-its-kind Active Mobility Centre of Excellence to be set up in Bengaluru

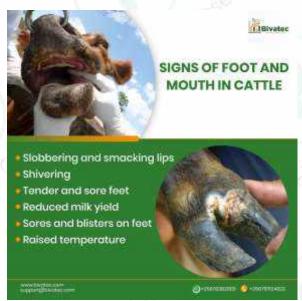
- A one-of-a-kind Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Active Mobility in India will be set up in Bengaluru by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab.) and Urban Morph.
- The centre will work on research, plans, collaborations, and monitoring and evaluation of human-powered transportation modes:
- like walking and cycling towards making the cities solve efficiencies in transportation.
- It will also include modes and methodologies that make our public spaces offer equity in mobility to gender, age, economic strata and disabilities

# Nambike Nakshe, system for building plan approval launched in Bengaluru

- The 'Nambike Nakshe' system, under which provisional plan approvals for buildings up to 4,000 sq ft can be taken from an authorised architect.
- The new scheme, which is designed to simplify the process for obtaining building plan approvals for plots up to 4,000 sq ft (50x80 ft) within Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits.

 Once this provisional plan is obtained, it can be uploaded online for final approval by the BBMP

# Centre to establish foot-and-mouth disease-free zones in eight States



The Union government has decided to establish foot-and-mouth disease-free zones in eight States

 Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh,
 Telangana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana,
 Maharashtra, and Gujarat — in a bid to expand export opportunities for Indian animal products, and enhance the country's global market presence.

#### About Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD):

- It is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact.
- The disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and other cloven-hoofed ruminants.
- It does not affect horses, dogs, or cats.
- The organism which causes FMD is an aphthovirus of the family Picornaviridae.
- Symptoms: FMD is characterised by fever and blister-like sores on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats, and between the hooves.

## Nagaland's 5th Brillante Piano Festival to be held in Bengaluru



Brillante, the world's only multi-genre piano festival is marking its debut in Bengaluru.

- on 28th and 29th of September, 2024
- Started in Nagaland's Kohima in 2017

### State rejects Kasturirangan committee report

- The Karnataka government has decided to reject the Kasturirangan committee report, which was created to protect important Eco-sensitive areas (ESAs) in the Western Ghats, despite stating in recent months that the report would be reviewed.
- The Kasturirangan Committee was set up in 2012 to help create a national wildlife action plan.
- The Kasturirangan committee report proposes that
   37 per cent of the total area of Western Ghats, to
   be declared as eco-sensitive area



- Out of this, 20,668 sq km of the area falls
   in Karnataka covering more than 1,500 villages.
- A state-level expert committee conducted meetings in the Western Ghats districts and said in a report in 2015 that only 153 (as opposed to 1,553 villages) in Karnataka should be declared ecologically sensitive areas of the Western Ghats

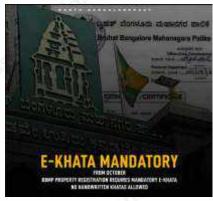
#### **About Eco-Sensitive Areas:**

 Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are located within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. ESAs are notified by the Ministry of Environment,
 Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under
 Environment Protection Act 1986.

## Karnataka Launches AI Tool 'Shiksha Copilot' for Teachers

- Shiksha Copilot an Al-powered digital assistant which aims to improve learning outcomes and empower teachers to create comprehensive and personalised teaching resources.
- a collaboration between the Sikshana Foundation and Microsoft Research India.
- Shiksha Copilot is part of Project VeLLM, a
   Microsoft Research India's platform to develop
   specialised generative AI copilots that are
   accessible to everyone, from teachers to farmers
   and small business owners.

# Bengaluru civic body to geo tag properties to facilitate digital e-khata issuance system



- The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) launched a GPS-based digital e-khata issuance system, making property records accessible online and eliminating the need for in-person interactions.
- The civic body will phase out physical khatas starting September 30
- The owners have to submit the required documents online to secure final e-khata online.

## Mysuru, Karnataka Dasara festival concludes with elephant procession



- Known as 'Nada Habba' (the state festival)
- The 10 days long Mysuru Dasara festival culminated with a grand Jamboo savari or Elephant procession on the Vijayadashami day in Mysuru.
- The idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari placed in the 750 kg golden howdah carried by Dasara elephant Abhimanyu
- Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru and its royal lineage

### Karnataka Governor launches "Yuva Shuddhi Abhiyan" to fight against drug ahuse

 Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the 'Yuva Shuddhi Abhiyan,' a significant anti-narcotic campaign targeting college students, at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.

#### Handigodu disease



- Karnataka Health Minister has directed officials to study Handigodu disease scientifically
- Handigodu disease is a rare osteoarthritic disorder (bone and joint disease) found in Shimoga and Chikmaglur districts.
- It is an inherited degenerative bone and joint disease, first noticed in Handigodu village.
- Symptoms include severe joint and hip pain, deformation, dwarfism, and difficulty walking.
- The disease begins in preadolescence and can severely affect mobility.
- Over 1,000 people have died from the disease since its discovery in 1975.

# 63<sup>rd</sup> ISAM Conference to Be Held at IAM Bengaluru

- Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) is organising its 63rd annual conference at Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), Bengaluru, from 05 to 07 December 2024.
- The Institute deals with military and civil aerospace medicine including the human aspects of space flight programme of the country.
- Established in the year 1952

- ISAM has been conducting an annual scientific conference since the year 1954.
- The current conference is themed 'Collaborate for Research'

## **Uber launches women-only bike taxi** service 'Moto Women' in Bengaluru



- Uber India has introduced 'Uber Moto Women' in Bengaluru, marking its first women-exclusive bike taxi service globally.
- The service, which connects female riders with female drivers, is set to expand to other major metropolitan cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad.

### Karnataka's New SWIFT City Initiative



- Karnataka state's ambitious plan to develop 'SWIFT City' in Sarjapura, envisioned as a hub for startups, innovation, finance, and technology.
- The project will offer small and medium-sized startups flexible workspace options through leasing, sales, or investment-sharing models.

### Telangana

- 1. formation day
- 2. Hyderabad Liberation Day
- 3. Digital Family Cards
- 4. 'Darshini' Scheme
- 5. first state to implement SC quota subclassification
- 6. Young India Skills University
- 7. Project Swasthya Nagaram
- 8. Tadoba-Kawal conservation reserve
- 9. NutriAIDE mobile app
- 10. 100% tax exemption for electric vehicle

#### LAKES:

Hussain Sagar, Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar, Durgam Cheruvu, Pakhal Lake, Mir Alam Tank

#### **Dances**

- Gussadi
- Dhimsa Dance
- Lambadi Dance
- Perini Sivatandavam
- Dappu Dance

### 2<sup>nd</sup> June Telangana Foundation Day

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2014 the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh was separated and 29<sup>th</sup> state Telangana was created with Hyderabad as its capital.
- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy
- State Bird Palapitta (Indian Roller or Blue Jay).
- State Animal Jinka (Deer).
- State Tree Jammi Chettu (Prosopis Cineraria).
- State Flower Tangedu (Tanner's Cassia).

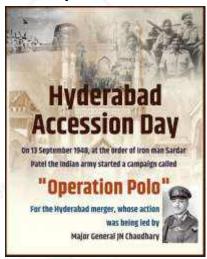
#### **National Park:**

- Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park,
- Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park,
- Shivaram Wildlife sanctuary,
- Manjira Wildlife Sanctuary

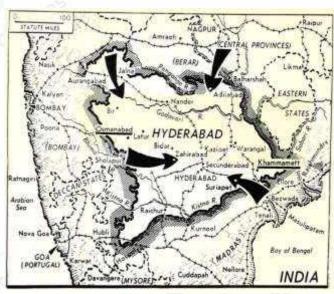
#### **UNESCO's World Heritage site**

- Ramappa temple is situated in Palampet in Telangana.
- It was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recherla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva

# Government Decides To Celebrate 17 September As Hyderabad Liberation Day



- Ministry of Home Affairs has notified that 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' will be marked every year on 17th September.
- Hyderabad did not get independence for 13 months of the Independence of India and was under Nizam's Rule.
- The region was liberated from Nizam's Rule on 17th September 1948, after police action under the name 'Operation Polo.' (started on 13<sup>th</sup> sept.)





After the introduction of the States Reorganisation
Act of 1956, the Hyderabad State and the Andhra
State were merged to form the State of Andhra
Pradesh

- The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act
  (2014) bifurcated Andhra Pradesh into two
  separate states, namely, the Andhra Pradesh
  (residuary) and the Telangana.
- The Andhra State Act (1953) formed the first linguistic state of India, known as the state of Andhra, by taking out the Telugu speaking areas from the State of Madras (now Tamil Nadu).

#### **Telangana to Initiate Caste Survey**

- With this, Telangana will become the third state to hold such a caste-based headcount after Bihar and Andhra Pradesh
- Bihar was the first State in independent India to conduct and publish a caste census report in 2023.
- Andhra Pradesh conducted and published caste census report in early 2024
- Earlier in 2015, the Congress government in Karnataka commissioned a caste census, the report of which has not been made public so far.
- The survey is aimed at planning and implementing various opportunities -- including socio, economic, employment, educational and political -- for the amelioration of OBCs, SCs and STs and other weaker sections of the state

# NITI Aayog Launches First State Chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform in Telangana



- Telangana has become the first State, in the country, to get a chapter of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- WEP thus far remained a scheme operated by the Centre.
- An initiative to promote and support women entrepreneurs across various sectors by providing them access to resources, tools and a network for enhancing their business growth

#### **NITI Aayoq**

- NITI Aayog CEO: BVR Subrahmanyam
- · Chairperson: The Prime Minister of India
- was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015. It was constituted to replace the Planning Commission - instituted in 1950.
- premier policy think tank of the Government of India,

# Telangana CM launches 'Digital Family Cards' on pilot basis



- A Revanth Reddy launched the pilot project of 'family digital cards' in 119 Assembly constituencies
- all the welfare scheme benefits will be provided through a single card.
- The government already announced plans to go ahead with the 'One state One Card' policy - aims to extend the welfare schemes benefit to all eligible.
- A woman is considered as head of the family in the family digital card

# Telangana Recommends Appointment of a Judicial Commission to Study SC Sub-Categorization

 led by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or High Court, to assess intra-backwardness among different castes within the SCs.

### Telangana Launches 'Darshini' Scheme for Educational Student Tours

- aimed at providing students with immersive learning experience outside the classroom.
- designed to take school and college students on educational tours across the State.
- of heritage sites, historical monuments, dynamic urban landscapes and scientific institutions

# World Trade Centre to Anchor Ambitious AI City Near Hyderabad



 Telangana government has signed an MoU with the World Trade Centres' Association for the establishment of a World Trade Centre in the proposed AI City near Hyderabad.

# Telangana says 'will be first state' to implement SC quota sub-classification after order

- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the state would be the first to implement it.
- His government will immediately start the process of sub-classification in accordance with the apex court's order.
- The state government will take appropriate measures to implement the reservations for Madigas and other sub-castes in the current job notification as well.
- Madigas are the largest among the 59 SC subcastes in Telangana followed by the Malas.

# Telangana Assembly Passes Bill to Establish Young India Skills University



 The Telangana state assembly has passed the "Young India Skills University Telangana (Public-Private Partnership) Bill 2024.

- The bill is aimed at establishing A Skills University to impart skills in 17 subjects, which can ensure the student's employment in the competition of the course at the university.
- The SC, ST, and BC students will be provided fee reimbursement and a reservation policy will be implemented. the Government had released ₹100 crore for the purpose.

CM plans Buddhist tourist circuit in Telangana under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme



- Telangana government plans to develop a Buddhist tourism circuit in Telangana by setting up an International Buddha Museum in Buddhavanam and link it to the Buddha statue in Hussainsagar along with the historical sites in Phanigiri and Nelakondapalli.
- to attract Buddhists from all over the country
- The state has recently sent a Detailed Project
  Report to the Centre for the development of
  Buddhavanam as part of the Swadeshi Darshan 2.0
  scheme announced by the Central government.

Telangana: Unique Model For TB-Free Municipalities Under Project Swasthya Nagaram Launched



 The project aimed at achieving TB-free municipalities.  The model will be implemented in urban settings various Municipal Corporation over a period of 3 years aiming at bringing down one third of TB incidence, and bringing down TB related mortality.

# Telangana Government Announces Launch of Indiramma Housing Scheme



- Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy has announced the commencement of the Indiramma Housing Scheme starting March 11.
- The scheme aims to provide **housing solutions** to the economically disadvantaged sections.
- Under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, those who own a plot of land will be given Rs.5 lakh for building a new house in the plot.
- Homeless poor will be given Rs.5 lakh along with a house plot.

### 'Pandavula Gutta' designated exclusive Geo-heritage site in Telangana



Pro-Historic Man's Rook Art (#
PANDAVULA GUHALU
TELANGANA

- Pandavula Gutta, a geological marvel older than the Himalayan hills, has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.
- Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant

- offering insight to earth's evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the parent body which is making efforts towards identification and protection of geo-heritage sites/national geological monuments in the country.

#### **Geological Survey of India**

- It was set up in 1851
- GSI is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
- The main functions of the GSI relate to creation and updation of national geo-scientific information and mineral resource assessment.
- It is headquartered in Kolkata.

# Discovery of Palaeolithic tools in Telangana

- The recent floods in the Mulugu district of Telangana has led to a fresh discovery of paleolithic quartzite tools.
- The stone axe belongs to the Lower Paleolithic period and is about 30 lakh years ago.
- Paleolithic Age is also known as or Old Stone Age or Early Stone Age.



# Telangana signs agreement with WEF for setting up C4IR in Hyderabad



- World Economic Forum has agreed to set up its Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in Hyderabad.
- Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and WEF
   President Borge Brende entered into an agreement during WEF-2024 in Davos in Switzerland
- The C4IR is scheduled to launch on February 28, 2024, as part of the BioAsia-2024 conference.
- The agreement would help in leveraging latest technology for advances in the life sciences sector.

### 'First time in India': African-Mediterranean wader bird spotted in Warangal, Telangana

Native to North Africa, the Middle East and Mediterranean regions spur-winged lapwing was sighted at Ammavaripet Lake near Warangal

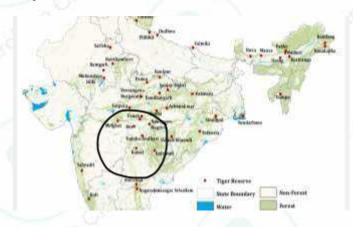


## Tadoba-Kawal conservation reserve approved by SBWL



 The Telangana State Board for Wildlife has approved a proposal by the Forest Department to declare the corridor area between Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra) and Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana) as a conservation reserve.

# NutriAIDE mobile app launched by National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad



- The app is designed to help users adopt healthy and sustainable diets.
- Launched by the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad in collaboration with the University of Augsburg and the German Institute of Human Nutrition

# 16th India Game Developer Conference in Hyderabad, Showcasing Growth in Gaming Industry



- The 16th edition of India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) begins in Hyderabad - take place from November 13-15, 2024
- Organized by the Game Developer Association of India (GDAI)
- The IGDC ranked among the top three video gaming conferences worldwide and this year's conference will underscore the country's rising influence in the global gaming industry.

## Kaloji Kalakshetram inaugurated by Telangana CM Revanth



- a multi-purpose cultural centre in Hanamkonda,
   Warangal district of Telangana.
- in memory of the legendary poet, Kaloji Narayana Rao, popularly known as Praja Kavi Kaloji (People's poet), who inspired the separate Telangana movement in the 1969
- Cultural centre has an 1127-seating capacity auditorium, an art gallery and other facilities.

# Telangana government announces 100% tax exemption for electric vehicle

 As part of its push for cleaner air, environment sustainability, and energy efficiency, the Telangana government came out with a new Electric Vehicles (EV) policy.

#### What are the key features of Telangana's EV policy?

- With immediate effect a 100 per cent exemption from road tax and registration fee on EVs for two years, till December 31, 2026.
- A previous limit on tax exemptions for the first
   5000 EVs has been lifted and, as per the new policy, there is no limit to the number of EVs that can be registered with the tax exemptions.
- The tax exemptions will apply to two-wheelers, four-wheelers, commercial passenger vehicles like taxis and tourist cabs, three-seater auto-rickshaws, electric tractors, and electric buses.
- Electric buses operated by companies or firms to ferry their employees are also exempt from the taxes.

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# Telangana's Rythu Bharosa: Boosting Farmer Welfare



The Telangana government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is set to roll out the Rythu Bharosa Scheme after Sankranti

Rythu Bharosa Scheme: Offers ₹15,000 annual subsidy to farmers, increasing the benefits from the earlier ₹10,000 under Rythu Bandhu.

The scheme replaces the previous Rythu Bandhu

# Google to Launch Safety Engineering Centre in Hyderabad

- Google has chosen Hyderabad to set up Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC).
- It would be the first-of-its-kind in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, after Tokyo, and only the fifth in

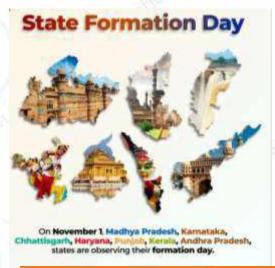
**the world**, with similar facilities in Dublin, Munich and Malaga.

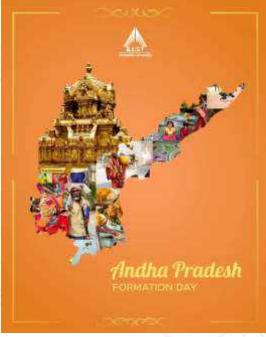
 This GSEC is a specialized international cybersecurity hub that will play a vital role in developing advanced security and online safety products for the Indian context. It also aims to foster skill development, boost employment, and enhance cybersecurity capabilities in India



#### **Andhra Pradesh**

- 1. Formation Day
- 2. Deepam 2.0 Scheme
- 3. Sky Meets Sea initiative
- 4. Gutti Koya tribe
- 5. SAMARTH app
- 6. Mukha Mukhi' programme
- 7. Bharosa Pension Scheme





#### 1 November Andhra Pradesh Foundation Day

- Andhra State was the first state to be formed on a linguistic basis in India on 1 October 1953.
- On 1 November 1956, Andhra State was merged with the Telugu-speaking areas of the Hyderabad State to form Andhra Pradesh.
- On 2nd June, 2014 the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh was separated and Telangana was created through the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- Capital: Amaravati
- CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Governor: Shri S. Abdul Nazeer
- State Animal: Blackbuck (Indian antelope)
- State Bird: The rose-ringed parakeet
- State Flower: Jasmine
- State Tree: Neem

#### **National Parks**

- Papikonda National Park
- Rajiv Gandhi (Rameshwaram) National Park
- Sri Venkateswara National Park

#### Wildlife Sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh

- Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary
- · Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary
- Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam Sanctuary
- Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

#### Rivers

- Krishna
- Godavari
- Penna
- Tungabhadra
- Nagavali
- Vasundhara
- Kundu

#### Lakes

Pulicat lake

Kolleru Lake

### AP CM Chandrababu Naidu Launches Deepam 2.0 Scheme, Provides Free Gas Cylinders to Eligible Families



- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the 'Deepam – 2' scheme aims to provide eligible beneficiaries with three gas cylinders per annum (one cylinder every four months).
- This initiative is part of the "Super Six" poll promises made by Naidu in the lead-up to the 2024 elections.

# Andhra Pradesh Government Abolishes Garbage Tax



- To this effect, Municipal Administration Minister P.
   Narayana tabled an Amendment Bill to Repeal
   Garbage Tax in the State Legislative Assembly. The Assembly approved the same.
- The NDA government had promised to repeal the garbage tax before the elections. A resolution was passed in the Cabinet on October 16, 2024, to repeal the tax.

# 'Sky Meets Sea': Andhra Pradesh introduces seaplane service to link Vijayawada and Srisailam



 The initiative, named 'Sky Meets Sea', connects the cities of Vijayawada and Srisailam.

# Andhra Pradesh govt. aims to double horticulture crop acreage under micro-irrigation by 2029

- The Andhra Pradesh government is considering a proposal to provide 90% subsidy to horticulture farmers opting for micro-irrigation under Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP).
- The proposal aims to increase horticultural production by at least 15% every year through a new policy.
- At present, horticulture crops are being grown on around 15 lakh hectares in the State and the government aims to increase the acreage by at least 3 lakh hectares a year for five years, taking the total to around 30 lakh hectares.
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of fruits in India, contributing 15.6% of the total production
- Andhra Pradesh ranks first in the productivity of oil palm, papaya, lime, cocoa, tomato and coconut and second in chilli in India

### Sangeet Natak Akademi Collaborates with Kakinada's Thota Balakrishna for Andhra Pradesh's Kala Disha Project



 The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) has roped in a renowned leather puppeteer from Kakinada,
 Thota Balakrishna, to mentor ten young puppeteers and preserve the art of leather puppetry (Tholubommalata), as part of the 'Kala Disha' project

# New campus of National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) in Andhra Pradesh

- PM Modi inaugurated the new campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics in Andhra Pradesh.
- The national-level world-class training institute will impart training to the officials of Indian Revenue
   Service (Custom & Indirect Taxes) as well as to the

central allied services, state governments & partner nations.



- The Headquarters of NACIN is located at Faridabad, Haryana
- The Academy falls under the administrative control of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
- NACIN is the apex institution of the Government of India for capacity building in the field of Indirect Taxation (Customs, Central Excise and Goods and Services Tax) and Narcotics Control Administration.

### **Gutti Koya tribe**



- News: In a first, the traditional food of the Gutti
   Koya tribe was highlighted at a food festival held in the Alluri Sitarama Raju district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The one-day food festival under the aegis of Jana Vikas Society (JVS), an organisation working on the rights and livelihood of the Gutti Koya and Konda Reddi tribes.
- The Koya population is concentrated in Telangana,
   Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- They speak Koya, which is a Dravidian language.
- The most important fair celebrated by Koyas is the Sammakka Saralamma Jatra.
- They practice Podu form of shifting cultivation.

#### **SHORT NEWS**

• 6th NABARD Crafts Mela Commences in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

# Andhra Pradesh's Bapatla police develop SAMARTH app to swiftly mobilise forces during polls



- SAMARTH Security Arrangement Mapping Analysis Response Tracking Hub mobile app
- The mobile app clearly demarcates and maps critical and common polling stations and enables police officers to quickly address any incidents at polling stations or other locations
- The SAMARTH app incorporates election rules, information related to various laws, training material, and orders given by the above authorities from time to time and can be viewed by 2,000 policemen who use the app at any time.

# Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner launches 'Mukha Mukhi' programme

 to interact directly with people in their colonies, learn about their issues and address them efficiently.



# 41,000-Year-Old Ostrich Nest Found in Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh

- It is the world's oldest known ostrich nest, found while investigating the Prakasam site for fossils.
- The nest has a width of 9-10 feet, and was once home to 9-11 eggs, although it was capable of holding 30-40 eggs at a time,
- Gave crucial insights about the extinction of megafauna in India.



- Megafauna describe animals weighing more than
   50 kg
- Ostriches are megaomnivores, with an adult ostrich weighing between 90 and 140 kg, with height between 7-9 feet.

### Chandrababu Naidu launched NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme



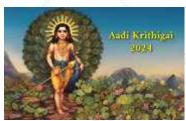
- The NTR Bharosa Scheme is a social security scheme of the Andhra Pradesh government.
- CM launched the scheme on 1 July 2024 at Penumaka village of Tadepalli block in Amaravati.
- Under the NTR Bharosa pension scheme, the pension for old-aged people, widows, weavers, toddy tappers, fishermen, single women, traditional cobblers, transgenders and artists has been increased from Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 per month.
- Pension for the disabled and multi-deformity
   leprosy patients has been increased from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000 per month.
- The pension amount has been increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs15,000 for fully disabled people confined to beds or wheelchairs and those with severe muscular dystrophy.
- It has also been enhanced from Rs 5,000 to 10,000 for people suffering from chronic diseases like kidney diseases and thalassemia.
- Rs 4,408 crore was distributed as pensions among 6.531 million beneficiaries of 28 different categories at their doorstep.
- The chief minister also announced that the state government would soon receive the Amma canteen in the state, and food would be provided at Rs 5 to the people.

#### **About N T Rama Rao**



- Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, popularly known as NTR, was a famous Telugu film actor and producer.
- He founded the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in 1982 to protect the interests of the Telugu-speaking people.
- He was the **chief minister of Andhra Pradesh three** times (1983–84, 1984–89, and 1994–95).
- N. Chandrababu Naidu is his son-in-law.
- In August 1995, he succeeded NTR as the leader of the TDP and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

# Adi Krithika Festival celebrated with devotional ecstasy in Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu



- At temples dedicated to Lord Subramanya Swamy across Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh.
- Celebrated at the end of July or beginning of August, or in the middle of the Aadi month of Tamil calendar on the day of Krittika star, this festival is dedicated to Lord Muruga, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

### PM performs darshan and puja at Veerbhadra Temple in Lepakshi, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh



• Shri Modi heard verses from the Ranganatha Ramayan in Telugu and witnessed the tale of Jatayu visually presented through the traditional shadow puppetry art form from Andhra Pradesh known as Tholu Bommalata.

- The temple was built in 1530 AD by Virupanna
   Nayaka and Viranna, both brothers who were
   Governors under the Vijayanagar Empire during the reign of King Achutaraya.
- The architectural features of the temple are in the Vijayanagara style



## Andhra Pradesh raises retirement age of judicial officers from 60 to 61 years

- Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer has approved the amendment to the retirement age of judicial officers in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Andhra Pradesh government had earlier decided to extend the retirement age for judicial officers, introducing the "AP Government Employees' Retirement Age Rationalization Amendment Bill" during a recent legislative assembly session

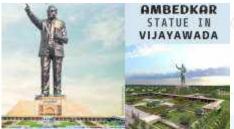
### AP Urjaveer Energy Scheme 2024



- The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated the AP Urjaveer Scheme, which aims to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability.
- It is a collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), the focus is on training private electricians statewide and the goal is to promote and sell energy-efficient appliances.
- The scheme will train 1,12,000 private electricians and will learn to market six types of energyefficient appliances.
- These include 6W LED bulbs, 20W LED tube lights, 30W BLDC ceiling fans, 5-star air conditioners, induction cooking stoves, and 10W LED inverter lamps.
- The trained electricians will be referred to as Urjaveers.

- Urjaveers will form a network across Andhra Pradesh and will educate the public about energyefficient appliances.
- The AP Urjaveer Scheme aligns with other energy initiatives, which supports the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP).
- It also complements energy-efficient solutions under the PMAY scheme.

### Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurated the Statue of Social Justice



- Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy unveiled the tallest statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar at Swaraj Maidan in Vijayawada
- The statue is the tallest Ambedkar statue in the world.
- Called as the 'Statue of Social Justice'.
- The steel & brass statue is 125 feet tall constructed on an 81-foot pedestal, taking the total height to 206 feet.

### Andhra Pradesh government declares Ratha Saptami as State festival



- Ratha Saptami as a State festival for three days at the Sri Suryanarayana Swamy temple at Arasavalli in Srikakulam district.
- Ratha Saptami (Magha Saptami) will be celebrated on February 4, 2025. The temple's substantial income ensures the festival's selfsufficiency without government financial aid.
- Ratha Saptami is a Hindu festival that falls on the seventh day (saptami) in the bright half (Shukla Paksha) of the Hindu month Magha.
- It also marks the birth of Surya and is hence also celebrated as Surya Jayanti (the sun-god's birthday)

#### **Tamil Nadu**

- 1. formation day
- 2. Tamil Nadu Prohibition Amendment Act
- 3. Jallikattu Event
- 4. Four new Biodiversity Heritage Sites
- 5. Thai Poosam festival
- 6. Param Vir Chakra garden
- 7. first synchronised Nilgiri Tahr census
- Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom' scheme

#### 1 November Tamil Nadu Foundation Day

- Reversing a previous AIADMK government's decision, the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu in 2021 said the state's Formation Day will now be celebrated on July 18, in lines with the rechristening of its name to the present one and not on November 1.
- Tamil Nadu was created on 1 November 1956 with the name Madras State. On 18 July 1967, Madras State was officially renamed to Tamil Nadu.
- Chennai is located on the Coromandel Coast of Tamil Nadu.
- The oldest city corporation in India is the Greater Chennai Corporation. It is also the world's second oldest city corporation after London.
- Chennai is the capital city of Tamil Nadu. Chennai was earlier known as Madras. Madras was the official name of the city till 1996.
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- · Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- State Animal: Nilgiri tahr
- State Bird: Emerald dove
- State Tree: Palmera Palm
- State Flower: Gloriosa Lily

#### Dances:

- Bharatha
- Natyam
- Kuchipudi
- Kathakali
- Odissi

#### **National Parks:**

- Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary & National Park
- Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park,
- Mudumali National Park & Tiger reserve,
- · Guindy National Park,
- Mukurthi National Park

#### Tiger Reserve:

- Anamalai Tiger Reserve,
- Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve,
- Satyamangalam Tiger Reserve

#### **Biosphere Reserve:**

- Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve –
- Gulf of Mannar
- Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

#### **UNESCO** world heritage Sites:

- Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur,
- Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram,
- · Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram,
- Nilgiri Mountain Railways

#### **Rivers in Tamil Nadu**

- Bhavani River
- Chittar River
- Ponnaiyar River
- Thamirabarani River
- Cheyyar River
- Gundar River
- Noyyal River
- Suruli River
- Vaigai River

# The Forest Department of Tamil Nadu has cleared invasive growth of Senna spectabilis in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)

 A species of the legume family. Threat to native tree species

- It is a medium to big tree native to South and Central America and is grown as an ornamental plant as it has bright yellow flowers.
- It is a fast-growing species, particularly on deep soils, and is fire- and termite-resistant and tolerant of strongly acidic soils.
- It is classified as an <u>Invasive Alien Species (IAS)</u> in India.



- In India, it was introduced as shade trees for coffee and firewood
- It is classified as Least Concern under the IUCN Red List.

### Tamil Nadu Prohibition Amendment Act, 2024 comes into force



- The Tamil Nadu Prohibition Amendment Act, 2024, with enhanced punishment term and quantum of fine for offences like manufacture, possession and sale of illicit liquor that endangers lives, has come into force
- Days after over 60 people died following the consumption of methanol-laced illicit liquor in June, the chief minister piloted a bill amending the TN Prohibition Act,1937
- A maximum punishment of 10 years Rigorous
   Imprisonment (RI) and a penalty of up to Rs 5 lakh
   has been stipulated in the Act.
- In case of death due to consumption of illicit liquor, then the punishment for bootleggers will be RI for life and a fine not less than Rs 10 lakh

### TN CM launches expansion of breakfast scheme to govt aided schools



- The scheme's expansion also marks the birth anniversary of late Chief Minister K Kamaraj, which is observed on 15th July as 'Kalvi Valarchi Naal,' (Education Development Day) by the state government.
- The chief minister inaugurated the breakfast scheme on September 15, 2022.
- By bringing aided schools under the scheme's ambit, in total, about 21.87 lakh students will be benefitted.

### Tamil Nadu Kicks Off First Jallikattu Event of the Year

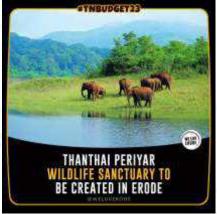


 Jallikattu, the traditional bull-taming sport began in Thatchankurichi village in Pudukottai

#### Jallikattu

- Jallikattu, also known as Yeruthazhuvuthal, is an age-old event
- celebrated mostly in Tamil Nadu as part of Pongal harvest celebrations.
- It is referred to belong to Tamil Classical Age (400-100 BC)
- Sri Lanka is hosting its first-ever Jallikattu event in Trincomalee.

### Tamil Nadu gets its 18<sup>th</sup> wildlife sanctuary in the reserve forests of Erode district



The Tamil Nadu government has declared 80,114.80 hectares of reserve forests in

Bargur Hills in Erode district, as the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary.

- The Sanctuary will serve as a protected corridor for the movement of tiger and elephants from the Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats.
- Supreme Court of India banned Jallikattu in 2014 following the petitions of Animal Welfare Organizations
- In 2017, the Tamil Nadu government passed an ordinance to allow Jallikattu.
- The Supreme Court, in May 2023, upheld the Tamil Nadu government's law allowing 'Jallikattu' in the State.

### Tamil Nadu may get four new Biodiversity Heritage Sites



 In November 2022, Tamil Nadu government declared Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district as the first biodiversity heritage site in the state.

**Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are unique ecosystems with rich biodiversity.** They can include one or more of the following components:

- · Richness of wild and domesticated species
- High endemism, presence of rare and threatened species
- important for the maintenance of cultural diversity

#### First BHS of India:



- Nallur Tamarind Grove in Bengaluru, Karnataka, declared in 2007.
- As per official website India has 36 Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

#### PM Narendra Modi offers prayers at Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Tiruchirapalli, TN



Earlier this month - The book, **Srirangam** — **The Resplendent Kingdom of Rangaraja, by The Hindu Group of Publications** 

#### About Sri Ranganathaswami Temple:



- Srirangam is the foremost of the eight selfmanifested shrines (Swayam Vyakata Kshetras ) of Lord Vishnu. It is a temple devoted to Sri Ranganatha a Hindu deity (form of Lord Vishnu). The temple is constructed in the Tamil or Dravidian style of temple architecture.
- Sri Ranganatha swami Temple, Srirangam India has won the UNESCO 'Asia Pacific Award of Merit' 2017 for cultural heritage conservation. It is first temple from Tamil Nadu to grab the prestigious honor from the UN body.

#### Thai Poosam festival

Thaipusam, also known as
 Thaipoosam, is a Hindu Tamil
 festival that celebrates the
 victory of the Hindu god
 Murugan over the demon
 Surapadman.



- The festival is mainly celebrated in Tamil Nadu on Paush Purnima.
- It commemorates the occasion when Goddess Parvati gave her son, Murugan, a spear to defeat the demon



### Neolithic Child Burial Site Unearthed in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu



- Researchers recently unearthed an ancient burial site of a child with a pot beside it likely dating back to the Neolithic period, at Chettimedu Pathur near Chennai.
- The age of the child could be between 9 and 11.
- The pot beside the skeleton is typical of neolithic period.
- Many shreds of burnished red ware, burnished grey ware and red ware having elongated neck and wide mouth belonging to the same period were also found.
- The Neolithic Period, also called the New Stone Age,

#### **About Neolithic Age**

- During the Neolithic period ancient humans switched from hunter/gatherer mode to agriculture and food production.
- stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding
- · dependence on domesticated animals
- settlement in permanent villages
- crafts as pottery and weaving
- The houses were built of mud and reed in rectangular or circular shapes.
- Alcohol was first produced during this period

### Tamil Nadu gets its first robotic temple elephant



- The elephant was handed over to the Shivan
   Temple in Devarshola in Gudalur by an NGO,
   Voices for Asian Elephants.
- Earlier donated to temples across Kerala to end the often-criticised practice of maintaining elephants in captivity at temples, often in unhealthy, inhumane conditions.

### TN Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurates Param Vir Chakra garden



- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated Param Vir Chakra garden and Aikyam exhibition in the Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir in Tambaram
- The garden displayed the history with statues of the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.

# Tamil Nadu and Kerala to conduct first synchronised Nilgiri Tahr census from April 29



- 'The Nilgiri Tahr' project was officially launched by Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin in October 2023.
- Now, Tamil Nadu is all set to estimate the population of its State animal, in the first-ever synchronised census with Kerala

#### Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiritragus hylocrius)

- IUCN Status: Endangered
- Listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972
- Habitat: Endemic to the Nilgiri Hills in parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- State Animal: Tamil Nadu
- It inhabits montane grasslands and shola forests within the South Western Ghats.
- The largest population resides in Eravikulam National Park (Kerala)

#### The 'Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom' scheme to improve the soil health across Tamil Nadu

 Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the 'Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom' scheme to improve the soil health across Tamil Nadu.



- With a budget of ₹206 crore, this project aims to improve the health and fertility of the soil across the area.
- A key part of the plan is to keep the land fertile by using green manure methods. A start-up fund of ₹20 crore has been put for this.
- In the first phase in 2024-25, it has been planned to distribute green manure seeds, covering about 2 lakh acres and benefiting over 2 lakh farmers.
- the Chief Minister also flagged off tractors to be hired out to farmers at a nominal cost.

### Tamil Nadu's Stalin govt announces new international airport for Hosur

- Project is part of the state's goal of transforming Hosur into a major economic development hub.
- This move is aimed to bring socio-economic development in Hosur, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts
- That the new airport would cover an area of 2,000 acres managing 30 million passengers annually.

#### Tirupati laddu row: Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi seeks probe into Andhra CM Naidu's allegations about use of animal fat



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu alleged that animal fat and 'fish oil' — was used as an ingredient in the laddoos at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, instead of ghee during the previous Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government.

| State   | GI Tags                               |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Andhra  | - Handicraft: Srikalahasti Kalamkari, |
| Pradesh | Kondapalli Bommallu, Budithi Bell and |
|         | Brass Metal Craft, Uppada Jamdani     |
|         | Sarees, Bobbili Veena, Durgi Stone    |
|         | Carvings, Etikoppaka Toys.            |
|         | - Food Stuff: Tirupati Laddu, Bandar  |
|         | Laddu                                 |
|         | - Agricultural: Guntur Sannam Chilli, |
|         | Banaganapalle Mangoes.                |

# Snakebite Envenoming : Notifiable Disease Under The Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939

- The Tamil Nadu government has officially declared snakebite envenomation as a notifiable disease under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939.
- Notifiable disease In India, registered medical practitioners must report notifiable diseases to the government within three days, or verbally within 24 hours. Failure to report a notifiable disease is a criminal offense.
- Some examples of notifiable diseases include:
   AIDS, Cholera, Dengue fever, Diphtheria, Hepatitis
   A, B, and C, Influenza, Leprosy, Malaria, Measles,
   and Tuberculosis
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognised snakebite as a global public health issue and launched a strategy to reduce snakebiteinduced deaths and disabilities worldwide.
- National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming - aims to halve snakebite deaths by 2030 through a 'One Health' approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health interventions

#### **Eurasian Wryneck Spotted in Tiruppur**



- Arrival of a Eurasian Wryneck has been recorded for the first time at Nanjarayan Tank in Tiruppur district, which was accorded Ramsar Site status recently.
- The bird breeds in Europe and during winter migrates to African and South East Asian nations.
- The bird is usually sighted at marshlands from India's north to Central part. Sighting of the bird in the peninsular region is rare.

- The Tamil Nadu Government notified the Nanjarayan Tank as the 17th bird sanctuary in the State two years back.
- The Central Government brought the Nanjarayan wetland in the list of 85 Ramsar Sites.



### Tamil Nadu CM announces ₹5 Cr prize for World Chess Champion Gukesh



### India's first glass bridge over sea inaugurated in Kanyakumari



- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated India's first glass bridge over the sea in Kanyakumari on 31st December 2024.
- The glass bridge connects the Vivekananda Rock
   Memorial and the 133-foot Thiruvalluvar statue in the Kanyakumari district.
- The glass bridges are made of laminated glass or toughened glass,
- Chief Minister Stalin also announced that his government would celebrate the last week of every December as "Thirukkural week" to spread the poet's teaching in his renowned work "Thirukkural".
- Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge in China is the world's highest and longest glass bridge. It is 430 meters long, 6 meters wide, and 300 meters above the ground

#### Kerala

- 1. Foundation Day
- 2. Rare Red-Headed Vulture

sites to 85

- 3. country's first 'Digital Court' for Negotiable Instruments Act
- 4. Iris first generative AI teacher
- India's First State-Run OTT Platform 'CSpace'
- 6. Eravikulam National Park
- 7. Nikshay Poshan Yojana
- 8. India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'
- 9. Periyar Tiger Reserve
- 10. Citizen Sentinel app

#### 1 November Kerala Foundation Day (Kerala Piravi)



- The state of Kerala was formed on November 1, 1956, by merging the Malayalam-speaking regions of Malabar, Cochin, Travancore, and South Canara. The merger was the result of the States Reorganisation Act.
- CM: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Governor: Arif Mohammed Khan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- State Animal: Elephant
- State Bird: Great Indian Hornbill
- State Tree: Coconut
- Kerala first state to be declared as "Complete Digital State
- Kocchi is World's first airport completely powered by solar energy
- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was the first biosphere reserve in India established in the year 1986.

#### Lakes

- Sasthamkotta Lake
- Vembanad Lake
- Lakes of Alappuzha
- Pookode Lake
- Ashtamudi Lake
- Punnamada Lake
- Akkulam Lake

#### **Biosphere Reserve**

- Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

#### **National Parks**

- Silent Valley National Park
- Eravikulam National Park
- Anamudi Shola National Park
- Pampadum Shola National Park
- Mathikettan Shola National Park
- Periyar National Park

### Rare Red-Headed Vulture Sighting in Kasaragod

- In a remarkable first, the critically endangered Red-Headed Vulture has been sighted in Kasaragod, Kerala
- This bird, also known as the "Asian King Vulture,".
- typically found in Central India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and parts of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- This is one of the 9 species of Vulture which are found in India.
- Conservation status
  - > IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
  - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1

### Sabarimala Pilgrimage Gets Dedicated Weather Service from IMD

- In a first for the Sabarimala pilgrimage, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has introduced a localised weather forecasting system, similar to those for the Amarnath and Char Dham yatras.
- Its regional centre has installed three rain gauges to issue three-day weather forecasts.
- These forecasts will soon be upgraded to real-time weather bulletins, known as "nowcasts,"
- This app, available in six languages, provides pilgrims with assistance and information.

#### **West-flowing rivers**

- Periyar river
- Bharathapuzha River
- Pamba river

#### East-flowing rivers in Kerala

- Kabani river
- Bhavani river
- Pambar river

#### Ramsar Sites

- Ashtamudi Wetland
- Sasthamkotta Lake
- Vembanad-Kol Wetland

#### **Dances**

Kathakali

Mohiniyattam

Theyyam

Kolkali

Kalaripayattu





#### Kerala launches country's first 'Digital Court' for handling Negotiable Instruments Act cases

- Supreme Court judge Justice B R Gavai inaugurated the country's first exclusive Digital Court for handling cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, in Kollam, High Court of Kerala
- Justice Gavai also launched an online dispute resolution platform, We-Solv Virtual Solution Maker, which will facilitate online deliberations by all the stakeholders.
- He also inaugurated a Model Digital Court Room conceived by the Kerala High Court, specifically designed to overcome the limitations of traditional court rooms.

### Kerala faces a new health challenge: A deadly Leptospirosis outbreak

 Reported 121 confirmed deaths, with an additional 102 suspected cases.



- Leptospirosis, also known as "rat fever", is caused by a type of bacteria 'leptospira' in the urine of animal carriers, particularly rats.
- If a person is exposed to soil or water contaminated with an infected animal's urine, bacteria can enter their body through skin breaks, making people in flooded areas especially vulnerable.
- The disease is also known for a high mortality rate.
- common symptoms: Fever, muscle pain (myalgia) and headaches

#### SYMPTOMS



HIGH FEVER





VOMITING







DIARRHEA







JAUNDICE

#### Kerala issues alert against mpox



The State Health department has issued an alert against mpox (known earlier as Monkeypox) with the World Health Organization last week declaring that the outbreak in many African nations now has to be considered a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

- Mpox outbreak has been spreading in many Central and Eastern African nations since 2023, The disease, caused by a virus of the same family as
- Mpox (Monkeypox): A viral zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus.
- First Human Case: Recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- Types (Clades): Two known clades Clade I (Central Africa) and Clade II (West Africa).
- Symptoms: Skin rash, fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, and swollen lymph nodes.
- Transmission: Through direct contact with body fluids (including sexual contact) or indirect contact with contaminated clothing or bedding.
- **Treatment: No specific treatments** for monkeypox virus infection.

#### Kerala introduces 'Sabari K Rice' to counter Centre's 'Bharat Rice'





- In a bid to combat the sale of 'Bharat Rice' by the Central government, Kerala is rolling out 'Sabari K Rice', which will soon be available at Supplyco depots.
- 'K Rice' will be acquired at Rs 40.11 per kg and sold at a subsidized rate of Rs 29.
- All ration card holders can buy up to 5 kilograms of K-Rice every month.
- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**

#### Kerala Welcomes 'Iris' its first generative AI teacher



- The humanoid, Named Iris, was unveiled at KTCT **Higher Secondary School in Thiruvananthapuram** in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited.
- Iris was built as part of the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL), a 2021 NITI Aayog project to boost students' extracurricular activities in schools.

 Iris can speak three languages and also answer difficult questions, along with features including voice assistant, interactive learning, manipulation capabilities, and mobilities.

#### Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)

- Atal Tinkering Lab provides activity based learning in the identified schools
- It also fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, enabling students between Grade VI to Grade XII to acquire a problem solving, tinkering and innovative mindset.
- Department of Space, ISRO adopted 100 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across the country to promote education in the field of STEM, Space education and Space technology related innovations for school students.
- ATL is a sub-mission under the Atal Innovation Mission
- Atal Innovation Mission is the Government
   of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of
   innovation and entrepreneurship in the country,
   was set up in 2016.

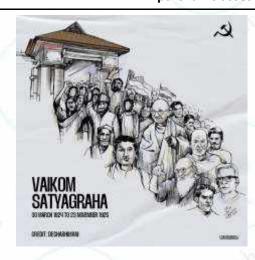
### **Kerala Launches India's First State-Run OTT Platform 'CSpace'**



- Managed by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).
- State-run OTT will prove to be a decisive step in the advancement of Malayalam Cinema
- CSpace's priority will stream content with artistic and cultural values.
- The films that win state, national and international awards will be streamed on the platform.

#### 100th Year of Viakom Satyagraha

- Vaikom Satyagraha, the non-violent agitation against untouchability in Kerala lasted for 603 days
- It was held for the right of backward communities to travel through the public road leading to Vaikom Mahadeva Temple at Kottayam district in Kerala (Travancore Kingdom).
- The satyagraha started on the 30th of March 1924 and ended on the 23rd of November 1925.



#### Suchetha Satish sets new world record for singing in most languages during single concert



 Suchetha Satish, hailing from Kerala, has set a new Guinness world record by singing in 140 languages in a Concert for Climate UAE,

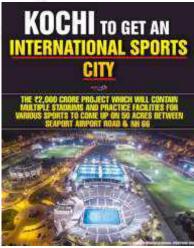
### Madhika language in Kannur (Kerala) is on the brink

- It is a language spoken by the Chakaliya community, which migrated from Karnataka to Kannur (Kerala) centuries ago.
- Don't have a script.
- It is a blend of Telugu, Tulu, Kannada, and Malayalam.
- It is fast becoming extinct with the younger generation opting for Malayalam.

# Kochi to get country's first carbon-neutral sports city featuring international cricket stadium

 'Cochin Sports City,' India's first carbon-neutral sports city, will come up on 40 acres in Chengamanad village near the Cochin International Airport.





- It will featuring an international cricket stadium with a seating capacity for 40,000.
- It will feature indoor and outdoor practice facility, training ground, sports academy and research centre, eco park and water sports park, sports medicine and fitness centre, e-sports arena, entertainment zone and club house.
- Kerala Cricket Association hands over proposal to Chief Minister; project in Chengamanad village entails an investment of around ₹750 crore
- BCCI President Jai Shah already approved the proposal

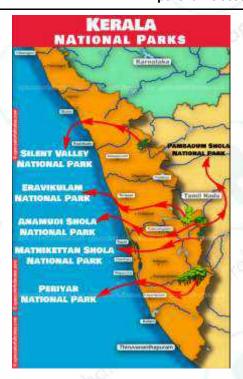
# Eravikulam National Park in Kerala to be shut from February 1 for calving season of Nilgiri tahr



• The survey of the new births and total population in the park will be held in the last week of April.

#### **Eravikulam National Park**

- It is situated in the Kannan Devan Hills of the southern Western Ghats of Munnar, Kerala
- This is also the land of "Neelakurinji", the flower that blooms once in twelve years.
- The Anamudi peak is situated on the southern side of the Park.
- It was declared a National Park in 1978.



#### Nilgiri Tahr



- · Nilgiri Tahr is also known as Nilgiri Ibex.
- It has been listed as "Endangered" by IUCN.
- It has been listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

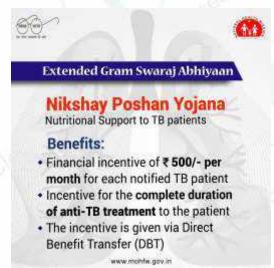
### Kerala gets award for TB elimination activities



- Kerala has received the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's award for the best tuberculosis elimination activities.
- The award is in recognition of the state's efforts to coordinate the National TB Eradication programme in the private sector
- Kerala recorded the highest number of registrations of TB patients from the private sector on the Nikshay portal.

 Kerala has been engaging with the private sector with the aim of eliminating TB by 2025. Kerala Health Minister Veena George

#### Nikshay Poshan Yojana



- NPY was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It aims to support every Tuberculosis (TB) Patient by providing a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs
   500 per month for nutritional needs.
- India has set a target to eliminate TB by 2025.

#### **Tuberculosis**

# TUBERCULOSIS Desperation a complete translation of the part of th

- TB is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
- TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other organs (extrapulmonary TB).
- Transmission: spread from person to person through the air.

### **Kerala to introduce SOPs under One Health initiative**

 One Health project is currently being implemented as part of the World Bank-aided
 Rebuild Kerala project in four districts of the State
 Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, and Idukki  SOPs will cover at least 8 diseases like Hepatitis A and E, dengue, Nipah, and Avian influenza. Aimed

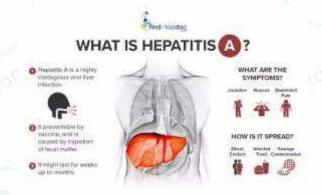


at early disease surveillance and prevention, these SOPs were developed at a two-day workshop by the Centre for One Health, Kerala. The initiative targets robust outbreak investigation and control mechanisms at district levels.

 This is perhaps for the first time that infectious diseases outbreak investigation guidelines are being prepared at the State-level on the One Health platform.

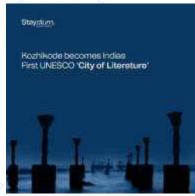
### Hepatitis A outbreak in Kerala: 12 deaths so far, 4 districts on alert

- Kerala is seeing its worst outbreak of the Hepatitis
   A virus in recent years, with the state reporting
   1,977 confirmed cases and 12 deaths in the first four-and-a-half months of this year.
- State Health Minister Veena George has put out an alert for the four districts Kozhikode,
   Malappuram, Thrissur and Ernakulam from where the most number of cases were reported.



- Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV), and is transmitted through contaminated food and water, or through direct contact with an infectious person.
- It can be an acute (short-term) infection or a chronic (long-term) infection.
- Generally, most people recover from hepatitis A with no permanent liver damage. In rare cases, hepatitis A can cause liver failure.

### Kozhikode in Kerala declared India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'



- Kozhikode in north Kerala, known for its rich cultural heritage, was officially declared as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.
- From 2025, June 23 will be celebrated as the 'City of Literature' Day of Kozhikode, a place known for literary greats like late S K Pottakkad and Vaikom Muhammed Basheer.
- In October 2023, Kozhikode, along with Gwalior, had earned a place in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- While Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh had made it to the coveted list in the 'Music' category, Kozhikode earned the place in the 'Literature' category.
- The newly designated Creative Cities are invited to participate in the 2024 UCCN Annual Conference (July 1-5, 2024) in Braga, Portugal,
- under the theme 'Bringing Youth to the Table for the Next Decade'

#### About Kozhikode:

- Also known as Calicut, is a city in the state of Kerala in southern India on the Malabar coast.
- dubbed the "City of Spices" for its role as the major trading point of Eastern spices
- In 2012, Kozhikode was given the tag of "City of Sculptures" (Shilpa Nagaram)

### Kerala Assembly passed resolution to rename the state as 'Keralam

- The resolution, moved by Kerala's chief minister
  Pinarayi Vijayan, requested the government of
  India change the state's name in the first Schedule
  of the Constitution from Kerala to Keralam under
  Article 3 of the Constitution.
- A similar resolution was passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in August 2023.
- Kerala is the English word for the Malyali Keralam.
- during the freedom struggle, the Malyali-speaking people demanded a united Kerala state for all Malyali-speaking people of the region.

#### Kerala Assembly passes resolution to rename state to 'Keralam'



- After independence, states in India were reorganised based on language, and the new states came into existence on 1 November 1956.
- Kerala was also formed on 1 November 1956.
   However, the state was named Kerala instead of Keralam in the first schedule of the constitution.
- The resolution requested the central government to change the state's name to Keralam in the first and fourth schedules.
- The first schedule of the constitution mentions the name of the state and the Union Territories.
- The fourth schedule of the constitution mentions the seats allocated to the states and the Union Territory, which have a legislative assembly in the Rajya Sabha or the Council of States of the Parliament.
- Under the Indian constitution, the name of the state can be changed by the parliament through an ordinary law-making process, and there is no need to amend the constitution.
- Article 3 of the constitution mentions the process to be adopted by the parliament for changing a state's name, changing its boundary, and abolition or creation of a new state.
- The Constitution gives Parliament the sole power to change the name and create or abolish a new state
- A bill that seeks to change the name of a state will be an ordinary bill, and it can be introduced either in Lok Sabha or in the Rajya Sabha of the Parliament.
- The bill can be introduced in either house of Parliament only on the President's prior recommendation.
- As it is an ordinary bill, it has to be passed by both houses of parliament with a simple majority.
- After the Parliament passes the bill and the President signs the bill, it becomes an act.
- The name of the state will be changed on the date specified by the President.

### State's name changed after the implementation of the

- 1. Madhya Bharat to Madhya Pradesh on 1 November 1956.
- 2. Madras State to Tamil Nadu in 1969
- 3. Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand January 2007.
- 4. Orissa to Odisha 1 November 2011

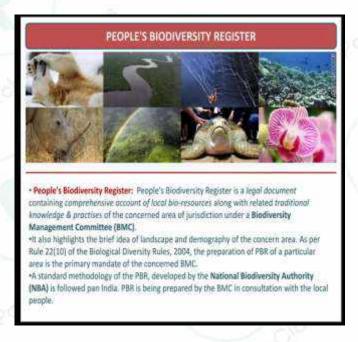
#### First International Dairy Federation Asia-**Pacific Summit in Kochi**



- first IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024 from June 26 to 28 in Kochi.
- Jointly organized by Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
- Theme 'Farmer-centric innovations in dairying'

#### The People's Biodiversity Register

Thazhakara has become the first grama panchayat in Alappuzha and one of the first in Kerala to update and publish a comprehensive People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) with the involvement of local communities. Kerala had become the first state in the country to prepare Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBR) for each local self-government (LSG) body with the help of the local people.



#### **About People's Biodiversity Register:**

It serves as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity, including the conservation of habitats, preservation of land races, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals, microorganisms, and the accumulation of knowledge related to the area's biological diversity.

The Biological Diversity Act (2002) mandates development of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) at local level to document as well as safe guard bioresources and associated knowledge.

As per the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are created by local bodies across the country.

#### In a first, Periyar Tiger Reserve installs wind turbine in its forests for power generation

- Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Thekkady has installed a wind turbine to generate power for real-time monitoring cameras and Wi-Fi connectivity within its forests.
- Until now, these sections have relied on solar power for wireless communication and for operations at the forest section offices.

However, the foggy climate and heavy rain often

impede efficiency of these solar panels.

#### **About Periyar Tiger** Reserve:

- Located in the Western Ghats of Kerala.
- Gets its name from River Periyar which has its origin deep inside the reserve.
- Two main rivers which drain the



reserve - Mullayar and Periyar

- It is home to many tribal communities including the Mannans and the Palians.
- It is also being considered as the habitat of the Nilgiri Tahr.

### 10-day Onam festivities started with Atham

- In Kerala, Atham is being celebrated marking the beginning of the ten-day Onam festivities.
- It is a harvest festival, celebrated in the **beginning** of the month of Chingam, the first month of the Malayalam Calendar (Kollavarsham).
- The Onam lasts from four to ten days. First day, Atham and tenth day, Thiruonam are the most important of all.



- Thiruvonum is the most auspicious day of the Onam festival (10<sup>th</sup> day), marking the legendary return of King Mahabali to Kerala.
- It is believed that on this day, Lord Vishnu's avatar,
   Vamana, grants King Mahabali's wish to visit his subjects annually.
- On the fourth day of Onam festival, artists paint their bodies like tigers with stripes of yellow, red and black and dance to the rhythm of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda. - Pulikkali (Tiger Dance) is one among the folk art forms of Kerala.
- Another key feature is Vallamkali, the Snake Boat Race, held on the river Pampa.
- Kaikotti kali and Thumbi Thullal are two graceful dances performed by women on Onam.



### First Case of Clade 1B M-Pox Variant Detected in Kerala



- Called clade 1b, the new variant is highlytransmissible
- It is a viral zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus.
- The first human case of mpox was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- There are two known types (clades) of mpox virus one that originated in Central Africa (Clade I) and one that originated in West Africa (Clade II).

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of Kerala Travel Mart 2024 Launched at Sagara Samudrika Convention Centre, Kochi

The **biennial event** is mainly focusing on **Responsible Tourism**, **MICE** (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism, wedding destinations, and cruise tourism.



#### Kerala launches Citizen Sentinel app to keep tabs on traffic rule violations

- Developed by National Informatics Centre, members of the public can upload photographs and videos of traffic rule violations
- e-challans would be sent to the vehicle owner.

#### Ayudha Puja

 Ayudha Puja is celebrated where people worship tools and equipment in their homes



and offices (shastra Pooja).

- This day falls on the ninth day of Ashwin Navratri.
- Honours the battle weapons with which Goddess
   Durga had fought with Mahishasur demon
- Celebrated across the country especially in South India (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and other states)

#### Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurates India's first supercapacitor manufacturing facility at Keltron in Kannur



- India's first supercapacitor manufacturing facility at Keltron Component Complex Limited (KCCL) in Kallyassery, Kannur
- Keltron (PSU) in the electronics and IT industry started in 1974.
- The supercapacitor manufacturing plant was developed in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- The new facility will manufacture high-quality, indigenously made supercapacitors that have applications ranging from electric vehicles to space missions.
- Kerala is also home to India's first IT park, digital university, graphene centre, and the recently hosted first Gen Al Conclave.

#### **SHORT NEWS**

 Kerala's water resources ministry to launch Kallai river revival project

#### Ashraya: New Farmer Service Centres Launched in Kerala

 The Agriculture department is opening 'Ashraya' farmer service centres for the delivery of digital services to the State's farming community.  The centres are designed as a continuation of the 'Kathir' app ( 'Kerala Agriculture Technology Hub and Information Repository') which was launched recently for offering farm-related services on a single digital platform.

#### Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram, presented "Onavillu" to Ayodhya's Ram Mandir



- Onavillu is a ceremonial bow that is presented to the deity of Padmanabhaswamy temple, Kerala, every year on Onam.
- Handcrafted by Vilayil Veedu family in Thiruvananthpuram
- · Depicts all incarnations of Lord Vishnu
- Onavillu is made using the wood obtained from kadamba and mahagani trees.

#### Dashavatara - 10 avatars of Lord Vishnu

#### 10 AVATAR OF BHAGWAN VISHNU



- Matsya (fish) Avatar
- Kurma (tortoise) Avatar
- Varaha (boar) Avatar
- Narasimha (man-lion) Avatar
- · Vamana (dwarf) Avatar
- Parashurama Avatar
- Rama Avatar
- Krishna Avatar
- Buddha (Gautama Buddha) Avatar
- Kalki Avatar (the final and future avatar)

#### **GI TAG**

### Over 60 products from across India earn GI tags

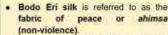


- A record number of 60 products from across India, have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Chennai based Geographical Indications registry.
- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

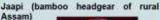
| Product                              | About  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Asharikandi terracotta craft (Assam) | Asharikandi in Assam is one of the largest clusters of Terracotta and Pottery in North East India.     This art involves products made of clay and sand and baked with earthen color, a brownish red known as Terracotta.  |
| Pani Meteka craft (Assam)            | Pani Meteka or Water Hyacinth is one of the most widely distributed species in this region.     In the past, it was considered only as a waste and was either cleared up or left unused.     However, the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRM) in recent years started utilising them for making craft, which generated employment for many locals. |

| Mising Handloom Products (Assam) | Mising Taat or Mising Handloom Products are part of traditional cloth-making of Assam's Mising indigenous tribal community.     Mostly women are involved in making handloom products including garments and mekhela chador, a traditional women's attire, etc.     These clothes have cultural significance.     Mising women weave these products especially before marriages and other occasions at home. |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sarthebari metal craft (Assam)   | Sarthebari Metal Craft are traditional handmade bell metal utensils found in Assam's Barpeta.     It has a socio-cultural and religious significance.     These products are part of ritual practices of Nava Vaisnava religion advocated by Srimanta Sankardeva.     Apart from the Assamese Vaisnava Prasanga, these bell metal utensils are part of Buddhist worship, according to locals.                |





 It comes from the silkworm Samia ricini that feeds mostly on the leaves of the castor plant (Ricinus communis), and cassava.





- Japi is a traditional symbol of Assamese folk culture and it is made with bamboolcane and palm leaves (tokou)
- In the earlier days when umbrellas were unheard of, farmers used Japi as a headgear to protect them from the sun and rain.





- Assamese Bihu Dhol, also known as Pati Dhol, is a two-faced drum played with a stick and a hand.
- It is one of the most important musical instruments in the folk entertainment and culture of Assam.





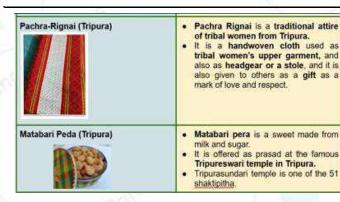




- Bodo Thorkha (a musical instrument)
- Bodo Sifung (a long flute)
- Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf)
- Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men)
- Bodo Dokhona (traditional attire of Bodo women)
- Bodo Eri silk, referred to as the fabric of peace or ahimsa (non-violence), which comes from the silkworm Samia ricini that feeds mostly on the leaves of the castor plant and cassava.









 The Lamai pottery is a traditional Black pottery produced in Lamai village of Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya.

 It is locally known as khiew larnal or khiew ranei.



- Chubitchi or Chubok is a traditional rice based alcoholic beverage of the Garo tribe.
- This staple drink is offered to their God, Saljong (Sun God) during the Wangala festival, marriage ceremonies and even funerals.

Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving - which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals

### LOINLOOM AN ETHNIC WEAVING METHOD OF THE GAROS





- Banaras Thandai:
- a drink made by blending milk with a nutritious mix of nuts, seeds and spices.
- The drink was first introduced many centuries ago as an offering to the Shri Kashi Vishwanath deity on the occasion of Mahashivaratri, Rangbhari Ekadasi, and Holi.
- Banaras Tabla
- Banaras Shehnai
- Banaras Lal Bharwamirch and
- Banaras Lal Peda











### GI Tag to Banaras Tirangi Barfi and the five other Uttar Pradesh products



- **UP** now has the most GI-tagged items in the country, **reaching 75**
- 'Tirangi Barfi' from Kashi, a tri coloured sweet was traded to make a statement by freedom fighters in the Quit India Movement.
- The other products that received the certification in Uttar Pradesh include: Banaras Metal Casting Craft, Lakhimpur Kheri Tharu Embroidery, Bareilly Cane and Bamboo Craft, Bareilly Zardozi Craft, and Pilkhuwa Hand Block Print Textile.
- In 2008-09, the state had only one GI product, the 'Allahabad Surkha Amrood'.

#### Sitars, tanpuras made in Maharashtra's Miraj town get GI tags



- The sitars and tanpuras of Miraj, a small town in Maharashtra's Sangli district known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, have been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- The tradition of making sitars and tanpuras in Miraj goes back more than 300 years, with over seven generations of craftsmen having worked towards making these string instruments
- The wood for making the Miraj sitars and tanpuras is procured from forests in Karnataka, while pumpkin gourds are sourced from Mangalvedha region of Maharashtra's Solapur district

# Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh'

 The Ajrakh is a textile craft, and holds deep roots in the cultural of Gujarat, particularly in the regions of Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch It is a process of hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth



- Ajrak's nomenclature originates from 'Azrak', meaning indigo, a well-known powerful dye to achieve a bluish effect.
- This craft was introduced to this region over 400 years back by the Sind Muslims.

### 8 products used by Assam tribe, including traditional food items, granted GI tag

 The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has granted the GI tag to eight products from the Assam region

#### Three variants of rice beer :

- 1. The first variant, 'Bodo Jou Gwran', has the highest percentage of alcohol (about 16.11%)
- The second variant, 'Maibra Jou Bidwi', known locally as 'Maibra Jwu Bidwi' or 'Maibra Zwu Bidwi', is revered and served as a welcome drink by most Bodo tribes.
- The third variant, called 'Bodo Jou Gishi', is also a traditionally fermented rice-based alcoholic beverage.
- 'Bodo Napham', an important and favourite dish
  of fermented fish prepared anaerobically in a
  tightly sealed container in a process that requires
  about two-three months.
- 'Bodo Ondla', a rice powder curry flavoured with garlic, ginger, salt, and alkali.
- The 'Bodo Gwkha' Locally also known as 'Gwka Gwkhi', it's prepared during the Bwisagu festival.
- 'Bodo Narzi', a semi-fermented food prepared with jute leaves (Corchorus capsularis)



The 'Bodo Aronai' - a small, beautiful cloth (1.5-2.5 meters long and 0.5 meter wide).



#### Gujarat's 'Gharcholas' receive GI tag

 Gujarati "Gharcholas" traditionally worn on weddings within Hindu and Jain communities



Recent GI Tagged Handicrafts of Gujarat Saadeli, Soof embroidery, Sujni craft, Saudagiri Print, Mata Ni Pacchedi.

- This is the 27th GI tag that Gujarat has received (with 23 dedicated to handicrafts)
- Presented during the "GI and Beyond Virasat Se Vikas Tak" program in New Delhi,

### National News

#### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES**

#### **Ministry of Home affairs**

National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme" (N.F.I.E.S.)

PM Internship Scheme

NPS Vatsalya Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completes 10 years

**Unified Pension Scheme** 

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

PM-JANMAN Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)

PM Young Achievers' Scholarship Award Scheme for a Vibrant India (PM YASASVI)

'Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

PMAY-U 2.0 scheme

SPICED' Scheme

Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'

PRITHvi Vlgyan (PRITHVI)"

ADITI scheme

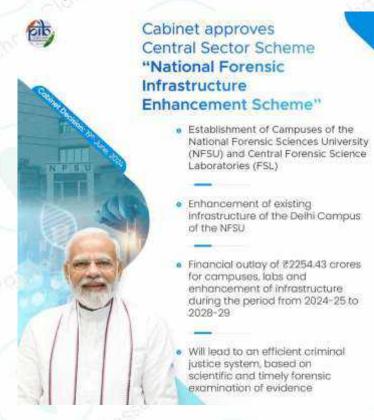
GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing

Scheme (GAINS 2024)

PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi –Yojana

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

Cabinet approves Central Sector Scheme "National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme" (N.F.I.E.S.)



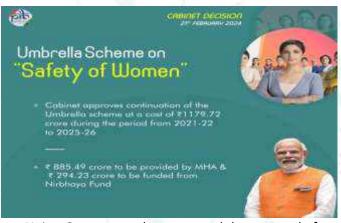
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs for Central Sector Scheme "National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)
- with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2254.43 crore during the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- Financial outlay of the Central Sector Scheme will be provisioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs from its own budget.
- The three new criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, will come into effect on 1 July 2024.
- Under the new law, forensic investigation is mandatory for criminal cases, which provides for imprisonment of seven years or more.

- The enforcement of new criminal law is expected to increase the workload on the forensic establishment in the country.
- It will help in achieving the government of India's goal of securing a high conviction rate of more than 90%.
- The scheme has following components:
  - Establishment of Campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.
  - Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories in the country.
  - Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.

#### **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)**

- NFSU is the world's first and only forensics university in the world.
- It was set up to train professionals in forensic science and meet the demand in the country
- The NFSU was established as Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in 2009 by the then-Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.
- In 2020, the National Forensic Science University Act changed its name to the present name and made it a national university
- The NFSU is under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Main Campus: Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

### Centre decides to continue Women's safety scheme till 2025-26



- Union Government has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the continuation of the implementation of the Umbrella Scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of around one thousand 180 crore rupees during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Under it, 24-hour emergency helpline service 112 will be scaled up.
- For scientific and timely investigation, six cyber forensic science laboratories are being set up at Pune, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Delhi, Kamrup, and Bhopal.
- 827 antihuman trafficking units have been set up at 13,557 police stations across the country
- Women's help desks will also be established in the remaining 3,329 police stations.
- Every year 5000 police personnel will be imparted training for effective investigation and prosecution to curb the crime against women and children.

#### **Ministry of Cooperation**

Union Home Minister launches computerization scheme for offices of ARDBs, RCSs of states



- Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs)
- Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs) of the states
- The Scheme by Ministry of Cooperation will cost approximately Rs 225 crore.
- Aims to computerize 1851 units of ARDBs located in 13 States and UTs and link them with NABARD through Common National Software.
- to enhance the operations, efficiency, accountability, and transparency of ARDB through the Common Accounting System (CAS) and Management Information System (MIS).

#### **PM Internship Scheme**



- The Central government launched the pilot phase of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme
- aiming to offer 1.25 lakh internship opportunities during the fiscal year 2024-25.

- internships to 1 crore young people over the next five years.
- online portal managed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
- Selected participants will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 4,500 from the government, with an additional Rs. 500 provided by companies as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
- one-time financial assistance of INR 6,000
- To qualify for the scheme, candidates must meet the following criteria:
  - Age range: 21 to 24 years
  - those who have passed class 10 or higher.
  - > Should not be engaged in full-time employment
  - Individuals from families with government employees are not eligible
  - Graduates from prestigious institutions like IITs, IIMs, or those with qualifications such as CA or CMA are excluded



- open to youth trained at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Kaushal Kendras (skill centers).
- The internships will last for 12 months, with at least half of the program focusing on hands-on work experience.
- interns are insured under programs such as PM
  Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima
  Yojana, with the government covering the premium
  costs.
- Companies participating in the program have been selected based on their CSR spending over the last three years.

#### Yuva Sahakar: Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

 Recently, the Minister of Cooperation informed the Lok Sabha about the Yuva Sahakar Scheme.

- "Yuva Sahakar Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme" is being implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) a statutory corporation under Ministry of Cooperation
- aims to encourage newly formed cooperative societies with new and/or innovative ideas.
- The scheme encourages young entrepreneur
   Cooperative Societies which are in operation for a minimum of 3 months.
- The loan provided under the scheme is a long-term loan (up to 5 years) and as an incentive,
   NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on its applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project activities.

#### **Finance Ministry**

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to launch NPS Vatsalya Scheme on September 18, 2024

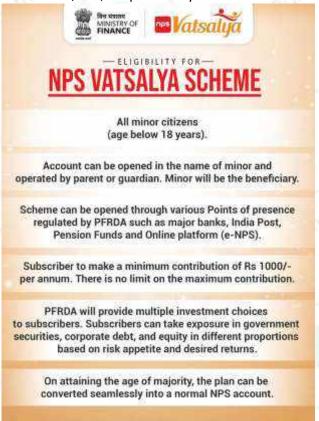


- NPS Vatsalya was announced in the Budget 2024-25
- The Scheme will be run under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- NPS Vatsalya is an extension of the already existing National Pension Scheme to children.
- It enables **parents of children under 18** to open pension accounts for their minor children.
- Upon turning 18 years old, the NPS Vatsalya account will automatically get converted to regular NPS
- Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) cards will be issued to newly registered minor subscribers.
- The minimum contribution to open the Vatsalya account is ₹1,000. Subscribers will have to contribute ₹1,000 annually thereafter.

#### Withdrawal:

- Parents or guardians can withdraw after 3 years of joining NPS
- They can withdraw up to 25% of contributed amount
- Withdrawal option is available only 3 times till the child turns 18

 They can withdraw for the purposes of education, disability of more than 75%, treatment of specified illnesses, etc., as specified by the PFRDA



### PM Jan Dhan Yojna completes a decade; 53 cr beneficiaries so far

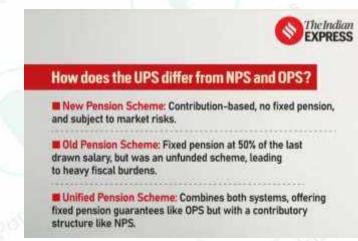


- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completes 10 years of implementation.
- launched by PM Modi ten years ago on August 28, 2014.
- It is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, a basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.

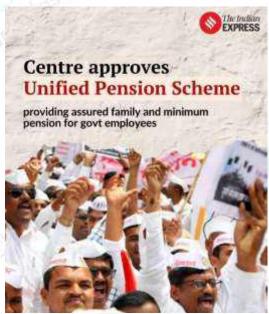
- The government aims to open more than 3 crore accounts under PMJDY during the current financial year 2024-25
- The JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) has given a boost to the Direct Benefit Transfer programme and expanded its coverage from partial to ubiquitous
- The Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) stood at 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023
- Under the PMJDY, there are no account opening charges, no account maintenance charges, and no minimum balance charges.
- Free RuPay debit card, with in-built accident insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh, and access to overdraft facility of up to Rs 10,000, are other major features of the scheme.
- PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit
  Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima
  Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima
  Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro
  Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank
  (MUDRA) scheme.

#### What is FI-Index?

- The Financial Inclusion (FI) Index is a yearly measure of financial inclusion in India, published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July.
- The index is based on three parameters: access (35%), usage (45%), and quality (20%), and ranges from 0 to 100, with 0 representing complete financial exclusion and 100 indicating full financial inclusion.
- The index is based on 97 indicators that cover banking, investments, insurance, postal services, and pensions.
- The FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year'



#### **Unified Pension Scheme**



- The Modi government has approved a new pension scheme called the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which will come into effect from April 1, 2025.
- The opposition parties were queueing up to bring back the old pension scheme (OPS) which was replaced by new pension scheme (NPS) on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2004.
- In April 2023, a committee led by then finance secretary T V Somanathan, has recommended for the Unified Pension scheme

Government says UPS five pillars which includes:

- Assured pension: This would amount to 50% of the employee's average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months before superannuation for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years. The amount would proportionately go down for a smaller service period, up to a minimum of 10 years of service.
- Assured minimum pension: In the case of superannuation after a minimum 10 years of service, the UPS provides for an assured minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month.
- Assured family pension: Upon a retiree's death, their immediate family would be eligible for 60% of the pension last drawn by the retiree.
- Inflation indexation: Dearness relief will be available on these three kinds of pensions, which will be calculated based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, as is the case with serving employees.
- Lumpsum payment at superannuation: This will be in addition to gratuity, and will be calculated as 1/10th of the monthly emolument (pay plus dearness allowance) on the date of superannuation for every six months of service completed.

- From the OPS, the UPS incorporates features such as an assured pension, inflation linked indexation, family pension, and a minimum pension.
- From the NPS, UPS adopts a feature which allows that employees have the option to contribute towards their pension fund if they want a more personalized and higher pension upon retirement.
- Government under UPS has also increased its contribution from 14 per cent currently in NPS to 18.5 per cent under UPS, employee contribution will remain the same.



#### What led to the introduction of UPS?

The dissatisfaction with NP5, coupled with political pressures. Opposition-ruled states like Himachal Pradesh (in 2023), Rajasthan (in 2022), Chhattisgarh (in 2022) and Punjab (in 2022) reverted to the OP5.

In 2023, a committee chaired by TV Somanathan held over 100 meetings with stakeholders, resulting in the UPS proposal.



#### Who will be eligible for UPS?

All govt employees retiring from April 1, 2025, onwards, as well as those who retired under NPS from 2004.

Retirees under NPS will have the option to switch to UPS, with arrears adjusted according to the new scheme.

#### Loan limit under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) increased to Rs.20 lakh from the current Rs.10 lakh



- As announced by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2024-25
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship initiative by the Government of India that was launched in 2015 and aimed at providing affordable credit to micro and small enterprises.

#### **Categories of Loans:**

- Shishu: Loans up to ₹50,000, aimed at new and micro enterprises.
- **Kishore:** Loans ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh, for businesses in the growth phase.
- Tarun: Loans from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, for businesses looking to expand further.
- (NEW) Tarun Plus: is for Loans above Rs. 10 lakh and up to Rs. 20 lakh
- Subsidy: There is no direct subsidy under PMMY.
- the new category of Tarun Plus is for Loans above Rs. 10 lakh and up to Rs. 20 lakh and would be available to the entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under the Tarun category.

#### Bima Sakhi Yojana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Women Career Insurance Scheme named 'Bima Sakhi' of Life Insurance Corporation of India ( LIC ) from Panipat on 9 December .
- Under this scheme, only women will be its agents.



#### Educational qualification for agent can be 10th pass

- Under this, the selected female agent will also be given a monthly salary for the first three years.
- This salary can be Rs 7000 in the first year, Rs 6000 in the second year and Rs 5000 in the third year.
- **Commission will continue** to be given along with the salary as before.

#### **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

#### Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in Jharkhand

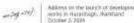
- The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan in September 2024
   The scheme was launched on October 2, 2024 as the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan
- aimed at ensuring comprehensive and holistic development for tribal communities across the country
- will be implemented at a cost of ₹79,150 crore,



#### Today, the Dharti Abha Tribal Gram Utkarsh Yojana is launched.

Approximately ₹80,000 crore will be spent on this scheme. Under this initiative, we will work on the development of







- It will benefit over 5 crore tribals in 549 districts across 30 States and Union Territories.
- The scheme aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions carried out by 17 central Ministries and departments.
- Also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple projects under the PM Janjati Adivasi
   Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), valued at over ₹1,360 crore.
- The PM-JANMAN was launched on November 15, 2023, in Khunti District, Jharkhand, on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9
   Ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The scheme aims to provide crucial interventions such as permanent housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, hostel construction, 'Anganwadi' facilities and skill development centres etc.

#### PM Modi to release first instalment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin under PM-JANMAN

- Prime minister Narendra Modi Released the first instalment of ₹540 crore to one lakh beneficiaries of the rural housing scheme under PM-JANMAN via video conferencing
- Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

#### **PM-JANMAN Scheme**

 PM-JANMAN was launched for the socio-economic welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) on November 15 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.



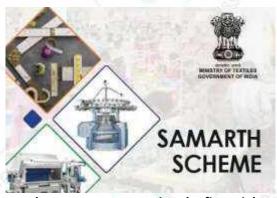
PM-JANMAN, with a budget of approximately
 ₹24,000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions
 through 9 ministries and is aimed at improving
 socio-economic conditions of PVTGs by saturating
 PVTG households and habitations with basic
 facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water
 and sanitation, improved access to education,
 health and nutrition, electricity, road and telecom
 connectivity, and sustainable livelihood
 opportunities.

#### **Ministry of Textiles**

#### Samarth Scheme



The Samarth Scheme has been extended for



another two years, covering the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Textiles
- Objective: aims to encourage and support the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving.
- It is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling program
- Achievement: Trained 3.27 lakh candidates, of which 2.6 lakh (79.5%) have been employed.

 There is a strong emphasis on women's employment, and 2.89 lakh (88.3%) women have been trained so far.

#### **Ministry of Education**

#### PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)

- PM Modi digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) at a programme in Mumbai University.
- Maharashtra has received a total of Rs 540 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Uchtar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) aimed at investing in infrastructural and academic development of higher education institutions (HEIs).
- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) was a centrally sponsored scheme to fund States/UTs institutions.
- The first phase of the scheme was **launched in 2013** and the second phase was launched in 2018.
- Now, in the light of the National Education Policy, the RUSA scheme has been launched as Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA).

PM Young Achievers' Scholarship Award Scheme for a Vibrant India (PM YASASVI) for OBC, EBC and DNT Students



- NEWS: Rs 32.44 Crore released for Pre-matric Scholarship and Rs 387.27 Crore released for Post-Matric Scholarship to States/UTs under PM YASASVI scheme
- PM YASASVI is a Scholarship scheme for Other Backward Class (OBCs), Economically Backward Class (EBC) and Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNT) Students.
- Income from all sources does not exceed Rs.2,50,000/- per annum.

#### Components of Schemes are as under:

- Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students.
- Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students.

- Top Class School Education for OBC, EBC and DNT Students.
- 4. Top Class College Education for OBC, EBC and DNT Students.
- 5. Construction of Hostel for OBC Boys and Girls.

### Comes under **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

Launched for OBCs in 1998-99. For EBC/DNT in the year 2014-15.

#### **PM POSHAN scheme**

Centre to bear additional cost of ₹425.62 cr in FY2024-25 due to inflation

#### What is the PM Poshan Scheme?

- In September 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM-POSHAN for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools with the financial outlay of Rs 1.31 trillion.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) children studying in classes I-VIII
- The scheme was earlier known as the national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).

### PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students



PM-Vidyalaxmi

Maximising access to quality Higher Education for Yuva Shaktl

- Students having annual family income of upto 88 lakh shall be eligible to get 3% interest subvention on loans upto 810 lakh.
  - Loans upto 27.5 lakhs shall be eligible for 75% credit guarantee.
- Education loans will be facilitated through a transparent, student-friendly and digital application process common to all banks.
- PM Vidyalaxmi is another concrete step towards implementation of NEP.

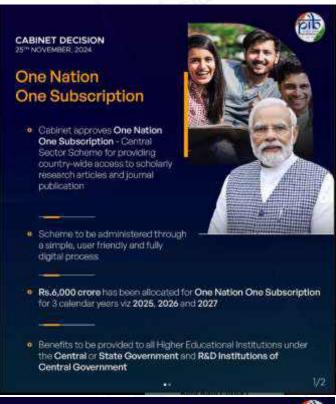
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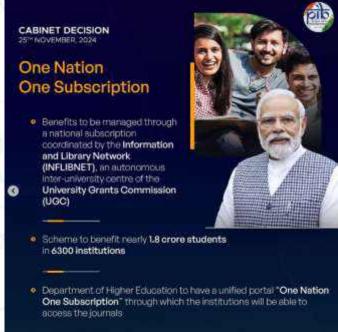
 PM Vidyalaxmi, a new Central Sector scheme that seeks to provide financial support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent anyone from pursuing higher studies.

- PM Vidyalaxmi is another key initiative stemming out of the National Education Policy, 2020
- which had recommended that financial assistance should be made available to meritorious students through various measures in both public and private HFIs
- Under the PM Vidyalaxmi scheme, any student who gets admission in quality Higher Education Institution (QHEIs) will be eligible to get collateral free, guarantor free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course.
- The scheme will be applicable to the top quality higher educational institutions of the nation, as determined by the National
  - Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings -
- Including all HEIs, government and private, that are ranked within the top 100 in NIRF in overall, category-specific and domain specific rankings; state government HEIs ranked in 101-200 in NIRF and all central government governed institutions.
- This list will be updated every year using the latest NIRF ranking.
- For loan amount up to ₹ 7.5 lakhs, the student will also be eligible for a credit guarantee of 75% of outstanding default.
- This will give support to banks in making education loans available to students under the scheme.
- In addition to the above, for students having an annual family income of up to ₹8 lakhs, and not eligible for benefits under any other government scholarship or interest subvention schemes, 3 percent interest subvention for loan up to ₹10 lakhs will also be provided during moratorium period.
- The interest subvention support will be given to one lakh students every year. Preference will be given to students who are from government institutions and have opted for technical/ professional courses.
- Preference will be given to students who are from government institutions and have opted for technical/ professional courses.
- An outlay of ₹ 3,600 Crore has been made during 2024-25 to 2030-31, and 7 lakh fresh students are expected to get the benefit of this interest subvention during the period.
- The Department of Higher Education will have a unified portal "PM-Vidyalaxmi" on which students will be able to apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention, through a simplified application process to be used by all banks.

 Payment of interest subvention will be made through E-voucher and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets.

### Cabinet Approves 'One Nation One Subscription' Scheme





- A new Central Sector Scheme for providing countrywide access to scholarly research articles and journal publication.
- Department of Higher Education will have a unified portal "One Nation One Subscription".
- A total of 30 major international journal publishers have been included in One Nation One Subscription.

- All of the nearly 13,000 e-journals published by these publishers will now be accessible to more than 6,300 government Higher Education Institutions and central government R&D institutions
- The national subscription will be coordinated by a central agency, namely the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous interuniversity centre of UGC.
- A total of about Rs.6,000 crore has been allocated for 3 calendar years, 2025-2027
- This is in line with the goals of Viksitbharat@2047,
   National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and
   Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

#### **Ministry of Communications**

Ministry of Communications expands Simplified Certification Scheme for 37 products



### Department of Telecommunications Ministry of Communications Government of India

- The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has brought 37 more products under Simplified Certification scheme SCS.
- The expansion aims to streamline the certification process and reduce will reduce the time taken for certification from 8 weeks to 2 weeks and promote ease of doing business.
- These products include media gateway, IP security equipment, IP terminals, optical fibre or cable, transmission Terminal Equipment, etc.
- Total products under SCS now gone up to 49 from 12.
- The Ministry also waived off the evaluation fee, which reduces the application fee by more than 80 percent

### 'Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana' to encourage Philately

NEWS: Department of Posts, under the Union
 Ministry of Communication, launched Philately
 scholarship scheme "Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana"
 (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research
 in Stamps as a Hobby) for this year.

### About the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

- Launch date -03.11.2017
- Objective to Promote Philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner.
- Philately refers to the collection and study of postage stamps and related products.
- The Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana is an all-India scheme open to class VI - IX students of a recognised school.
- Only students who are members of a philately club or have a Philately Deposit Account will be selected for the scholarship.

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby)

- The scholarship amount is Rs 6000 per year and will be paid quarterly.
- 920 scholarships will be awarded at all India levels to students who are pursuing Philately as a hobby.
- A Philately Mentor will be assigned to the school to guide every selected student.
- The Philately Mentor's other role will be to form a school-level Philately Club, provide guidance to young and aspiring Philatelists on how to pursue the hobby and encourage the aspiring students.

#### **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

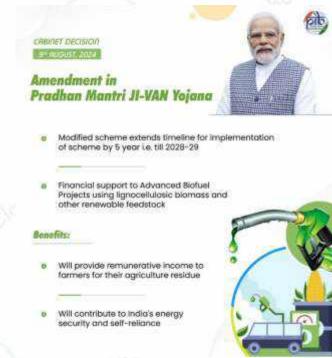
# Cabinet extends PM Ji-Van Yojana implementation by 5 years, to infuse further funds

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday approved extension of modified Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana for another five years, that is, till 2028-29.
- The cabinet also approved further investment of Rs
   1,969 crore into the programme
- The scheme aims to provide remunerative income to farmers for their agriculture residue, address environmental pollution, create local employment opportunities, and contribute to India's energy security and self-reliance.

#### Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan-Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana:

- It was notified in March 2019.
- Financial Outlay: Rs. 1969.50 crore for the period 2018-19 to 2023-24.

Financial Assistance: Rs. 150 crore per project for



commercial projects and Rs. 15 crore per project for demonstration projects.

- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Biofuels are renewable fuels derived from organic sources, such as plants, agricultural and forest residues, algae, and animal waste.
- Under the scheme, the first 2G Ethanol Project set up by Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Panipat, Haryana has been dedicated to the nation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 10th August 2022.
- The other 2G commercial projects being set up by BPCL, HPCL and NRL at Bargarh (Odisha), Bathinda (Punjab) and Numaligarh (Assam) respectively, are also nearing completion

## Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Union Government to include AYUSH in Ayushman Bharat scheme

 The Union Government is working on the inclusion of an AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) package under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), Launched in 2018

- AB PM-JAY aims to provide health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.34 crore families constituting the bottom 40% of the population.
- However, the Ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission (NAM) through State/UT governments for development and promotion of AYUSH system.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.
- Central government employees and pensioners enrolled in the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) can have access to healthcare services through allopathic as well as AYUSH.

#### States & UTs expanded beneficiary base of Ayushman Bharat Yojna

- The government has said that 49 per cent of the Ayushman Cards are issued to women and out of 7.79 Crore hospital admissions, around 3.61 Crores are utilized by women.
- in terms of Ayushman Cards creation Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra are top performing states
- and in terms of **utilization**, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are **the top performers**.

#### What is Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY?

- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5
   lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care
- Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) responsible for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.
- Extension of the scheme: The extension will now cover all citizens aged 70 years and above, offering Rs 5 lakh annual coverage per family.

# PM Modi launched expansion of health coverage to all senior citizens of 70 years and above

 Every elderly person above 70 years of age in the country will get free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh at any of the AB PMJAY empanelled hospitals



- by a Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card (which they do not have to share with the other members of the family who are below the age of 70 years).
- The card is universal and there was no restriction on income
- Will be implemented on all except in Delhi, West Bengal
- Senior citizens aged 70 years and above, who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme, will be eligible to avail benefits under the scheme
- PMJAY scheme is currently implemented in 33 states and Union territories (except for Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal).
- Odisha will implement AB-PMJAY by the end of March 2025
- It is an application-based scheme and people will need to register on the PMJAY portal or on the Ayushman app.
- The AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme
- Launched in September 2018, the scheme provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care services to the vulnerable population in the society.
- National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for its implementation

#### The Railways Ministry

#### **Amrit Bharat Station scheme**

- News: Western railway adds Kandivali and Dahisar to Amrit Bharat Station scheme
- It is an ongoing Indian Railways mission launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways to redevelop 1275 railway stations across India.
- The scheme aims to transform railway stations into modern, well-equipped hubs with improved



passenger amenities, better traffic circulation, intermodal integration, and enhanced signage.

 508 Stations will become world class with an investment of ₹25,000 crore.

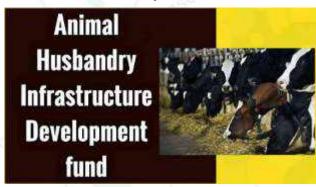
#### **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**

### Govt launched cashless treatment scheme for road crash victims

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has
  formulated a scheme and initiated implementation
  on pilot basis in Chandigarh and Assam to provide
  cashless treatment to victims of road accidents
  caused by use of motor vehicle, on any category of
  road, in collaboration with National Health
  Authority (NHA).
- The broad contours of the pilot program are as follows:
- Victims entitled to cashless treatment up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs per accident per person for a maximum period of 7 days from date of accident.
- Applicable to all road accidents caused by use of motor vehicle on any category of road.
- AB PM-JAY packages for trauma and polytrauma cases being co-opted.
- Claims raised by hospitals for providing treatment to be reimbursed from the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency for the pilot program, in coordination with police, hospitals, State Health Agency (SHA) etc.
- This scheme is managed by the Motor Vehicle
   Accident Fund, which was established under
   Section 164B of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

### Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Govt launches realigned Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund scheme

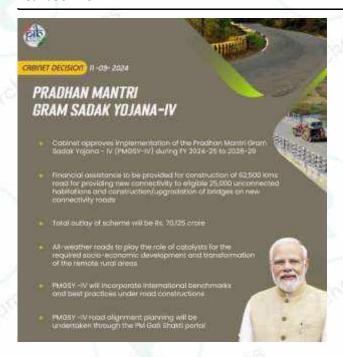


- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched the realigned AHIDF Scheme
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) scheme was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 by Prime Minister as a Central Sector Scheme under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Initiative.
- the scheme has been realigned and will be implemented for another 3 years from 31.03.2023 till 2025-26, with an outlay of ₹ 29610 crore.
- The Scheme will help the Dairy Cooperatives to upgrade their processing infrastructure with an updated processing technology. This will benefit large number of milk producers in the country.
- Under the realigned scheme, the following benefits:
  - ➤ Interest Subvention of 3% payable up to 8 years
  - Credit guarantee cover unto 25% of the term loan.
  - No ceiling on the loan amount
  - Loan up to 90% of the estimated/actual project cost

#### **Ministry of Rural Development**

### Union Cabinet Approves ₹70,125 Crore for PMGSY-IV Road Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV from 2024-25 to 2028-29
- The central share is Rs 49,087.50 crore and the state share is Rs 21,037.50 crore.
- All-weather roads measuring 62,500 km will be provided to unconnected habitations.
- construction and upgrading of bridges on the new roads



#### Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- It started as a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme launched in the year 2000 to provide allweather rural road connectivity to eligible rural habitations.
- Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development
- Funding Pattern: The funding pattern was revised to a 60:40 ratio between Centre and State in 2015-16, and a 90:10 ratio for Northeastern States and Himalayan States.
  - PMGSY I (2000)
  - PMGSY-II (2013)
  - PMGSY-III (2019)

### Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA)

# Union Cabinet approves PMAY-U 2.0 scheme; One crore houses to be built for urban poor & middle-class families

- Financial assistance will be provided to one crore urban poor and middle-class families through states and Union Territories to construct, purchase, or rent a house at an affordable cost in urban areas in five years.
- The government will provide Rs 2.30 trillion in assistance under the scheme.

#### **PMAY-U Overview**

- Launched in 2015
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) aims to provide all-weather 'pucca' houses to eligible candidates in urban areas.

 PMAY-U 2.0 targets families from economically weaker sections (EWS), low income group (LIG), and middle income group (MIG) who do not own a



pucca house anywhere in India.

- Eligibility Criteria
  - **EWS Households**: Families with an annual income up to Rs 3 lakh.
  - LIG Households: Families with an annual income from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh.
  - ➤ MIG Households: Families with an annual income from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 9 lakh.

#### Interest Subsidy Scheme

- Beneficiaries taking loans up to Rs 25 lakh for houses valued up to Rs 35 lakh will receive a 4% interest subsidy on the first Rs 8 lakh loan for up to 12 years.
- Eligible beneficiaries can receive a maximum subsidy of Rs 1.80 lakh in 5-yearly instalments.

#### Union Cabinet Approves Construction Of 3 Crore Additional Houses Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- Chairing the maiden Cabinet meeting of his third term Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved government assistance for the construction of three crore rural and urban houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).
- Of the three crore houses, 2 crore will be constructed under PMAY-Gramin, while 1 crore under PMAY-Urban.

#### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a creditlinked subsidy scheme initiated to provide affordable housing to low and moderate-income residents across the country.
- The scheme has two components: PMAY-U for the urban poor and PMAY-G for the rural poor.





In first decision, Cabinet nod to 3 crore rural, urban houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana



#### **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

Spices Board of India Launches 'SPICED' Scheme to Boost Spice Exports and Productivity



- SPICED 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development
- will be implemented throughout the remainder of the 15th Finance Commission cycle (FY 2025-26).
- The primary goal of SPICED is to significantly improve the export of spices and value-added spice products, promote GI tagged spices, support entrepreneurship through incubation centers, etc.
- It aims to upgrade the post-harvest quality of spices to meet international standards and enhance cardamom productivity.

#### The Ministry of Labour and Employment

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya directs implementation of ELI Scheme in mission mode



- Labour and employment minister Mansukh
   Mandaviya called for expeditious implementation of
   the three employment-linked incentive (ELI)
   schemes in a mission mode.
- The three schemes were announced in Union Budget 2024-25. Initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 41 million youth over a five-year period with a central outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore.
- EPFO is the nodal body for rolling out the benefits under the three schemes.

#### **About ELI Schemes**

The ELI scheme aims to create over two crore jobs in the country in a period of two years.

**Scheme A:** Government reimburses one month's wage up to Rs 15,000 in three installments for first-time workforce entrants.

#### Scheme B:

- Focus on bulk hiring in manufacturing.
- Reimbursements: 24%, 24%, 16%, and 8% of the wage, shared equally between employee and employer.
- Employer must hire 50 or 25% of baseline EPFO employee strength and retain them for at least 12 months.

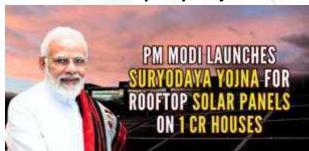
**Scheme C:** Government reimburses employer's EPFO share up to Rs 3,000 per month for two years.

#### Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

#### Govt Sets A Target To Open 25,000 PMBJKs By 31st March 2027 Across India

- Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)
- These are set up under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya
  Janaushadhi Pariyojana, which was launched by the
  Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of
  Chemicals and Fertilizers in November 2008.
- Objective: To provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor, so as to reduce out-of-pocket expenses in healthcare.

#### Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana



- Government will launch 'Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana' with the target of installing rooftop solar on one crore houses.
- This will not only reduce the electricity bill of the poor and middle class, but will also make India selfreliant in the field of energy
- Estimated that there are less than 10 lakh households have rooftop solar installations currently.
- Government had earlier declared plan to add 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for next 5 years (from Financial Year 2023-24 till Financial Year 2027-28) to achieve the target of 500 GW by 2030

# Cabinet approves Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for implementation of Offshore Wind Energy Projects

- Objective of VGF: To set up first ever offshore wind energy projects in India
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- Total outlay: Rs.7453 crore
- Rs.6853 crore for installation and commissioning of 1 GW of offshore wind energy projects (500 MW each off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu)
- Rs.600 crore Grant for upgradation of two ports to meet logistics requirements for offshore wind energy projects.

 The VGF scheme is a major step towards implementation of the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy notified in 2015 with an aim to exploit the vast offshore wind energy potential that





exists within the exclusive economic zone of India.

- The commissioning of 1 GW offshore wind projects will produce renewable electricity of about 3.72 billion units annually, which will result in annual reduction of 2.98 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emission for 25 years
- While the projects will be established by private developers, the power excavation infrastructure, including the offshore substations, will be constructed by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL).
- The Indian government has set itself the target to achieve at least 500 GW of non-fossil fuel installed capacity, which includes 280 GW of solar power and 140 GW of wind power projects, by 2030.

#### Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme

 The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme aims at supporting infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall marginally short of financial viability.

- Support from the government under this scheme is available only for infrastructure projects where private sector sponsors are selected through a process of competitive bidding.
- The total VGF under the scheme does not exceed 20% of the total project cost, however, the Government may decide to provide additional grants up to a limit of a further 20%.

#### PM Modi announces 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' to boost solar power

- This project will have an investment of over 75000 crore rupees
- aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month to households which get solar panels installed.
- From substantive subsidies, which will be credited to bank accounts directly, to heavily concessional bank loans, the central government will ensure that there is no cost burden on the people.
- All stakeholders will be integrated to a National Online Portal
- In order to popularise this scheme at the grassroots, urban local bodies and panchayats shall be incentivised to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.

### All govt buildings to be solarised by 2025 under PM Surva Ghar Yojana



- Tata Power Company's subsidiary Tata Power
  Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) and NHPC
  Renewable Energy Ltd (NHPC-REL) have entered
  into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to
  install rooftop solar projects across government
  buildings of Central ministries, states, and Union
  Territories.
- The initiative, under the PM Surya Ghar Yojna
   Scheme, aims for complete solarisation of government-owned buildings by December 2025

#### PM Surya Ghar Yojana

 The central government will provide 300 units of free electricity per month to its beneficiaries by investing worth ₹75,000 crores.



- The free electricity scheme was earlier announced by the Finance Minister in an interim budget speech.
- Target: It aims to light up 1 crore households.
- Under the scheme Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats shall be incentivized to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.

### Indian Bank & Tata Solar Power to finance Central Rooftop Solar scheme



- Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) has partnered with Indian Bank to promote adoption of solar rooftop systems in residences.
- The tie-up aims to facilitate financing solutions under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli
   Yojana scheme for installations up to 3 KW, and for 3-10 KW installations under the regular scheme.
- Residential consumers can avail loans up to ₹2 lakh at an annual interest rate of 7%, with a nominal margin money requirement of 10% and collateralfree financing. The repayment tenure is 10 years.
- For installations exceeding 3-10 KW, eligible applicants can avail loans up to ₹6 lakh with a margin money requirement of 20%. Interest rate ranges from 8.4% to 10.8% per annum.

#### Guidelines Issued for 'Model Solar Village' Under PM-Surya Ghar

- The Government has issued operational guidelines for the implementation of Model Solar Village under PM-Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana.
- Under the scheme emphasis has been placed on creating one Model Solar Village per district across the country.
- A total financial outlay of 800 crore rupees has been allocated for this component, providing 1 crore rupees per selected Model Solar Village.
- under this scheme, a village must be a revenue village with a population size above 5,000 or 2,000 for special category states.

### Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

### Nagar Van Yojana Surpasses Target with 111 Urban Forests

- These 111 Nagar Vans are spread across 6 States and 1 UT of the country.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India had launched revised Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) in 2020 in an effort to enhance the urban greenery
- The scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 4
   lakh per hectare for the creation and maintenance of these urban forests
- encouraging the involvement of citizens, students, and other stakeholders in the creation and management of these green spaces.
- Nagar Van areas range from a minimum of 10 ha to 50 ha.
- The scheme covers all cities with Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- Each Nagar Van must have at least two-thirds of its area under tree cover and will feature components like Biodiversity Parks, Smriti Vans, Butterfly Conservatories, and Herbal Gardens and now Matri Van created under Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam.
- Presently, the Nagar Van Yojana aims to develop 1000 Nagar Vans by the year 2027 with the financial support of National Fund of National Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (National CAMPA).

# Ministry of Environment achieves 100 days target on Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats



- Recently, the Union Cabinet had approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for the 15th Finance Commission cycle for an overall outlay of Rs. 2602.98 crores.
- The scheme includes the critical Project Tiger subcomponent along with Project Elephant and Development of Wildlife Habitat.
- A total of 55 tiger reserves, 33 elephant reserves, and 718 protected areas and their zones will benefit from the scheme.

#### **Ministry of Earth Sciences**

### Government approves PRITHVI VIGYAN scheme

- The Union Cabinet Chaired by PM Modi has approved the overarching scheme "PRITHVI VIgyan (PRITHVI)" of Ministry of Earth Sciences
- for implementation during the period from 2021-26 at an overall cost of Rs. 4,797 crore.
- The scheme encompasses five ongoing subschemes namely:
  - Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS),
  - Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART),
  - Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER),
  - Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE) and
  - Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT).

#### The major Objectives of Prithvi Scheme are:

- Augmentation and sustainance of long-term observations of the atmosphere, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere and solid earth to record the vital signs of the Earth System and change
- Development of modelling systems for understanding and predicting weather, ocean and climate hazards and understanding the science of climate change
- Exploration polar and high seas regions of the Earth towards discovery of new phenomena and resources;
- Development of technology for exploration and sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources for societal applications
- Translation of knowledge and insights from Earth systems science into services for societal, environmental and economic benefit.

#### **Ministry of Heavy Industries**

#### Government Extends Automobile Industry's PLI Scheme by One Year with Partial Amendments

- Announcement made by Ministry of Heavy Industries
- Aim to provide clarity and flexibility to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme
- Union Cabinet approved the PLI-Auto Scheme on 15.09.2021 with budgetary outlay of Rupee 25,938 crore for a period of 5 years (FY2022-23 to FY2026-27).
- The PLI-AUTO Scheme will boost manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) Products.
- The Scheme is focused on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) i.e. Battery Electric Vehicle and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle.
- The incentive under the scheme was applicable from FY 2022-23 to FY 2026-27 (5 years' period), disbursement from FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.
- Under the amended scheme, the incentive will be applicable for five consecutive financial years, starting from the financial year 2023-24.
- The disbursement of the incentive will take place in the following financial year 2024-25.

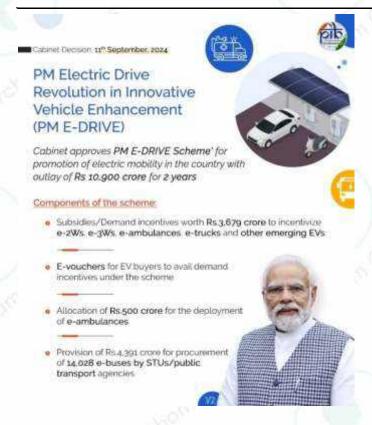
# Ministry of Heavy Industries Launches PM E-DRIVE Scheme at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

 The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, had approved PM E-DRIVE Scheme on 11th September 2024 to promote electric mobility in the country.

- PM E-DRIVE PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) will implement the new scheme with a total outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a period of two years.
- The PM E-DRIVE will replace Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II).
- Now, officially launched at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.



- aims to accelerate EV adoption and establish essential charging infrastructure across the country, promoting cleaner and more sustainable transportation.
- As part of the scheme, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) introduced e-vouchers for EV customers to avail of demand incentives.
- The new scheme offers subsidies/demand incentives to incentivise adoption of electric twowheelers, electric three-wheelers, e-ambulances, etrucks and other emerging EVs.
- Demand aggregation will be done by Convenience Energy Services Limited (CESL) in 9 cities with a population of more than 40 lakh — Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad.



## Cabinet Approves PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) Scheme

Cabinet Decision, 11th September, 2024

#### PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM)

Cabinet approves PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) scheme for procurement and operation of e-buses by Public Transport Authorities (PTAs) with an outlay of Rs. 3,435.33 crore



 Scheme to support deployment of over 38,000 electric buses from FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29



- Scheme to also support operation of e-buses for a period of up to 12 years from date of deployment
- Timely payments to OEMs/operators procure and operate e-buses for PTAs, through a dedicated fund.
- Initiative seeks to facilitate adoption of e-buses by encouraging private sector participation
- Scheme to also lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and also reduce the consumption of fossit fuel



- with an outlay of Rs. 3,435.33 crore.
- for procurement and operation of e-buses by Public Transport Authorities (PTAs)
- will support deployment of more than 38,000 electric buses (e-Buses) from FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29.
- will support the operation of e-buses for a period of up to 12 years from the date of deployment.

 At present, the majority of buses operated by Public Transport Authorities (PTAs) run on diesel/CNG, causing adverse environmental impact.

### **Ministry of Coal**

Cabinet approves the scheme for promotion of Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects of Government PSUs and Private Sector towards incentive for coal gasification projects under three categories



- Total outlay of Rs.8,500 crore to be provided as financial assistance for coal gasification projects under three categories
- In category I, Rs.4,050 crore provisioned for Government PSUs in which up to 3 projects will be supported
- In category II, Rs.3,850 crore provisioned for private sector as well as Government PSUs
- In category III, Rs.600 crore provisioned for demonstration Projects (indigenous technology) and/or small-scale product-based Gasification Plants
- Coal gasification is a technology that converts coal into liquid fuel known as syngas, which can be used for power generation and to make methanol.

#### **Ministry of Defence**

### Rajnath Singh launches ADITI scheme to boost Defence Innovation

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched ADITI (Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX) scheme
- The scheme was unveiled during DefConnect 2024
   in New Delhi on March 4, 2024



- It aims to provide start-ups with grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for research, development, and innovation in defence technology.
- ADITI scheme falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence,
- For the scheme, about Rs 750 crore has been allocated for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.

### Govt Denies Rumours Of Agnipath Scheme Relaunch As Sainik Saman Scheme



- The government has termed a WhatsApp message which claims that the Agnipath Scheme has been relaunched as the Sainik Saman Scheme as fake.
- The message doing rounds claims that the scheme has been re-launched with several changes including the duty period being extended to seven years, 60 per cent permanent staff and increased income.
- The Press Information Bureau has clarified that no such decision has been taken by the Center.
- Agnipath scheme is a central government scheme launched in June 2022 for recruitment to the armed forces.
- It is a recruitment process (twice a year) for individuals below the rank of officer, with the goal

- of **deploying fitter, younger troops** on the front lines, many of whom will be **on 4-year contracts.**
- At the time the scheme was brought in, the average age in the Armed Forces was 32 years, which Agnipath is expected to bring it down to 26 years.
- At the end of this tenure, up to 25% of these recruits, the so called 'Agniveers', can join the services on a permanent commission (another 15 years), subject to merit and organisational requirements.
- Candidates between the age of 17.5 years to 21
  years (increased from 21) will be eligible for
  enrolling in the Agnipath scheme.
- Girls under the given age limit are open for the agnipath entry, while there is no such reservation for women under this scheme.

### **Agniveer Compensation**

- Agniveers draw a basic salary of Rs 30,000-Rs
   40,000 per month, and are entitled to other risk and hardship allowances.
- They contribute 30% of their monthly emoluments to the Seva Nidhi fund, which the government matches.
- At the end of their service, they receive approximately Rs 11.71 lakhs (with interest) as a lump sum severance package from this fund, which is exempt from income tax.
- If they die on duty, their family receives a lump sum of Rs 1 crore (including the Seva Nidhi package), and full pay for the period which the soldier could not serve.
- In case of disability, an Agniveer can receive up to Rs 44 lakh as compensation, depending on the percentage of disability suffered which is attributed to, or aggravated by military service.
- Unlike soldiers in regular service, Agniveers do not draw pensions post-retirement.
- Only the 25% of Agniveers who get absorbed into the forces after four years will receive pensionary benefits, although the initial four years of service will not be considered for these.
- CRITICISM: Critics say that the scheme creates a
   "lesser" cadre of soldiers, who work on the same
   tasks as those with full commission, but with lesser
   pay, benefits, and prospects.

### Agniveers recruited so far

- In the Army, two batches of 40,000 Agniveers have completed training and are under posting.
- The third batch of 20,000 began training in November 2023.

 In the Navy, three batches of 7,385 Agniveers have completed training. In the IAF, 4,955 Agniveers have completed training.

### Central Armed Police Forces To Provide 10 % Reservation To Former Agniveers In Recruitments



- Chiefs of Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Seema Suraksha Bal (SSB) issued individual statements that former Agniveers are welcome to join their respective forces.
- 10 per cent of jobs will be reserved for ex-Agniveers in all future appointments of constables.
- In **physical tests** also, they will be given **exemption** along with the **relaxation on the age.**
- In the first year, the age relaxation is for five years and in the subsequent year, the age relaxation will be three years
- Director General, CISF, Nina Singh
- Director General, Border Security Force, Nitin Agrawal
- Director General, Railway Protection Force, Manoj Yadava
- Director General, SSB Daljit Singh
- Director General, CRPF Anish Dayal Singh
- Agnipath scheme was announced in June 2022.
- Candidates between the age of 17.5 years to 21
  years will be eligible for enrolling in the Agnipath
  scheme.
- Under the Agnipath scheme, soldiers known as Agniveers are recruited in the army, air force and navy for four years and are not entitled to gratuity and pension benefits.
- After the completion of four years of service, 75 per cent of them will be demobilised and the rest will be retained in the regular cadre, based on merit and organisational requirement.
- Before this scheme, a fit general-duty soldier had to serve 15-18 years.

## Physical standards falling, Army introduces new fitness protocol



- The Indian Army has recently implemented a new fitness policy aimed at addressing the declining physical standards among officers and combatting the rise of lifestyle diseases.
- This policy introduces additional tests in addition to the existing ones and requires the maintenance of an Army Physical Fitness Assessment Card (APAC) for each individual.
- With a focus on uniformity in the testing process, the new guidelines aim to ensure that officers are physically fit and combat-ready.
- Policy imposes punitive action for overweight personnel with "no improvement within 30 days"
- Quarterly Tests: Battle Physical Efficiency Test (BPET) and Physical Proficiency Test (PPT)
- The quarterly tests will be led by a Brigadier.
   Previously, the Commanding Officer (CO) oversaw the quarterly tests.

# GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) launched



- Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth launched the "GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)" of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata
- GAINS is aimed towards the creation of fast-track innovative solutions to help GRSE turn into a future-ready shipyard.

- The scheme seeks innovative solutions for shipyard problems, promoting technology development using Indian start-ups and MSMEs.
- The participants of GAINS-2024 will have to concentrate on the themes – Artificial Intelligence (AI), Renewable/Green Energy & Energy Efficiency as well as Overall Efficiency Enhancement.

### Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

## Centre Approves ₹1 Lakh Crore for PM-RKVY and Krishonnati Yojana



- Seeking to avoid duplication and ensure better implementation, govt approved rationalisation of all agri-related centrally sponsored schemes into two umbrella schemes, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- having 18 components, with total proposed expenditure of over 1 lakh crore.
- This new structure will consolidate these schemes into two umbrella initiatives:
  - Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) - to promote sustainable agriculture
  - Krishonnati Yojana (KY) will address food security and agricultural self-sufficiency by increasing production and productivity of farm produce, including oilseeds.
- Out of the total proposed expenditure of Rs 1,01,321.61 crore, the central share from will amount to Rs 69,088.98 crore, while states will contribute Rs 32,232.63 crore.

### The PM-RKVY encompasses a range of initiatives, including:

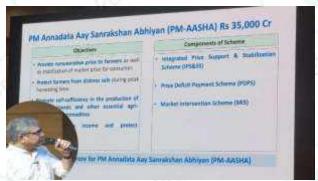
- Soil Health Management
- Rainfed Area Development
- Agro Forestry
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

- Agricultural Mechanization, including Crop Residue Management
- Per Drop More Crop
- Crop Diversification Programme
- RKVY DPR component
- Accelerator Fund for Agri Startups

#### Key benefits of this rationalisation

- Avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring convergence among various schemes.
- Addressing emerging agricultural challenges, such as nutrition security, sustainability, and climate resilience.
- Allowing states to create comprehensive strategic plans tailored to their specific agricultural needs.
- Streamlining the approval process for Annual Action Plans (AAP) to facilitate quicker implementation.

## Cabinet approved continuation of PM-AASHA scheme for farmers' support



- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
- To provide better prices to farmers and control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers.
- The total financial outgo will be `35,000 crore' during 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025 26
- The Government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA to serve the farmers and consumers more efficiently.
- PM-AASHA will now have the components of Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (POPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).
- The farmer would be paid the difference between the MSP and the monthly modal price/actual sale price subject to a maximum of 25% of the MSP value based on MSP notified for the year/season.

# Cabinet approves seven major schemes for improving farmers' lives and livelihoods with total outlay of Rs 14,235 crore Crore

<u>1. Digital Agriculture Mission</u>: The initiative will employ tools such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and geospatial technologies to revolutionise agricultural practices. The Mission has a total outlay of Rs 2,817 crores.

Key components of the mission include:

- the Agri Stack, a comprehensive digital repository of agricultural data;
- the Farmers Registry and Village Land Maps Registry, which will create a digital record of landholdings and farmers; and
- the **Krishi Decision Support System**, which will assist in crop monitoring and decision-making.
- Additionally, the mission aims to enhance market connectivity by directly linking farmers with buyers, thereby reducing the influence of middlemen.

### **2.** Crop science for food and nutritional security: with a total outlay of Rs 3,979 crore.

- The initiative will prepare farmers for climate resilience and provide for food security by 2047.
- It emphasises strengthening agricultural research and education, with a particular focus on genetic improvement and resource management for food, fodder, pulses, oilseeds, and commercial crops.

# 3. Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management and Social Sciences: with a total outlay of Rs 2,291 Crore

- This initiative aligns with the New Education Policy 2020 and seeks to equip the next generation of agriculture students and researchers with the skills needed to address contemporary challenges.
- 4. Sustainable livestock health and production: with a total outlay of Rs 1,702 crore, the decision aims to Increase farmers income from livestock and dairy.
- It comprises animal health management, veterinary education, dairy production, and technology development. It also focusses on the genetic improvement of livestock breeds and the promotion of efficient production practices.

# <u>5. Sustainable development of Horticulture:</u> with a total outlay of Rs 1129 crore the measure is aimed at increasing farmers' income from horticulture plants.

 This scheme will support the development of tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, root, tuber, and bulbous crops, as well as commercial and medicinal plants.

- **6. Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra:** outlay of Rs 1,202 crore These centers play a crucial role in disseminating knowledge and best practices to farmers across the country.
- KVKs will ensure that farmers have access to the latest agricultural techniques and innovations.
- 7. Natural Resource Management: with an outlay of Rs 1,115 Cr focused on the sustainable management of natural resources.

### Govt Hikes MSP For 14 Kharif Crops Including Paddy & Cotton



- The Cabinet approved MSP hikes for all 14 kharif season crops.
- The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in a meeting held on 19 June 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops for the marketing season 2024-25.
- In the Union Budget 2018-19 the government of India had announced that the MSP of a crop shall be at least 1.5 times the All-India weighted average Cost of Production.
- In the recently announced MSP for the 2024-25
   Kharif season, Bajra has the highest margin over
   the cost of production (77 percent), followed by Tur (59 percent), maize (54 percent), and Urad (52 percent).
- For the rest of the crops, the margin over the cost of production is estimated to be 50 percent.

#### What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

- In 1966-67, the government introduced the Minimum Support Price with the objective to:
- encourage farmers to adopt modern scientific farming to increase production,
- to raise productivity and crop production in the country to meet the emerging demand patterns in the country.

### Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)

- CACP was set up in 1965 as an expert committee under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It calculates the MSP of mandated crops and recommends them to the government.
- The government is not bound to accept the CACP's recommendations, which are advisory in nature.

#### **Mandated Crops under MSP**

- The CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.

| Kharif Crop                  | Rabi Crop                  |  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Sowing Season                | 1                          |  |
| Kharif crops are sown        | Rabi crops are sown        |  |
| early-May – usually at       | around mid-November –      |  |
| the beginning of the first   | preferably after the       |  |
| monsoon rains                | monsoon rains              |  |
| Also known as                | 10.                        |  |
| Monsoon crops/ Autumn        | Winter crops               |  |
| Crops                        |                            |  |
| Rainfall Pattern             |                            |  |
| Crops are drastically        | Generally not affected     |  |
| affected – too little or too | (however, rain in winter   |  |
| much rainfall can lay        | can potentially spoil rabi |  |
| waste to the efforts         | crops)                     |  |
| <b>Essential Factors</b>     | -105                       |  |
| Requires hot weather         | Requires a warm climate    |  |
| and a large amount of        | for seed germination and   |  |
| water to grow.               | a cold climate to grow.    |  |
| Harvesting Months            | Q.                         |  |
| Usually between October      | Generally between April    |  |
| and November (Please         | and May (please note –     |  |
| note – exact harvesting      | exact harvesting season    |  |
| season varies according      | varies according to the    |  |
| to the crops and region)     | crops and region)          |  |

Rice, Maize, Sorghum, Bajra, Soybean, Cotton

#### **Examples of rabi crops:**

Wheat, Barley, Oats, Pulses, Mustard, Linseed

## Union Cabinet approves hike in MSP for Rabi crops for Marketing Season 2025-26.



- The absolute highest increase in MSP has been announced for Rapeseed & Mustard at Rs.300 per quintal followed by Lentil (Masur) at Rs.275 per quintal.
- The increase in MSP is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production.

|    | average C | 036 01 1 | Todaction | •     |     |         |
|----|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|-----|---------|
| S. | Crops     | MS       | Cost*of   | Margi | MS  | Increas |
| Ν  |           | Р        | Product   | n     | Р   | e in    |
| 0. |           | RM       | ion       | over  | RM  | MSP     |
|    |           | S        | RMS       | cost  | S   | (Absol  |
|    |           | 202      | 2025-     | (in   | 202 | ute)    |
|    | 1         | 5-       | 26        | perce | 4-  | . 7     |
|    |           | 26       |           | nt)   | 25  | N       |
| 1  | Wheat     | 242      | 1182      | 105   | 227 | 150     |
|    | 5,010     | 5        |           |       | 5   |         |
| 2  | Barley    | 198      | 1239      | 60    | 185 | 130     |
|    |           | 0        | / (       | ۱ ۱   | 0   | 55.5    |
| 3  | Gram      | 565      | 3527      | 60    | 544 | 210     |
|    |           | 0        | / /       | h 1/  | 0   | 31      |
| 4  | Lentil    | 670      | 3537      | 89    | 642 | 275     |
|    | (Masu     | 0        |           | 100   | 5   |         |
|    | r)        |          |           | 40.   |     |         |
| 5  | Rapes     | 595      | 3011      | 98    | 565 | 300     |
|    | eed &     | 0        |           |       | 0   |         |
|    | Musta     | 10       | 9,        |       |     |         |
|    | rd        | 150      |           |       |     |         |
| 6  | Safflo    | 594      | 3960      | 50    | 580 | 140     |
|    | wer       | 0        | V         |       | 0   | 4       |

What are Rabi Crops?



- These crops are sown around the Retreating Monsoon, which begins in October and are called rabi or winter crops.
- The harvest for these crops happens typically during April and May, during the spring season.
- These crops are not much affected by the rainfall.
- Major Rabi crops are wheat, gram, peas, barley etc.

#### **Kharif Crops**

- Crops that are sown during the southwest monsoon season are called kharif or monsoon crops.
- These crops are sown at the beginning of the season around end May to early June and are harvested in autumn (post the monsoon rains) beginning October.
- These crops depend on the rainfall patterns.
- Rice, maize, pulses such as urad, moong dal and millets are among the key kharif crops.

#### **Zaid Crops**

- Sown and harvested: March-July (between Rabi and Kharif)
- Important zaid crops include seasonal fruits, vegetables, fodder crops etc.

### Centre increases Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which
  met in New Delhi on February 21, approved
   ₹340/quintal as the Fair and Remunerative Price
  (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2024-25 at
  sugar recovery rate of 10.25%.
- This is about **8% higher** than FRP of sugarcane for the current season 2023-24.
- The revised FRP will be applicable from October 1, 2024.
- MSP is the guaranteed amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce.
- Fair and remunerative price (FRP) is the minimum price at which rate sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers.
- The recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
   chaired by the Prime Minister of India takes
   the final decision (approve) on the level of MSPs.

#### **Crops Under MSP:**

 The CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.  The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.

### Cabinet approves Scheme of Sugar Subsidy for AAY Families till March 2026



 The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved extension of scheme of sugar subsidy for 1.89 crore Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY) families distributed through Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) at Ration Shops for two more years i.e. 31 March 2026.

#### About Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

- It is a public distribution system scheme of the Government of India.
- Its **objective** is to provide food security to the people and end hunger in India.
- This scheme was implemented in the year 2000
- Antyodaya card holder gets 35 kg ration every month.

### Introducing CDP-SURAKSHA: Horticulture Subsidies

- SURAKSHA stands for "System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance."
- CDP-SURAKSHA is a new platform to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP)
- Indian horticulture sector contributes about 33% to the agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) making very significant contribution to the Indian economy.
- The total production of horticulture crops has also spiked in recent years. While in 2010-11, it stood at 240.53 million tonnes, the number rose to 334.60 million tonnes in 2020-21.

# PM Modi Releases 16<sup>th</sup> Installment of PM Kisan Scheme Worth ₹21,000 Crore in Maharashtra



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release 16<sup>th</sup>
  instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
  (PM-KISAN) scheme worth over 21,000 crore
  rupees at a public meeting from Yavatmal,
  Maharashtra.
- 3 lakh crores rupees have been deposited till now into the bank accounts of 11 crore farmers of the country under PM-KISAN

#### PM KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM KISAN)

- Under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- PM Kisan is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
- It has become operational from 1.12.2018.
- Under the scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal installments will be provided to all land holding farmer families.
- The fund will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

## PM Narendra Modi Releases 17<sup>th</sup> Instalment Of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi



- After assuming the charge as Prime Minister for the third time, Mr Modi signed the first file authorising release of 17<sup>th</sup> instalment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi
- This will benefit 9 crore 30 lakh farmers by distributing around 20 thousand crore rupees.

### About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):

- It is a Central-Sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- Objective: The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields.
- Under the scheme, income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal installments will be provided to all land-holding farmer families.
- It has become operational from 1.12.2018.

### Govt launches Namo Drone Didi Scheme to provide drones to women self help groups



- Government has released the Operational Guidelines of Central Sector Scheme Namo Drone Didi.
- for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- with an outlay of 1261 crore rupees.
- The scheme aims to provide drones to 14,500 selected Women Self Help Groups during the period from 2024-25 to 2025-2026.
- Administered by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development.

#### Features:

- Financial Support: Central Financial Assistance covering 80% of the drone cost, capped at ₹8 lakh per drone.
- Loan Assistance: SHGs can secure loans for the remaining cost through the National Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with 3% interest subvention.
- <u>Drone Package:</u> Includes drones with spray systems, additional battery sets, training for a pilot and drone assistant, a one-year warranty, two years of maintenance, and insurance.

- Training and Support: 1 SHG member receive 15-day training for drone operation, maintenance, and agricultural use.
- Implementation: State-level Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) and State Departments manage implementation, with drones allocated to SHG clusters.
- Monitoring: An IT-based Management Information System (MIS) Drone Portal will monitor drone operations and service delivery.

### NAWO-DHAN: New Horticulture Agribusiness Initiative

- The Agriculture department is initiating a pilot project under the New Agriculture Wealth Opportunities - Driving Horticulture Agribusiness Networking (NAWO-DHAN) scheme.
- The scheme aims to enhance food crop production in Kerala through innovative farming practices.
- This project aims to enhance horticulture agribusiness in Kerala
- It aims to utilise land that is currently fallow or unused.
- It targets land owners and cultivators who have shown interest.
- Under the initiative, farmer groups will be engaged for the cultivation through Service Level Agreements (SLA) treating 'farming as a service' without any transfer of any interest in the land concerned.
- In Kerala there is production-demand gap for vegetables and fruits. This project seeks to address these gaps by promoting better land use.

## Govt increases MSP of Copra for 2025 season to ensure better returns to farmers



 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs hiked the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for fair average quality of milling copra to Rs 11,582 per quintal and for **ball copra to Rs 12,100 per quintal** for the 2025 marketing season.

### Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying

Gov approves Sub scheme 'PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi –Yojana'



- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada
- Aim formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises by providing access to institutional credit.
- Investment over Rs. 6,000 crores over a period of next 4 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories.
- The Cabinet has also approved the extension of the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for another 3 years up to 2025-26.

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)



#### **Ministry of Civil Aviation**

### Govt to extend UDAN scheme for 10 more years



- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)
- As many as 601 routes and 71 airports have been operationalised under the regional air connectivity scheme.
- UDAN is aimed at enhancing regional air connectivity and making flying more affordable.
- It was introduced on October 21, 2016 for 10 years.
- Overall the number of operational airports in the country has doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024 and the aim is to increase the count to 350-400 by 2047.
- Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu

# Govt to launch 'Udaan Yatri Café' at airports to offer affordable food for UDAN scheme passengers

- The plan will roll out from Kolkata Airport on the occasion of 100 years of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata and eight years of UDAN, the regional air connectivity scheme of the Ministry.
- UDAN is aimed at enhancing regional air connectivity and making flying more affordable. It was introduced on October 21, 2016 for 10 years, Extended for 10 more.
- The first UDAN flight took off on April 27, 2017, connecting Shimla to Delhi.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu

### **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**

### Nation-wide talent hunt scheme KIRTI launched

- Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI)
   programme was launched by the Union Sports
   Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur in Chandigarh
- The scheme, aimed at school children in the age group of 9 to 18 years, will focus on using sports as a tool for healthy life and primarily keep youngsters away from drugs and gadgetry distractions.

- Taking the help of scientific tools, KIRTI will involve physical education teachers and experts in scouting talent.
- KIRTI aims to conduct 20 lakh assessments across the country throughout the year to identify talent through notified Talent Assessment Centres.

### Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Sarbananda Sonowal unveils 'Jalvahak' scheme to boost cargo movement via inland waterways



- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled a major policy for cargo promotion, 'Jalvahak', incentivising movement of long haul cargo via inland waterways across National Waterways (NW) on NW1 (Ganga), NW2 (Brahmaputra) & NW16 (Barak)
- The cargo promotion scheme provides direct incentive to the cargo owners to transport their goods via inland waterways for a distance of more than 300 kms.
- Sonowal also flagged off cargo ships MV AAI, MV Homi Bhaba along with MV Trishul with two Dumb Barges Ajay & Dikhu – from the GR Jetty, in Kolkata.
- This marks the beginning of fixed Scheduled Sailing Service of cargo vessels from Haldia for NW 1 (Ganga) and NW 2 (Brahmaputra).
- This is a joint effort by the Inland Waterways
   Authority of India (IWAI) the nodal agency of waterways development in the country, as well as by the Inland & Coastal Shipping Limited (ICSL), a fully owned subsidiary of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCIL).
- The 'Jalvahak' scheme offers reimbursement of up to 35% of the total operating expenditure incurred while transporting cargo via waterways on NW 1, NW 2 and NW 16 via Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route
- It encourages to reduce logistics costs, decongest road and railways, and adapting to a sustainable mode of transportation.
- To encourage the business proposition of vessel operators, the scheme encourages cargo owners to hire vessels owned or operated by Government entities.

- The scheme is initially valid for three years.
- India boasts an extensive network of inland waterways comprising rivers, canals, backwaters, and creeks - total navigable length of 20,236 km
- Target of 200 million MT of cargo movement via waterways by 2030 and 500 million MT by 2047

### Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

### Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Launches Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR based pledge Financing (CGS-NPF)

- Pralhad Joshi launched the Credit Guarantee
   Scheme for e-NWR based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF).
- This scheme provides a corpus of Rs 1,000-crore for post-harvest finance availed by farmers against electronic negotiable warehouse receipts (e-NWRs) after depositing commodities in Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) accredited warehouses.
- The scheme is a significant initiative as a guarantee cover for the loans availed by farmers/ traders against electronic negotiable warehouse receipts (e-NWRs).
- CGS NPF Scheme has been introduced to instill confidence in bankers, encouraging the extension of pledge finance against electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) for farmers /traders who store their agricultural / horticultural produce in warehouses registered with the WDRA.
- This scheme majorly focuses on Small and Marginal Farmers, Women, SC, ST and Divyangjan (PwD) farmers with a minimal guarantee fee.
- Besides, small traders (MSMEs), FPOs are also benefited under this scheme.
- Loans extended to small and marginal farmers up to Rs. 75 Lakhs will have coverage of 80 to 85% and loans extended to MSMEs/FPO 's /traders up to Rs. 200 Lakhs will have coverage upto 75% under the scheme.

### Salient features of Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR based pledge Finance (CGS-NPF) is as follows:

| <b>Total Corpus</b>      | Rs. 1000 Crores  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Coverage                 | Loans up to Rs. 75 lakhs for agricultural purpose and Loans up to Rs. 200 Lakhs for nonagricultural purpose. |  |
| Eligible<br>Institutions | All scheduled banks and all cooperative banks  |  |

| Eligible Small and Marginal Farmer (SMF)/         |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Borrowers   | Women/SC/ST/PwD Farmers, other    |
|   | farmers, MSMEs, Traders, FPOs and |
|   | Farmer cooperatives.              |
| Risks   | Credit and warehouseman risk      |
| covered   | 709                               |
| <b>Guarantee</b> 0.4% p.a. for farmers and 1% p.a |                                   |
| Fee   | non-farmers                       |
| Guarantee 85% for loans up to Rs. 3L              |                                   |
| coverage and 80% for loan between 3 to            |                                   |
|   | lakhs for small and marginal      |
|   | farmers/women/SC/ST/PwD           |
|   | and 75% for other borrowers.      |

### **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

### **Govt Distributes Property Cards under SVAMITVA Scheme**



- Prime Minister Modi, via video conferencing will preside over the e-Distribution of SVAMITVA Property Cards on 27th December 2024.
- This event will also mark a major milestone of crossing more than 2 crore property cards preparation and distribution under the SVAMITVA scheme and distribution of more than 58 lakh property cards on a Single Day.
- A survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas (SVAMITVA) is a Central Sector Scheme.
- The pilot phase of the SVAMITVA Scheme was launched on 24th April 2020 for implementation during 2020-21. The national roll out of scheme was launched on 24th April 2021.
- It seeks to give ownership of property in rural inhabited areas, by mapping land parcels using drone technology and providing a 'Record of Rights' to village household owners with the issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners.
- Implementation: It is implemented with the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Revenue Department, State Panchayati Raj Department and Survey of India.
- Full coverage of nearly 6.62 lakh villages in India

### **BILLS ACTS & AMENDMENT**

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023

**Committee on Criminal Law Reforms** 

**Telecommunication Act 2023** 

**Anand Marriage Act** 

Digital Competition Bill, 2024

**AFSPA** 

**Swaminathan Commission** 

Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution)

Amendment Bill, 2024

Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws

(Amendment) Bill, 2024

## India's three new criminal laws came into effect on July 1

- India has replaced its colonial-era criminal laws with a set of three new penal laws.
- These laws were first introduced by the Centre in August 2023
- Then they were referred to a 31-member Parliamentary
   Standing Committee headed by BJP MP Brij Lal for review.
- The revised Bills were later introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in December and received Presidential assent on December 25th.

| Old Law                            | New Law                                   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Indian Penal Code of 1860          | Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS              |
| Code of Criminal Procedure of 1973 | Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) |
| Indian Evidence Act, 1872          | Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSB)         |

#### Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

- It introduces significant alterations including:
- Retention and Incorporation of Offences: The BNS2
  maintains existing IPC provisions on murder, assault,
  and causing hurt, while incorporating new offenses
  like organized crime, terrorism, and group-related
  grievous hurt or murder.
- Terrorism: UAPA's definition of 'terrorist act' adopted. Defined as acts threatening the nation's integrity or causing terror among the populace.
   Penalties range from death or life imprisonment.
- Those who conspire or facilitate a terrorist act could face imprisonment ranging from 5 years to life.
- Organized Crime: Includes offenses like kidnapping, extortion, financial scams, cybercrime included as offences. Punishments from life imprisonment to death, with fines.
- Mob Lynching: murder or severe injury by 5 or more individuals on specific grounds (race, caste, etc.) as a punishable offence, carrying life imprisonment or death penalty.
- Sexual Offences Against Women: Retaining IPC sections on rape, and other violations, BNS raises the age threshold for gangrape victims to be classified as a major, from 16 to 18 years.
   Additionally, it criminalizes deceptive sexual acts or false promises.
- Sedition Revisions: BNS eliminates the sedition offense, replacing it with penalizing activities related to armed rebellion, or actions endangering

- national sovereignty or unity through various means
- Death by Negligence: The BNS elevates the punishment for causing death by negligence from 2 years under Section 304A of the IPC to 5 years under Section 106(1) of BNS.
- However, it stipulates that doctors, if convicted, will still face the lower punishment of 2 years imprisonment.
- It also adds community service as a form of punishment.
- The maximum prison penalty for "Hit and Run" is
   10 years.

#### Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

- The BNSS mostly preserves the provisions of the existing CrPC, however, it aims to simplify the criminal procedure, reduce trial duration, enhance investigatory powers of the police, implement timelines for procedure, etc.
- Detention Conditions: The BNSS alters rules for undertrials, restricting release on personal bond for those accused in severe offenses, including life imprisonment cases and individuals facing multiple charges.
- Medical Examination: It broadens the scope of medical examinations, allowing any police officer (not just a sub-inspector) to request one, making the process more accessible.

- Forensic Investigation: Mandates forensic investigation for crimes punishable by at least 7 years' imprisonment.
- It requires forensic experts to collect evidence at crime scenes, recording the process electronically.
   States lacking forensic facilities should utilize those in other states.
- Sample Collection: Extends the power to collect finger impressions and voice samples, even from individuals not under arrest
- Timelines: The BNSS introduces strict timelines: medical reports for rape victims within 7 days, judgments within 30 days (extendable to 45), victim progress updates within 90 days, and charge framing within 60 days from the first hearing.
- Provisions for Zero FIR registration have been created. Within 24 hours, the FIR will be transmitted to the jurisdictional police station.

#### Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023

The Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 (BSB2) retains most provisions of Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (IEA). However, it introduces significant alterations including: **Documentary Evidence:** 

- Definition Expansion: The BSB2 broadens the definition of documents to include electronic records alongside traditional writings, maps
- Primary and Secondary Evidence: Primary evidence retains its status, encompassing original documents, electronic records, and video recordings.
- Oral and written admissions, along with testimony from a qualified individual examining the documents, are now considered secondary evidence.
- Oral Evidence: The BSB2 permits electronic provision of oral evidence, enabling witnesses, accused individuals, and victims to testify through electronic means.
- Admissibility of Electronic Records: Electronic or digital records are granted equivalent legal status as paper records.
- This includes information stored in semiconductor memory, smartphones, laptops, emails, server logs, locational evidence, and voicemails.
- Confessions made in police custody are similarly inadmissible unless validated by a magistrate.
- In cases where an accused has absconded or has failed to answer to an arrest order, the law provides for joint trials for many people.

### Difference between The New Criminal Law and Old Law

| Aspect                           | Old Law<br>(Indian Penal<br>Code, 1860)                      | New Law<br>(Bhartiya Nyaya<br>Sanhita, 2023)                           |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Introduction Date                | 1860   | 2023   |
| Colonial<br>Influence            | Drafted during<br>British colonial<br>rule                   | Drafted in post-<br>independence<br>India, reflecting<br>modern values |
| Language and<br>Terminology      | Archaic English  | Simplified and modernized language                                     |
| Offenses<br>against the<br>State | 511 sections Sections on sedition, less emphasis on national | 358 sections Stronger focus on national security, cybercrimes,         |
| Sexual Offenses                  | Outdated definitions, limited recognition of modern crimes   | Expanded definitions, includes cyberstalking, digital harassment       |
| Gender<br>Neutrality             | Certain<br>sections<br>gender-specific                       | More gender-<br>neutral<br>provisions                                  |
| Cybercrimes                      | Minimal references   | Comprehensive sections on cybercrimes                                  |
| Corruption and<br>Bribery        | General<br>provisions  | Detailed provisions to address modern forms of corruption              |
| Economic<br>Offenses             | Basic<br>definitions   | Expanded to include financial frauds, money laundering                 |
| Adultery                         | Criminal offense   | Decriminalized   |
| Homosexuality                    | Criminalized<br>under Section<br>377                         | Decriminalized<br>following the<br>Supreme Court<br>judgment           |
| Blasphemy                        | Strict<br>provisions   | More balanced approach respecting freedom of religion                  |

|   | Marital Rape   | Not recognized | Recognized and   |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------|
|   |                |                | criminalized     |
|   | Implementation | Traditional    | Modernized with  |
| ų | Mechanism      | methods        | emphasis on      |
| , |                |                | technology and   |
|   |                |                | forensic science |
|   | Reform Focus   | Punitive       | Emphasis on      |
|   |                | 10             | rehabilitation   |
|   |                | Juda"          | and reform       |

### Committee on Criminal Law Reforms Recent Committee on Criminal Law Reforms

| Ranbir Singh | The Ministry of Home Affairs  |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Committee    | through a notification dated  |
|              | May 4, 2020, constituted a    |
|              | committee to review the three |
|              | codes of criminal law.        |
|              | It was headed by Prof. (Dr.)  |
|              | Ranbir Singh, former Vice     |
|              | Chancellor of National Law    |
|              | University (NLU), Delhi.      |

#### **Earlier Committees on Criminal Law Reforms**

| <b>Madhav Menon</b>                      | N.R. Madhav Menon –           |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Committee on Reforms</b>              | head                          |
| in the Criminal Justice<br>System (2007) | \ o                           |
| Malimath Committee:                      | Officially known as           |
|  | the <b>Committee on</b>       |
|  | Reforms of Criminal           |
|  | Justice System.               |
|  | The Committee was             |
|  | headed by Justice V.S.        |
|  | Malimath, former <b>Chief</b> |
|  | Justice of Karnataka and      |
|  | Kerala High Courts.           |

#### **Telecommunication Act 2023**



- The Telecommunications Act, 2023, was passed by the Parliament in December 2023, received the assent of the President of India on 24.12.2023
- The Telecommunication Act 2023 aims to amend and consolidate the law relating to development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and telecommunication networks; assignment of spectrum; and for matters connected therewith.
- It replaced the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.
- Guided by the principles of Samavesh (Inclusion), Suraksha (Security), Vriddhi (Growth), and Tvarit (Responsiveness), the Act aims to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India).
- Will allow the government to take over the control and management of any or all of any telecommunication services or network, in the interest of national security, friendly relations with foreign States, or in the event of war.
- The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) will become Digital Bharat Nidhi, which can be used for funding research and development, and pilot projects
- Prohibition of use of equipment which block telecommunications, unless permitted by the Central Government.
- Criteria for appointment as Chairperson and Members of TRAI
- Provision of stringent punishment has been made for violators, which ranges from three years jail to a punishment of up to 50 lakh rupees.
- Provision of an effective grievance redressal mechanism

#### What is Digital Bharat Nidhi?

- NEWS: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released draft rules to operationalise the Digital Bharat Nidhi, in a fresh attempt by the central government at increasing telecom connectivity in rural areas.
- Digital Bharat Nidhi would replace the erstwhile
   Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is
   a pool of funds generated by a 5 per cent Universal
   Service Levy (fee) charged upon all the telecom
   operators on their Revenue.
- The idea is that this money would be used to fund the expansion of telecom networks in remote and rural areas, where private companies may otherwise resist offering their services due to them not being revenue-generating markets.

#### **Anand Marriage Act**



- The National Commission for Minorities held a video conference meeting with 18 States/UTs on July 8 to discuss the implementation and registration of Sikh marriages under the Anand Marriage Act.
- Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Maharashtra reported implementation of the Act in their respective States while remaining States/UTs have assured to implement the Act within two months' time.
- The Anand Marriage Act was enacted in 1909 during British colonial rule in India.
- In 2012, the Parliament passed the Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill, bringing Sikh traditional marriages under the purview of legal recognition.
- The Act designates Sikh religious leaders (granthi) as authorized marriage officers to solemnize Sikh marriages.
- It also allows for civil officers to act as marriage registrars for Sikh marriages.
- While the central government approved the amendments, it was left for individual states and Union territories to frame respective rules for the registration of Anand marriages.

## Lok Sabha passes Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024

| Aspect       | Details                                   |
|--------------|---|
| Event        | Lok Sabha passes the Bhartiya             |
|              | Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024                |
| Date         | August 9, 2024                            |
| Objective of | Replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act,     |
| the Bill     | 1934 and improve ease of doing            |
|              | business in aviation                      |
| Reasons for  | - Address ambiguities and confusion       |
| Replacement  | - Remove redundancies                     |
|              | - Simplify processes                      |
| Scope of the | Regulate design, manufacture,             |
| Bill         | maintenance, possession, use,             |
|              | operation, sale, export, or import of     |
| 100          | aircraft                                  |
| Key          | - Changed definition of aircraft          |
| Additions    | (removal of balloons and gliders)         |
|              | - Enhanced powers to DGCA, BCAS, and AAIB |

| Government | - Empowered to suspend, cancel, or   |  |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Powers     | restrict licenses or certifications  |  |
| 1 1        | - Added second appeal mechanism      |  |
| New        | - Hearing opportunity before license |  |
| Provisions | suspension/cancellation              |  |
| 1          | - Introduction of an interim appeal  |  |
|            | (Earlier one appeal & final Sec      |  |
|            | MOCA)                                |  |

### Govt amends rules to allow postal ballots for those aged 85 or above



- For the upcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, senior citizens who are 85 years and older will be able to opt for postal ballots
- The Union Law Ministry amended the 'Conduct of Elections Rules-1961' to change the definition of senior citizens who are eligible to choose the postal ballot facility from those "above 80 years" to those "above 85 years".

## **Centre Brings Into Force Stringent Law To Curb Irregularities In Competitive Exams**



- The Centre notified a stringent law that aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations, which came into force from June 21
- President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, making it a law in February this year.

- The government of India has notified Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024 and the law has come into effect from 21 June 2024.
- The Act is the first Central Government legislation addressing unfair practices in public examinations.
- The notification of the law assumes significance in the wake of question paper leaks of the UGC-NET and the undergraduate NEET(National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) medical exams.
- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was passed by both houses of the parliament in February. President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the bill on 12 February, turning it into a law.
- The act aims to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, Railway Recruitment Board, Staff Selection Commission, National Testing Agency (NTA), and banking recruitment examination bodies, among others.
- All offences under this Act have been made cognisable, non-bailable and noncompoundable.
- Any person resorting to unfair means and offences under this Act shall be punished
- with imprisonment for a term not less than three years but which may extend to five years.
- It also provides for a monetary penalty of up to ten lakh rupees.
- In case of default of payment of the fine, an additional punishment of imprisonment shall be imposed, as per the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
- The service provider shall be punished with the imposition of a fine up to one crore rupees, and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered from such service provider.
- The service provider shall be barred from conducting any public examination for a period of four years.
- If the Director, Senior Management or the person in-charge of the service provider firm is guilty of malpractice, then they shall be liable for imprisonment for a term not less than three years, which may be extended to ten years and with a fine of one crore rupees.

#### **Investigating authority**

- According to the act, alleged malpractice cases will be investigated by an officer not below the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police.
- The Central government has the power to hand over the investigation of such malpractices to any Central Investigating Agency

## The Central Civil Services (Leave) (Amendment) Rules, 2024



- Till now, there were no rules to grant maternity leaves to women government employees in case a child was born through surrogacy.
- According to the changes made in the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972:
- In case of surrogacy, the surrogate, as well as the commissioning mother with less than two surviving children, may be granted maternity leave of 180 days, in case either or both of them are government servants
- The "surrogate mother" shall mean the woman who bears the child on behalf of the commissioning mother
- In case of a child begotten through surrogacy, the commissioning father who is a male government servant with less than two surviving children may be granted paternity leave of 15 days within the period of 6 months from the date of delivery of the child
- In case of surrogacy, the commissioning mother with less than two surviving children, may be granted child care leave.
- A female government servant and single male government servant" child care leave for a maximum period of 730 days during entire service "for taking care of two eldest surviving children, whether for rearing or for looking after any of their needs, such as education, sickness and the like

## **India Proposes Digital Competition Bill,** 2024



Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has proposed a new digital competition law that could stop tech

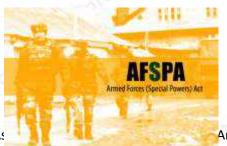
- giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon from self-preferencing their own services, or using data gathered from one company to benefit another group company.
- The draft law is called the Digital Competition Bill, 2024.
- It has provisions to set presumptive norms to curb anti-competitive practices before they actually take place, and promises to impose heavy penalties

   which could amount to billions of dollars — for violations.
- The proposal is similar to the European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA), which went into complete effect earlier this year.
- Currently, India follows an ex post antitrust framework under the Competition Act,
   2002. Regulating after the incidence of market abuse involves delays— by the time the offending company has been penalised, market dynamics change to rule out smaller competitors.
- The proposed framework is a forward-looking, preventive, and presumptive law (an ex ante framework)

#### Criticism of the draft

 For big tech companies, an ex ante framework with its strict prescriptive norms could lead to significant compliance burden, and shift focus from innovation and research to ensuring that companies do not presumptively engage in an anti-competitive practice.

#### AFSPA extended in four districts of Assam



- The As Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 in four districts for six months from April 1 on the decisions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 4 Districts Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo and Sivasagar districts.
- Reason one militant organisation being active in the four districts.

#### Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958

Initially as the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur)
 Special Powers Act, 1958.

- The Act empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior warrant. It also gives a certain level of immunity to the security forces in case of misplaced operations.
- The law first came into effect in 1958 to deal with the uprising in the Naga.
- Currently AFSFA is in some parts of Assam,
   Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

## President Droupadi Murmu's address to joint sitting of both Houses



Ahead

of the Union Budget, President Droupadi Murmu addressed the **joint sitting of Parliament** for the first time after assuming the position in July 2022.

- In India, the practice of the President addressing
   Parliament was established after the promulgation of the Government of India Act in 1919.
- Article 87 provides two special occasions on which the President addresses a joint sitting.
- The first is to address the opening session of a new legislature after a general election. The second is to address the first sitting of Parliament each year.
- There are typically three sessions in a year.
  - Budget session (February to May)
  - Monsoon session (July to September)
  - Winter session (November to December)
- The Union Budget is also known as the Annual Financial Statement.
- Article 112 of the Constitution of India lays down that it is a statement of the estimated expenditure and receipts of the Government for a particular year
- The Budget is presented on 1st February (until 2016, it was presented on the last working day of February)
- In 2017, a 92-year-old tradition was broken when the railway budget was merged with the Union Budget and presented together.

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Act, 2015, amends the Land Acquisition Act of 2013.

| Ture                              | Level Acquirettees Art, 2013   | Lond Acquisition (Second Aspendantors) Bill, 2011  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Сочини                            | No connect required for generossist people.     Connect of 10% land owners required for Public Petrose Partnership projects.     Connect of 80% land owners required for private projects. | <ul> <li>Five types of projects enrage from consent<br/>registrements (i) therein, (ii) variation of the control of the<br/>inflammation, (iii) afferdable becausing (iv) industrial contribute at up by the<br/>government/procuration undertakings, up on one has no enthre side of the modificables; up the corridor, and (iv) infrastructum tradealing PPP projects where the government resemble land.</li> </ul> |
| Borial Impact<br>Assessment (SIA) | <ul> <li>SIA is mandatory for all projects<br/>mounts (i) in some of arguing or (ii) for<br/>telegation projects where ar<br/>Environmental Impact Assessment is<br/>engated.</li> </ul>   |  |
| Irrigand malti-cropped<br>land    | <ul> <li>Imgued eaght crepped land outset be<br/>acquired beyond a limit specified by<br/>the state government.</li> </ul>   |  |

- Crop insurance schemes should be in the line with the Commission report.
- Complete loan waiver for the farmers and farm labour.
- A monthly pension of ₹10,000 for 58-year-old farmers-farm labourers
- Withdrawal of the Electricity Bill, 2020.
- Cancellation of cases filed against farmers during the year-long protest (2020) on Delhi borders
- They are demanding that the government honor a pledge to double their income which it made in 2016

#### **Swaminathan Commission**

- The Swaminathan Commission was a National Commission on Farmers established on November 18, 2004 to address the issue of farmers' suicides in India. The commission was chaired by Professor M.S. Swaminathan
- The commission recommended that the minimum support price MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. It is also known as the C2 (comprehensive cost of production) + 50% formula
- In 2010, the Congress rejected the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations which demanded a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP).

### The newly constituted research board 'Anusandhan National Research Foundation' (ANRF) takes effect

- Anusandhan National Research Foundation aims to
  - Be a research funding organization.
  - provide strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in several fields of science
- The ANRF Act was passed by both Houses of Parliament in 2023.

- Interim CEO of the body Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- The Prime Minister will be the ex-officio President of the Board
- The Union Minister of Science & Technology &



Union Minister of Education will be the ex-officio Vice-Presidents.

- NRF's functioning will be governed by an Executive Council chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
- The ANRF subsumes the existing Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), established in 2008

# Pension Rules Amended: woman employee can nominate children over her husband for the family pension



Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has now amended the rules in case of marital discord

Rule 50 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 allows the grant of family pension following the death of a government servant or retired government servant.

Eligibility Clause: where the female government servant/pensioner has filed a divorce petition or a petition under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Dowry Prohibition Act or cases under Indian Penal Code

Election Commission of India introduced new regulations for allocating symbols to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs).

Now, these parties must provide:

- audited accounts from the last three financial years,
- expenditure statements from the last two elections, and
- signature of the authorized party official along with their symbol application.
- Article 324 of the Indian Constitution grants the ECI the authority to register political parties.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for the allotment of symbols.
- This is done under The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

### Parliament passes Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024



- The Bill seeks to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, which establishes the central and state pollution control boards to prevent and control water pollution.
- The bill was Piloted by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav
- seeks to decriminalise minor offences related to water pollution, and replace it with monetary penalty (between ten thousand rupees to 15 lakh rupees) in case of continuation of contravention. This would ensure that citizens, businesses and companies operate without fear of imprisonment for minor, technical or procedural defaults.
- According to the proposed law, the central government will prescribe the manner of nomination of chairpersons of State Pollution Control Boards.
- It also empowers the central government to issue guidelines on the matters relating to the grant, refusal or cancellation of consent by any state board for establishment of any industry, operation or process, or treatment and disposal system or bringing into use of new or altered outlets.
- It will initially apply to Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the Union Territories.

### Government introduces Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha



- The Bill was moved by Union Minister Jitendra Singh
- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 seeks to check practices such as 'leakage of question paper or answer key', 'directly or indirectly assisting the candidate', and 'tampering with computer network'
- Any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years but which may extend to 5 years and with fine up to ₹10 lakh
- A service provider, engaged by the public examination authority for conduct of examinations, liable to be punished with a fine up to ₹1 crore "and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered" from it
- A candidate, which means a person who has been granted permission by the public examination authority to appear in public examination and includes a person authorised to act as a scribe on his behalf in the public examination, shall not be liable for action under the proposed legislation.
- An officer not below the rank of Deputy
   Superintendent of Police or Assistant
   Commissioner of Police shall investigate any offence mentioned in the proposed Act
- The Bill covers recruitment examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) and National Testing Agency (NTA) among others.

# Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced in the Lok Sabha

- Centre moves Bill to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in panchayat and municipal bodies of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Jammu and Kashmir

Municipal Act, 2000 and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000.

 Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai introduced the Bill in the Lower House

### CAA implemented in India ahead of Lok Sabha elections



- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was passed on December 11, 2019 to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- New portal for applying for citizenship under CAA launched, Centre will also launch the mobile app 'CAA-2019' to facilitate applications
- This amendment allowed for the grant of fast-track Indian citizenship to religious minorities, including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians, who fled from neighbouring Muslimmajority countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan due to religious persecution or fear thereof before 31st December 2014.
- They will be granted fast track Indian citizenship in 5 years (11 years earlier).

#### **Documents required**

- Any other document issued by a government authority or agency in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan that establishes the applicant's nationality or origin.
- Any document issued by an Indian authority
   (admissible even after their expiry date) which
   demonstrate that the applicant entered India on or
   before December 31, 2014.
- provide an eligibility certificate issued by a locally reputed community institution confirming that he or she belongs to either Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community and continues to be a member of that community.
- The applicants will have to give a declaration that they 'irrevocably' renounce the existing citizenship and that they want to make make 'India as permanent home'.

#### **Exemptions from CAA**

Regions under the Sixth Schedule and ILP regime in the North East



- Schedule of the Constitution are exempted from the purview of CAA. Autonomous councils under this special status include Karbi Anglong, Dila Hasao and Bodoland Territorial Council areas in Assam, Garo Hills in Meghalaya and tribal areas in Tripura.
- Areas where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) is required for a visit by people from other parts of the country in Northeastern states are excluded from the law. The ILP is in place in parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

#### **Arguments against CAA**

- Protestors have also argued that the amendment discriminates against Muslims and violates the right to equality enshrined in the Constitution.
- Some also question the exclusion of persecuted religious minorities from regions such as **Tibet**, **Sri Lanka**, **and Myanmar**.

# Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be implemented before Lok Sabha election: Amit Shah



- The Citizenship Amendment Bill was first introduced in 2016 in Lok Sabha by amending the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- Rajya Sabha on December 11, 2019 passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill



- The Bill grant citizenship on the basis of religion to non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan,
   Bangladesh and Pakistan, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- They include Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Parsi, Jain and Sikh who face persecution in the three countries.
- The Bill will enable a person from the six communities to apply for citizenship, even without a proof of birth, just by staying in India for six years However, the Citizenship Bill shall not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.
- It shall not apply to Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland that are protected by Inner Line Permit (ILP).
- Northeast States oppose the Citizenship
   Amendment Bill (CAB), saying that granting citizenship to foreign refugees might create demographic or ethnic changes there.

### Rajya Sabha passes Bills seeking to modify SC/ST list in Odisha and Andhra

- Rajya Sabha passed the:
- Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024 and
- Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024
- The first Bill modifies the list of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh, while the second one modifies the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Odisha.
- Among the additions were notably 7 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) (a subset of STs)

   4 in Odisha and 3 in Andhra Pradesh — whose independent names had been specifically added as synonyms or sub-tribes of communities already on the ST lists of these States.
- Both bills were piloted by Tribal Affairs Minister
   Arjun Munda.

#### Lok Sabha passed:

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023

## Centre issues first set of citizenship certificates under CAA to 14 applicants



- Over two months after notifying rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the Ministry of Home Affairs issued the first set of citizenship certificates under the law to 14 persons.
- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was passed on December 11, 2019 to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- CAA sought to fast-track the process of granting Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians—but not Muslims—who migrated to India before 31st December 2014 owing to religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

### Hindu man from Bangladesh becomes first person to get citizenship under CAA

 A Hindu man from Bangladesh, living in Assam since June 5, 1988, has become the first person in the northeast to get citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019.

#### **About Citizenship Amendment Act 2019**

- The citizenship laws in India derived their origins from the constitution under Articles 5-11 and the Citizenship Act of 1955. This Act provided provisions for citizenship by birth, descent, registration and naturalisation.
- It amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for Indian citizenship.
- Those from these communities who entered India on or before **December 31, 2014**, would not be treated as illegal immigrants, providing a path to **naturalisation**.
- However, it exempts the Muslim community.

#### Relaxation:

 The amendment relaxed the residency requirement from 11 years to 6 years for these

- communities to acquire Indian citizenship by naturalization.
- It exempts members of these communities from prosecution under the Foreigners Act of 1946 and the Passport Act of 1920.
- Applicants are exempt from being considered "illegal immigrants".

#### **Exception:**

 The amendments for illegal migrants will not apply to certain tribal (under <u>Sixth Schedule</u>) areas in <u>Assam</u>, <u>Meghalaya</u>, <u>Mizoram</u>, and <u>Tripura</u>, as well as states regulated by the "<u>Inner Line</u>" <u>permit</u> (Ar,Mi,Na,Ma,La) under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations 1873.

### Govt amends rules to allow postal ballots for those aged 85 or above

 For the upcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, senior citizens who are 85 years and



- older will be able to opt for postal ballots
- The Union Law Ministry amended the 'Conduct of Elections Rules-1961' to change the definition of senior citizens who are eligible to choose the postal ballot facility from those "above 80 years" to those "above 85 years".
- In **Section 27(A) (e)**, senior citizens had been defined as those above 80 years.
- The postal ballot facility had been extended to persons with disability, absentee voters who are working in essential services and senior citizens (above 80 years) for the first time in 2019
- Those who opt for the facility are visited at home by poll officials, who facilitate the filling up of the postal ballots.
- The whole procedure is done after informing the political parties and under videography.

# Cabinet approves conferring status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages

- The total number of recognised classical languages in India increased to 11
- India has had 6 classical languages till now Tamil,
   Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sanskrit, and Odia.
- Tamil was the first language to be given classical status in 2004



| Language  | Year of notification |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Tamil     | 2004                 |
| Sanskrit  | 2005                 |
| Telugu    | 2008                 |
| Kannada   | 2008                 |
| Malayalam | 2013                 |
| Odia      | 2014                 |

- The government of India created a separate category called 'Classical Languages' on October 12, 2004.
- In November 2004, the Ministry of Culture established a Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) under the Sahitya Akademi
- The Linguistics Expert Committee comprises of representatives of the Union Ministries of Home, Culture, and four or five linguistic experts at any given time.
- It is chaired by the President of the Sahitya Akademi.
- Once a language is notified as a classical language, the Education Ministry provides certain benefits to promote it which includes two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the said languages.

#### **Classical Languages Status Criteria:**

- High Antiquity: Should have a long history of at least 1,500-2,000 years, documented in early texts.
- Valuable Heritage: It should possess a body of ancient literature that is highly regarded as a cultural heritage.
- 3. <u>Originality</u>: The literary tradition of the language should be <u>original</u> and not borrowed from another speech community.
- Distinctness from Modern Forms: The classical language and its literature should be distinct from its modern form

### Lok Sabha passes Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024

 The Lok Sabha passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 through a voice vote,



- which seeks to amend the existing Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Enhanced Powers for NDMA and SDMA: The Bill empowers the NDMA and SDMA to prepare national and state-level disaster plans, respectively.
- Urban Disaster Management Authority: State governments can now establish separate Urban Disaster Management Authorities for major cities and state capitals.
- Disaster Database: The Bill mandates the creation of a comprehensive disaster database at both national and state levels.

### Lok Sabha Passes Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024



- The amendment primarily grants statutory powers to the Railway Board and was introduced by Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- All the provisions in the erstwhile colonial-era
   Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 are proposed to be incorporated in the Railways Act, 1989 through this
   Bill. It is intended to simplify the legal framework and reduces the need to refer to two laws.
- The Bill also proposes to amend the Railways Act, 1989 to provide statutory backing to the Railway Board, which has functioned without such a sanction since it began functioning.
- The provisions added to the amended Bill authorise the Central government to decide the composition of the Railway Board. This includes the number of members, their terms of service, and their qualifications and experience.
- The Bill also proposes to improve operational efficiencies and decentralise powers, granting greater autonomy to Railway Zones. Increasing autonomy has been a long-standing demand, supported by various committees, including 2014 Sreedharan Committee.
- The Bill proposes to establish an independent regulator to oversee tariffs, safety, and the participation of the private sector in the Railways.

- The amendment was aimed at addressing the lack of direct train connections between Thawe
   Junction and major cities like Delhi, which is crucial for local people, including migrant workers and pilgrims.
- The amendment is expected to speed up the approval process for these train services, helping to meet long-standing demands from the region.

### Parliament Clears Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak To Replace Aircraft Act Of 1934



- Passed by the Rajya Sabha after clearance by the Lok Sabha in August 2024
- The bill remove redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934, which has been amended 21 times. It aims to improve the ease of doing business in the aviation sector.
- The new bill was introduced as a response to suggestions from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to amend the outdated Aircraft Act.
- The most significant change in the Bill is that the Radio Telephone Operator Restricted certificate and licence testing process, which was conducted by the Department of Telecom (DoT) for aviation personnel, including aircraft maintenance engineers, flight despatchers and pilots, has been moved to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- This will ensure a single-window clearance process as aviation personnel can now secure all their certificates from one authority.
- The Bill also adds power to regulate the design of aircraft, as well as the places where they are being designed, in addition to retaining provisions for their manufacture, repair and maintenance.
- Establishment of Three Authorities:
  - Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA): Regulatory functions and safety oversight.
  - Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS): Security oversight.

- Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB): Aircraft accident investigations.
- Specified Offences Punishable by Up to Two Years'
   Imprisonment, ₹1 Crore Fine, or Both:
  - Violating rules on prohibited goods in aircraft (e.g., arms, explosives).
  - Flying in a manner endangering people or property.
  - Non-compliance with DGCA and BCAS directions.

## Rajya Sabha passes Boilers Bill 2024, to replace 100 years old Boiler Act 923



- provisions for regulation of boilers, safety of life and property from explosions, and uniformity in registrations.
- The bill has provisions to ensure the safety of people working inside a boiler apart from repair of boilers to be undertaken by qualified and competent persons.

# Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal introduces Coastal Shipping Bill 2024 in Lok Sabha



- A Bill that seeks to promote coastal trade and encourage the participation of Indian-flagged vessels owned and operated by Indian citizens for national security and commercial needs was introduced in the Lok Sabha
- The goal of the action is to encourage more domestic maritime companies to participate in coastal shipping while streamlining regulatory processes.
- India-flagged ships engaged in coastal trade (within the country) will not need licences, while foreign flagged ones still need to go through a licensing process of the DG Shipping, as per the new Coastal Shipping Bill 2024
- It also seeks to empower the Director-General of Shipping to issue licence after taking into consideration certain factors including citizenship of the crew and building requirements of the vessel so as to create major jobs for India seafarers and to promote ship building in India.
- No licence granted shall be suspended, revoked or modified, unless the licence has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.
- The Bill also proposes that the Centre shall within a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act publish a National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan which shall be updated every two years.
- Greater coordination with inland waterways authority has also been mentioned in the Bill whereby inland vessels will be allowed to take part in coastal trade subject to certain conditions.
- A National Database of Coastal Shipping is also proposed to be set up for greater transparency and information sharing.
- Penalties have also been proposed in the Bill that
  vary between ₹1,00,000 to ₹15,00,000 depending
  on the quantum of offence that include deliberately
  providing misinformation, flouting of licensing
  norms or otherwise. A six month imprisonment has
  also been proposed, if necessary.
- The regulation of the coastal maritime sector in India lacks uniformity.
- Non-mechanised vessels engaged in coastwise trade are governed by the Coasting Vessel Act, 1838 which only provides for registration of such vessels.
- The mechanised vessels on the other hand fall under the purview of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

### SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### 9<sup>th</sup> SHAKTI International Women Entrepreneurs Summit

46th Session of the World Heritage Committee

**State Museum Conclave** 

32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)

3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit

1<sup>st</sup> BIMSTEC Business Summit

3rd 2+2 Dialogue in New Delhi

India-EU regional conference

**CII India-Africa Business Conclave** 

2024 Quad Summit

4<sup>th</sup> Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup

1<sup>st</sup> ever India Mediterranean Business Conclave 2024

9th edition of the RAISINA Dialogue

2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation

15<sup>th</sup> edition of ITU Kaleidoscope Academic Conference

1<sup>st</sup> Global Cooperative Conference

46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Aviation Conference

1<sup>st</sup> World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit

**National PACS Mega Conclave** 

First Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting

### 9th SHAKTI International Women Entrepreneurs Summit



- An annual Conference on the occasion of International Women's Day to promote entrepreneurship amongst women.
- Organized at New Delhi by India SME Forum with the support of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India, in association with Women Entrepreneurs Forum
- Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister,
   Narayan Rane
- The Summit saw launch of three new initiatives
- 1) 'Panjikaran Se Pragati' to get Udyam registered and unlock a world of opportunities.
- 'WEP Unnati \_ Udyamita se Pragati tak.' to take Women MSME's to the next level of growth by providing comprehensive capacity building support through WEP.
- 3) The 'mentorship platform' of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)

# Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam



- The World Heritage Committee meets annually and is responsible for managing all matters on World Heritage sites, and deciding on sites to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- India is hosting the key event of the UNESCO for the first time from July 21 to July 31.

- India was elected to the 21-member World
  Heritage Committee-WHC in the 23rd General
  Assembly in 2021 for a period of four years (2021-2025).
- This is India's fourth term on the World Heritage Committee.
- India will contribute 1 million dollars to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to be used for capacity building, technical assistance and conservation of world heritage sites.
- India has inscribed 42 Properties in the World Heritage List which include 34 Cultural, 7 Natural, and one Mixed Heritage Site
- North East India's historic Maidam has been nominated to enter UNESCO's popular World Heritage List.
- This is India's 43rd World Heritage Site and North East India's first heritage to get the status of Cultural World Heritage

- Director General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay
- The "Return of Treasures" exhibition will display artefacts that have been brought back to India, totaling over 350 items so far
- Advanced AR and VR technologies will offer immersive experiences of three Indian World Heritage sites: Rani ki Vav in Patan, Gujarat; Kailasa Temple at Ellora Caves, Maharashtra; and Hoysala Temple in Halebid, Karnataka.

# Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurates 'State Museum Conclave' on upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum



- to discuss the development of the 'Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum'.
- The event, organized by the Ministry of Culture, is taking place from August 1-3 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- More than 150 stakeholders, including 80 representatives of state museums and universities across the country, are participating in the conclave.
- The 'Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' will be a centerpiece of the Central Vista Redevelopment project near Raisina Hill in New Delhi.
- Covering 154,000 square meters, it will be the largest museum in the world.
- The museum will be developed through adaptive reuse in collaboration with France, leveraging their expertise from similar projects like the Louvre.

### India Elected Vice-Chair of IPEF's Supply Chain Council



 India has been elected as vice-chair of the supply chain council, one of the three bodies set up by the

- 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) bloc.
- Supply Chain Council (SCC): USA (Chair), India (Vice-Chair)
- Crisis Response Network (CRN): Republic of Korea (Chair), Japan (Vice-Chair)
- Labor Rights Advisory Board (LRAB): USA (Chair),
   Fiji (Vice-Chair)
- IPEF Supply Chain Council aims to help mitigate risks of economic disruptions from supply chain shocks, improve crisis coordination, and reduce the member countries' dependence on China.

# PM Modi to inaugurate 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)



- on August 3, 2024 in New Delhi, an event which is being held in India after 65 years
- The six-day triennial conference, organised by the International Association of Agricultural Economists
- Theme Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems.
- The conference will witness participation of around 1,000 delegates from around 75 countries.
- It aims to tackle the pressing need for sustainable agriculture in the face of global challenges such as climate change, natural resource degradation, rising production costs and conflicts.
- The ICAE 2024 will serve as a platform for young researchers and leading professionals to present their work and network with global peers.

## India hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit virtually



- India hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17th August virtually
- Under the theme "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future."
- Discussions on a range of complex challenges that continue to affect the world, such as conflicts, food and energy security crises and climate change.
- 3rd Summit was held in a virtual format and was structured into Leaders' Session and Ministerial sessions
- 123 countries joined Voice of Global South summit;
   China, Pakistan not invited
- 21 countries whose heads of state and government attended the summit are Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Chile, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Lao PDR, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Uruguay and Vietnam.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Leaders' session at the summit.

#### **India hosts first BIMSTEC Business Summit**



- The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Business Summit meeting is being held in New Delhi from 6 to 8 August 2024.
- organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister
   S.Jaishankar
- The summit is being attended by ministers of the BIMSTEC countries, high-ranking Government officials, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and industry associations.
- BIMSTEC is an economic bloc initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Nepal became full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004.
- Members Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

Permanent Secretariat - Dhaka, Bangladesh

### India and Japan to hold third 2+2 Dialogue in New Delhi



- India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hosted Japan's Minister of Defence, Kihara Minoru and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yoko Kamikawa,
- · on August 20 in New Delhi.
- to further deepen the defence cooperation and the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries.
- The first edition held in India in 2019; second edition in Japan in 2022.
- India has the '2+2' ministerial format of dialogue with very few countries including the U.S., Australia and Russia.

# 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave Begins in New Delhi with 'Creating One Future' Theme



- The conclave focuses on areas such as Trade, Investment, Infrastructure, Healthcare and Technology.
- More than 11 hundred international delegates from sixty five countries out of which 47 are African nations are participating in the conclave.
- Mauritius is the first African country to adopt India's UPI system and the first non-Asian country to issue RuPay cards, enabling both Indian and African tourism
- India is Africa's fourth-largest trading partner

### 1<sup>st</sup> STI Conclave on "Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Livelihoods" in New Delhi



- The International Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) under the auspices of UNESCO together with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) constituents, Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Unit (CSIR-TKDL Unit), New Delhi, and CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad, India is organized a STI Conclave on "Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Livelihoods" New Delhi, India.
- Theme "Strengthening Competencies in Digitization, Preservation and Protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) – Intellectual Property (IP) and People's Rights"
- Aim to provide a platform for exchange of information on challenges related to Traditional Knowledge in their countries and learn the best practices being adopted by India and others in safeguarding TK.

## Two-day India-EU regional conference begins in New Delhi



- The European Union, in collaboration with the Global Counter-Terrorism Council and the Ministry of External Affairs, has organised a two-day EU-India Track 1.5 Conference on combating terrorist content online.
- This regional conference aims to address the multifaceted challenges posed by violent extremism in the digital sphere.
- Ambassador of the European Union to India Hervé
   Delphin

# Zimbabwe VP Chiwenga arrives in New Delhi for 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave



- The Vice President of Zimbabwe, Constantino Guveya Dominic Nyikadzino Chiwenga, has arrived in New Delhi.
- He will attend the 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **India to Host 2024 Quad Summit**



- S. Jaishankar attended the QUAD Foreign Ministers meeting in Tokyo, Japan
- United States will host 2025 QUAD foreign ministers' meeting
- India will host the 6<sup>th</sup> QUAD Summit meeting in New Delhi in 2024
- The first Summit of QUAD leaders (virtual meeting) hosted by President Joe Biden of the United States in March 2021.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> summit was hosted by Japan in May 2023, in Hiroshima on the 20th May was a pragmatic step taken by four leaders, after the Summit in Australia was cancelled



#### What is QUAD?

- QUAD, also known as the Quadrilateral Security
   Dialogue or simply the Quad, is a strategic forum
   comprising four countries: the United States, Japan,
   India, and Australia.
- First mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.
- In November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending "Quad" Coalition to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China).

### 6<sup>th</sup> edition of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure



- 6th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held on 24-25 April, 2024 in New Delhi
- PM Modi addressed via video conferencing.
- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
  has seen impressive growth since its inception in
  2019, it is now a global coalition of 39 countries and
  7 organizations.

# PM Inaugurates 8<sup>th</sup> ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. from 15 to 24 October 2024.
- The WTSA is the governing conference for the standardization work of the International Telecommunication Union, a United Nations agency for digital technologies, organized every four years.
- This is the first time that the ITU-WTSA is being hosted in India and the Asia-Pacific region.

- The event will facilitate interactions with various industry leaders, policymakers, and tech experts from over 190 countries.
- The ITU-WTSA event will also facilitate discussions on the standards set for new-age technologies such as 6G, AI, IoT, Big Data, and cybersecurity.
- Secretary General ITU, Ms. Doreen Bogdan Martin
- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the 8th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC), with the theme, "The Future is Now."
- India Mobile Congress is Asia's largest digital technology forum

### 4<sup>th</sup> Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum organized in New Delhi

- The initiative focused on broadening startup interactions among the SCO Member States, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, promoting job creation, and inspiring young talent to develop innovative solutions.
- India will host the second meeting of the SWG in November 2024 and SCO Startup Forum 5.0 in January 2025.
- Presidency of the SCO 2024 the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**



- · Established in: 2001 in Shanghai, China
- Members: 8
   (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan,
- India and Pakistan)India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members in 2017
- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Secretary General: Mr. Zhang Ming
- SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defence alliance. Largest regional organisation in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population



Union Minister of Food Processing inaugurates "SUFALAM" Startup Conclave 2024"



- Pashupati Kumar Paras inaugurates "SUFALAM" (Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders And Mentors)
- "SUFALAM" aimed at catalyzing innovation, fostering collaboration, and driving growth within the food processing industry.
- India's food processing sector is one of the largest in the world, with unprecedented growth in market size and revenue generation during the last 5 years.

## PM Modi Inaugurated National Conference of District Judiciary



- The two-day National Conference of the District Judiciary organised by the Supreme Court of India at Bharat Mandapam.
- The conference is attended by more than 800 judges across all judiciary.
- PM Modi also released a Coin and a stamp commemorating 75 years of the establishment of the Supreme Court.

### International WASH Conference 2024 concludes at 8th India Water Week

- Organised by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti
- WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Conference
- 17th-19th September 2024, in New Delhi.
- Theme 'Sustaining Rural Water Supply'
- Aimed at addressing global WASH challenges, with a special focus on achieving Sustainable
   Development Goal 6 (SDG 6).

### 1<sup>st</sup> ever India Mediterranean Business Conclave 2024 in New Delhi

- CII in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India is organizing the inaugural edition of the CII India Mediterranean Business Conclave on 6 September 2024 in New Delhi.
- objective to deliberate on the need for strategic integration of better trade and economic prospects as well as an open and facilitative environment to encourage business
- The Mediterranean region is critical for global trade as the region accounts for 25% of all international seaborne trade.
- India's total trade with the Mediterranean
   Countries doubled from US\$ 48.60 Billion in 2017 to
   US\$ 83.20 Billion in 2022.



### 9th edition of the RAISINA Dialogue held in New Delhi

 The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the international community



- The 9th edition of the Raisina Dialogue will be held from 21-23 February, 2024
- PM Modi inaugurated the 9th edition of the RAISINA Dialogue in Delhi.
- Theme "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create".
- Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, is the Chief Guest.
- The three-day Raisina Dialogue will witness the participation of representatives from over 100 countries including Ministers, former Heads of State and Heads of Government, Military Commanders, Captains of Industry, Technology Leaders, Academics, Journalists, and Scholars on Strategic Affairs.

#### **About Raisina Dialogue:**

- It is held annually since 2016 in New Delhi.
- It is organized by the Observer Research
   Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.

#### **About Observer Research Foundation (ORF):**

 Established in 1990, the ORF is an independent think tank that conducts policy research on good governance, foreign policy, and sustainable economic development for India.

### 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs held at Kochi



- from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024.
- 109 delegates from 31 countries attended the session.
- Quality standards for 5 spices, namely small cardamom, turmeric, juniper berry, allpice and star anise were finalised.

#### **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)**

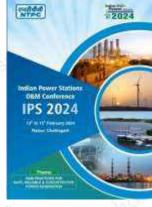
- Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) was established in 2013 by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in Rome.
- The CAC was jointly established by FAO and WHO and is tasked with formulating internationally accepted standards pertaining to human food.
- India hosts this Committee since the beginning and Spices Board India serves as the Secretariat organization, which organizes the Committee's sessions.

# Indian Parliament to host two-day 10<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference in New Delhi



### Indian Power Stations O&M Conference 2024

- Inaugurated by Raj
   Kumar Singh Union
   Minister of Power and
   New & Renewable Energy
- Hosted by NTPC Limited in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- Theme 2024 edition "Operations &
   Maintenance Practices
   for Safe, Reliable & Cost Effective Power Generation".



- The flagship event commemorates the historic commissioning of the first unit of NTPC at Singrauli in 1982.
- The Conference serves as a platform for industry leaders to engage in collaborative discussions to explore innovative strategies to enhance safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness in power generation.

### NTPC (formerly National Thermal Power Corporation Limited)

 It was founded in 1975 under the Companies Act 1956



- under the ownership of Ministry of Power.
- · Headquarters New Delhi.
- In May 2010, NTPC was conferred Maharatna status by the Union Government of India.
- CMD Gurdeep Singh

## India to Host 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation



- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation to be held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September
   2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- The event is co-hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- The first Ministerial Conference of the Asia Pacific region was organized in 2018 in Beijing, China.
- The year 2024 corresponds to the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Chicago convention (Chicago Convention was signed in 1944 by delegates from 54 countries.);
- this landmark agreement established the core principles permitting international transport by air, and led to the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization

### PM Modi Announces Adoption of Delhi Declaration on Civil Aviation

- The 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation concluded with the adoption of Delhi Declaration.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), successfully hosted the conference at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from 11th to 12th September.
- Delhi Declaration a comprehensive framework aimed at enhancing regional cooperation, addressing emerging challenges, and fostering sustainable growth within the civil aviation sector.
- In India, 15% of the pilots are women which is more than the global average of 5% and we have issued an advisory to further increase this number.
- India is set to achieve its goal of having 350-400 airports by 2047

### Australia nominated as the "Country of Focus" at the 55<sup>th</sup> IFFI



- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting announced that Australia has been nominated as the "Country of Focus" at the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI),
- to be held in Goa from 20th November to 28th November 2024.
- Founded in 1952, the International Film Festival of India is one of Asia's most significant film festivals.
   Held annually in Goa.

## 15th edition of ITU Kaleidoscope Academic Conference to begin in New Delhi



- The 15th edition of the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) Kaleidoscope Academic Conference will begin in New Delhi.
- The three-day event. 21-23 Ocotber
- Theme Innovation and Digital Transformation for a Sustainable World
- The event is being held as part of the ongoing ITUWTSA (World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly).
- aims to bring together the brightest minds of academia, industry, and government to discuss cutting-edge developments in 5G, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, quantum communications, and other transformative technologies.

#### International conference - AROHA-2024



- All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi is organising its first-ever International conference -Advancements of Research & Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda - AROHA-2024
- from 17th October to 19th October 2024.
- Theme " Advancements in Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda"

### 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) hosted by India for the first time

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P
   Nadda inaugurated the 19th ICDRA in New Delhi
- India is hosting the ICDRA for the first time
- from 14th 18th October 2024
- regulatory authorities, policymakers, and health officials from over 194 WHO member states.
- organized by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

### PM Modi to Attend Abhidhamma Divas Celebrations and Pali Classical Language Recognition in New Delhi



- The celebrations will be hosted by the Ministry of Culture in association with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)
- witnessing participation from academicians and monks from 14 countries
- The Union Cabinet on October 3 approved to confer the status of a Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali.
- Abhidhamma Divas commemorates the descent of Lord Buddha from the celestial realm of the thirty-three divine beings (Tavatimsa-devaloka) to Sankassiya, known today as Sankisa Basantapur in the Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh
- The event signifies the Buddha's return to the human world to share these advanced teachings with his disciples Sariputta.
- Abhidhamma Divas coincides with Pavāraņā
   Festival which signifies the end of the first Rainy
   Retreat.

### PM Modi Inaugurated SEMICON India 2024 in Greater Noida



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated
   SEMICON India 2024 on September 11 at India
   Expo Mart in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- theme "Shaping the Semiconductor Future"
- The three-day conference from 11 to 13 September will showcase India's semiconductor strategy and policy which envisions making India a global hub for semiconductor.

### India to Organize First Global Cooperative Conference



- The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) General Assembly and the Global Cooperative Conference 2024 is scheduled to take place from November 25th to November 30th, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- It will be hosted by India for the first time
- The theme -"Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All"
- The Conference will also mark the official launch of the UN International Year of Cooperatives – 2025.

# Railway Protection Force set to host 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) in Lucknow

- from February 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The meet will witness the participation from 29 law enforcement agencies of center & states

#### **Railway Protection Force:**

- Established in 2004 under the RPF Act of 1957
- safeguarding railway property and providing security to passengers and their belongings.

- RPF has 9% representation of women which is the highest percentage among all Armed Forces in India.
- Director General of RPF Manoj Yadava

### Ministry of Electronics & IT to hold firstever Digital India futureSKILLS summit in Guwahati



- Electronics and IT (NIELIT) is hosting the first-ever Future Skills Summit in Guwahati, Assam on February 15, 2024.
- The Summit brings together India's Best & Brightest minds to deliberate on strategies for Shaping the Future of Talent in India
- Over 1,000 guests including prominent Industry leaders, academia to attend the Summit
- The summit will feature four-panel discussions on the following themes:
  - 1. Semicon India #futureSKILLS
  - 2. IndiaAl #futureSKILLS
  - 3. Cyber Security & Emerging Technologies for the #futureSKILLS
  - 4. Digital #futureSKILLS India's Talent for Global Workforce

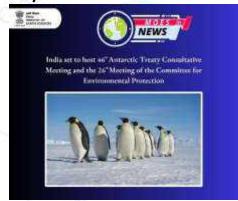
Union Minster, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology - <u>Ashwini Vaishnaw</u>

National level Coordination Committee for the World's largest grain storage plan holds its first meeting in Delhi



- The National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC) for the World's largest grain storage plan held its maiden meeting in the Ministry of Cooperation, New Delhi
- The committee reviewed the implementation status of its pilot project, initiated last year across 11 states.
- States of UP, MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Telangana have implemented its pilot project
- This plan aims to develop various agricultural infrastructures at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) level.
- These include warehouses, custom hiring centers, processing units, and Fair Price Shops.
- The initiative integrates several existing
   Government of India (GoI) schemes such as the
   Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural
   Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission
   on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), and the
   Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food
   Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME).
- PM Modi launched the world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector, for farmers in Feb 2024
- 700 lakh tonne storage capacity will be created in the next five years, with an investment of ₹1.25
   lakh crore
- Under the scheme, thousands of warehouses and godowns will be constructed across the country.

# 46<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) meet in Kochi



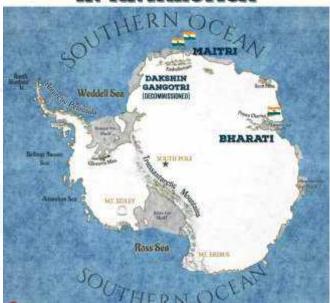
- India is hosting the ATCM 46 and 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) in Kochi from May 20-30, 2024.
- Organized by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa under Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (located in Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- ATCM is an annual gathering of the parties to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty to discuss issues

- pertaining to the science, policy, governance, management, preservation and protection of Antarctica.
- Earlier, in 2007, India hosted the 30th ATCM in New Delhi
- For the first time a dedicated working group for regulating tourism in Antarctica has been formulated at the 46<sup>th</sup> ATCM.

#### **About Antarctic Treaty**

- Signed on December 1, 1959, enforced since June 23, 1961
- An international agreement governing activities in Antarctica. It effectively designated Antarctica as a "no man's land".
- It designates the continent as a scientific preserve, ensuring it remains exclusively for peaceful purposes.
- Key provisions prohibit military activities, promote scientific cooperation, and ban nuclear explosions and radioactive waste disposal.
- Initially signed by 12 countries, the treaty now includes 56 signatories, with India joining in 1983.
- India's first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, was established in 1983.
- At present, India operates two year-round research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012)
- In 2022, India enacted the Antarctic Act to reaffirm its commitment to the Treaty.
- India plans to open a new station, Maitri II, a few kilometres from the ageing Maitri station.
   Operations are set to begin by 2029.

## INDIAN RESEARCH STATION IN ANTARCTICA



### International Sugar Organisation Council Meeting In New Delhi

- India is hosting a global event in sugar sector 'ISO Council Meeting' in New Delhi from 25th till 27th June, 2024.
- a workshop titled 'Sugar and Biofuels Emerging Vistas' is being organised at Bharat Mandapam.
- Delegates from more than 30 countries and representatives of many international organisations are joining
- India is the world's largest consumer and second largest producer of sugar
- International Sugar Organisation (ISO)
- It is a UN affiliated body
- Founded: 3 December 1968;
- HQ London.
- 85 countries as members covering almost 90% of sugar production in the World.

#### INDUS-X Summit held in New Delhi

- INDUS-X Summit held on February 20-21, 2024 in New Delhi, marked a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts between India and the United States in defence innovation.
- Organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, and Department of Defence (DoD), United States, in conjunction with the U.S.-India Business Council and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)
- the summit aims to be a pivotal event driving strategic technology partnerships and defence industrial cooperation between India and the USA.
- INDUS-X was launched in June 2023

# Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit 2024



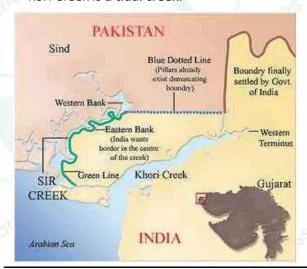
 in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister of Guyana Mark Phillips and Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.

- The Summit organised by 'The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)'
- From February 7-9

### First National Conference on Promotion of Seaweed Cultivation at Kutch, Gujarat



- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala chaired the Conference on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 at Koteshwar (Kori Creek), Kutch, Gujarat.
- To implement seaweed cultivation on PAN India basis and emphasize promotion of seaweed cultivation
- With its environmental and health benefits, development of the seaweed sector is one of the focal areas for the Department of Fisheries' flagship scheme, PMMSY
- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
  was launched on 10th September 2020. The aim of
  the scheme is to bring about Blue Revolution
  through the sustainable development of the
  fisheries sector over a period of five years (20202025.)
- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY, 2023-24), a new sub-scheme was launched from 2023-24 under PMMSY with targeted investment of INR 6,000 crore. It has been introduced to further enable activities for fishermen, fish vendors and micro & small enterprises.
- Kori Creek is a tidal creek.





- It lies just to the west of the Great Rann of Kutch area of India.
- Kori Creek is an estuary, which is a funnel-shaped stream mouth where fresh water mixes with sea water under tidal influences.
- The creek is **part of the Indus River Delta**, which extends across Gujarat and Sindh.

## All India Secretaries' Conference on Water Vision @ 2047- Way Ahead



- to be held at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, on 23rd-24th January
- aims to ideate, share best practices & review action taken on the 22 recommendations suggested by the Centre and the States during "1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water" held on 5th and 6th January, 2023 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- A Film by Ministry of Jal Shakti, "For a Water Secure Future" and a Book titled "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain – A Journey" will be released on the occasion.

# Vice President inaugurates 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP)



Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP), in New Delhi

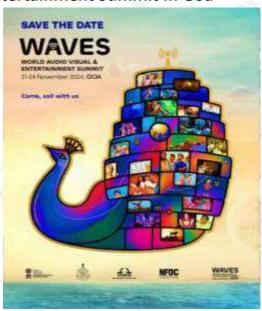
Theme: "ABCP - The Buddhist Voice of Global South."

### **India Hosts Second Asia Pacific Aviation Conference**



- India will host the second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on civil aviation on September 11 and 12.
- The first conference was organised in February 2018 in Beijing.
- As many as 39 Member States of U.N. aviation safety body International Civil Aviation
   Organisation fall in the Asia Pacific region and are expected to participate.

#### India To Host 1<sup>st</sup> World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit In Goa



- The Ministry of Information Broadcasting will organise the first edition of the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from November 20-24, 2024.
- This global summit, held alongside the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), aims to create substantial job opportunities and will serve as a significant employment generator in the country.

# 10<sup>th</sup> World Tamils Economic Conference & and Global Economic Summit to be held in Chennai



- on January 9 and January 10.
- Organizer Madras Development Society and World Tamils Economic Foundation.

### Home Minister Amit Shah to chair 'National PACS Mega Conclave'

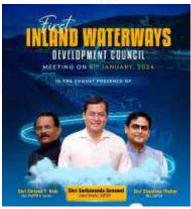


- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will chair the 'National PACS Mega Conclave' on 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The Mega Conclave is being organised by the Ministry of Cooperation in collaboration with the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- The Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)
  were recently allowed to operate as Pradhan
  Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs),
  which provide quality generic medicines to the
  general public, which cost 50-90 per cent less than
  the branded medicines available in the open
  market.

# Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal chaired first Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting

 The Inland Waterways Authority of India, operating under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW), hosted the first-ever meeting

- of the 'Inland Waterways Development Council' in **Kolkata**
- Chaired by Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal
- Sonowal unveiled several initiatives, including the "Harit Nauka – Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels" and the "River Cruise Tourism Roadmap 2047."



- Shipping ministry aims to elevate the modal share of Inland Water Transportation (IWT) from the current 2% to 5%, aligning with the goals outlined in the Maritime India Vision 2030.
- The establishment of the Inland Waterways
   Development Council in October 2023 aims to
   enhance cargo efficiency, streamline passenger
   movement, and boost river cruise tourism, with
   active collaboration from states and Union
   territories.

# SVAMITVA Scheme Receives 'Best Innovation Award' at Public Policy Dialogues Conclave 2024

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been conferred with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for "Digital Transformation Initiatives in Land Governance through SVAMITVA Scheme"
- at the second annual "Public Policy Dialogues"
   Conclave of the Bharti Institute of Public Policy
   (BIPP), Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad during 3<sup>rd</sup> January 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- SVAMITVA Scheme was also conferred with the Gold award for the category "Innovative Use of Technology in e-Governance for Digital Transformation" at Digitech Conclave 2023 organized at Goa in August 2023.

#### **About SVAMITVA**

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)
- launched on the National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24) 2021
- Aim: To provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

# India hosts 13<sup>th</sup> UN Global Geospatial Information Management Asia-Pacific Conference





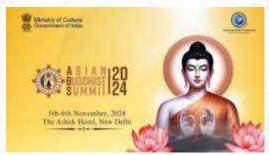
- Theme "Geo-enabling the Data Economy for Sustainable Development"
- Over 120 local experts, alongside delegates from 30 countries, engage in discussions on geospatial data's role in sustainable development and the digital economy
- UN-GGIM-AP conference underlines importance of regional co-operation for strengthening geospatial capabilities
- November 26-29 at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- event is organized by the Survey of India (SOI).
- Surveyor General of India, Hitesh Kumar S.
   Makwana

### 9<sup>th</sup> edition of International Conference on Waste to Worth Technologies



- The 9th International Conference on Waste to Worth, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), focused on sustainable waste management practices, held in New Delhi.
- Theme -'Enabling & Building Global Tech-Partnerships for Future Ready & Sustainable growth Environs along with Circular economies"

### First Asian Buddhist Summit on November 5-6



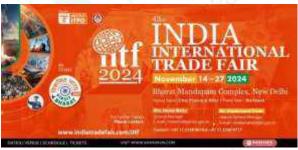
- The Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) hosted the first Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi on November 5-6.
- The theme 'Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia'
- President Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest.
- First International Conference on Share Buddhist Heritage was organised by the Union Ministry of Culture in association with the International Buddhist Confederation in March 2023.
- First Global Buddhist Summit was held in April
   2023 in New Delhi inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Buddhist religion originated in India in the 6th BCE. Prince Siddhartha, born in Lumbini, Nepal,
- attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya, Bihar and
- started preaching the fundamental concepts of Dhamma, known as the turning of the wheel of Dhamma, at Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh.
- International Abhidhamma Divas was held on 17
   October 2024 in New Delhi.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Session of International Solar Alliance Assembly in New Delhi



- From 3-6 November at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi
- The presidency India and co-presidency of France.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an intergovernmental organization that was launched in 2015, by PM Modi of India and Former President François Hollande of France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris
- Headquarter: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.

### 43<sup>rd</sup> IITF begins on Nov 14 with theme 'Viksit Bharat in 2047'



- The 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) is being organised at Bharat Mandapam Complex, New Delhi from November 14 – 27, 2024 with the theme Viksit Bharat @2047.
- the Ministry of Electronics and Information
   Technology's (MeitY) Digital India Pavilion set up as
   a key attraction at IITF 2024 by the National e Governance Division (NeGD) under MeitY.
- Jharkhand is the focus state of the Trade Fair this year, while Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the partner states.
- will provide insights into six crucial initiatives namely DigiLocker, Entity Locker, UPI, UMANG, ONDC and Bhashini.
- DigiLocker is a secure digital platform under the Digital India initiative, designed to store and access official documents online, eliminating the need for physical copies.
- Entity Locker is a secure digital repository tailored for organizations, allowing institutions like schools, businesses, and government agencies to manage and share documents online.
- UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a mobile app launched by the Hon'ble PM on November 23, 2017 to provide citizens with access to a wide range of government services.
- BHASHINI aims to transcend language barriers, ensuring that every citizen can effortlessly access digital services in 22 scheduled Indian languages.

### Conclusion of 43rd India International Trade Fair at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



- The theme Viksit Bharat at 2047.
- An award presentation function was held for various categories.
- In category of Partner states Bihar and Uttar
   Pradesh bagged gold and Jharkhad grabbed gold in focus state category.
- In the Ministries and Departments category,
   Ministry of Mines got Gold award, Ayush Ministry was awarded silver.
- In a state and UTs category, Puducherry bagged the gold award, Meghalaya got silver and Karnataka was awarded bronze.

# National Youth Festival 2025 to be celebrated as Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue in January 2025



- The reimagined festival will be called the "Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue."
- This dynamic platform will empower young Indians to contribute their ideas and perspectives towards fulfilling the vision of Viksit Bharat.
- The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue features the Viksit Bharat Challenge, a four-stage competition to inspire youth engagement in shaping India's future.

### Sagarmanthan, The Ocean's Dialogue, held in Delhi



- Sagarmanthan The Great Oceans Dialogue, South Asia's largest Maritime Thought Leadership summit, held in Delhi.
- Sagarmanthan is a two-day event (18th -19th November) organised by Ministry of Ports,
   Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW) in collaboration with Observer Research Foundation.
- The initiative brings together global policymakers, maritime experts, industry leaders, and scholars to deliberate on advancing sustainable and innovative maritime practices.

### India to host International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for the first time



- from November 25 to 30 in Delhi.
- This five-day conference will focus on exploring innovative solutions, technologies, and best practices for the cooperative movement.
- PM Modi will launch the 'United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025' at the conference
- Bhutan Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay and Fiji Deputy Prime Minister Manoa Kamikamica will also attend the event as esteemed guests.
- Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will chair the inaugural session of the Global Cooperative Conference as Chief Guest.
- The theme of the event would be 'Cooperatives Build Prosperity of All'.
- There are 3 million cooperatives across the world and India stands out as the leading country with the highest number of cooperatives.
- Director General of the International Cooperative Alliance - Jeroen Douglas
- Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation Dr Ashish Kumar Bhutani

#### PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGN

**First Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers** 

India's first bullet train

India's First Air Train

Desh Ka PrakritiParikshan Abhiyan

Scam se Bacho Campaign

India's first integrated agri-export facility

**Project PARI** 

Sampoornata Abhiyan

Jana Gana Mana Abhiyaan campaign

**National Pest Surveillance System** 

India's First project for Underground Coal

Gasification

**Chenab Bridge** 

'Drone Didi' Pilot Project

First Multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project of the Nation

NFL, IREDA & HUDCO granted 'Navratna status

14th Maharatna CPSE

**Kochrab Ashram in Sabarmati** 

India's 1st under- river metro

India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel

India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor

India's First Bio-Hydrogen Project

**Shahpur Kandi Barrage** 

World's largest grain storage plant

'Sudarshan Setu' bridge

**Pavana Chitra** 

World's First Green Hydrogen Plant at Airport

Premises

Country's first digital National Museum of

**Epigraphy** 

'Swachh Mandir' Campaign

India's Longest Sea Bridge 'Atal Setu'

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

One Week One Theme (OWOT) campaign

### India Inaugurates First Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers in Pune

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers at Jejuri in Pune
- The Facility exemplifies how technological advancements in bioplastics can lead to economic growth
- pioneering effort in developing indigenously integrated technology for the production of Polylactic Acid (PLA) bioplastic.
- The emphasis on Green Growth in the Union Budget (2023-2024); Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to make India a 'Net Zero' carbon economy and 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE)' launched by the PM in October 2022.
- Union has approved the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy
- India now ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the world in biotech and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Asia-pacific.

### First-ever coal gallery inaugurated at National Science Centre in New Delhi

- Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra
   Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Coal
   and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey unveiled the
   first-ever coal gallery at the National Science Centre
   in New Delhi.
- The exhibition 'Black Diamond Unveiling the Depths' – is based on the lifespan of coal and aims to provide information about the discovery of coal, the Coal extraction process, techniques used to extract coal, and the mining of minerals.

### BEML Ltd to manufacture India's first bullet train

- State-run BEML Ltd under Ministry of Defence, has been awarded the contract for the design, manufacturing, and commissioning of two highspeed trainsets by Integral Coach Factory (ICF).
- total contract value is Rs 866.87 crore
- the first indigenously designed and manufactured trainsets - designed to reach a top speed of 280 km/h and operate at 249 km/h.



- BEML operates in three verticals- Defence & Aerospace, Mining & Construction and Rail & Metro, and located in Bengaluru.
- These trains will be part of India's ambitious 508 km long high-speed rail corridor from Mumbai to Ahmedabad.
- Initially, the corridor was planned to have Japanese E5 series Shinkansen high-speed trains, but due to high prices quoted by the Japanese companies, the government decided to manufacture these trains domestically.

#### Delhi Airport to launch India's First Air Train by 2027



- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is set to launch India's first air train system
- designed to enhance connectivity between airport terminals, parking areas, and various facilities.
- This innovative system aims to significantly reduce travel time within the airport and provide greater convenience for passengers.
- will have four stations and cover a distance of around 7.7 km, it is estimated to cost around ₹2,000 crore.

### **Bharat Electronics, Israel Aerospace Industries form joint venture firm**



- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defence company, have established a joint venture company (JVC)
- has been incorporated in the name of BEL IAI AeroSystems Private Ltd.
- The JVC with its registered office in Delhi shall be the single point of contact (SPOC) for extending long-term product support to the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems of India's defence forces

- MRSAM is an advanced, path-breaking air and missile defence system that provides protection against a variety of aerial threats.
- It was jointly developed by IAI and DRDO for India's defence forces and is currently used by the Indian Air Force, Indian Army, Indian Navy and also Israeli defence forces
- Established in 1954 in Bangalore, Karnataka, BEL focuses on manufacturing advanced electronic products for both ground and aerospace applications.

# IIM-B to set up India's first Global Centre of Excellence on Private Equity and Venture Capital

- Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with alumnus Mathew Cyriac, Executive Chairman, Florintree Advisors Pvt Ltd., to set up Tony James Centre for Private Equity and Venture Capital, at IIM Bangalore.
- The Centre will be named after investment banker
   Tony James.
- The first-of-its-kind Centre will serve as a hub for cutting-edge research, education, and industry collaboration in the field of PEVC, where students will connect with industry leaders, gain hands-on insights, and explore the latest trends

### BEL set to enter space sector, signs agreement with Canada's Reliasat

- Navaratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics
   Limited (BEL) signed a teaming agreement
   with Reliasat Inc. Canada to collaborate in the area of space products
- To collaborate in the area of space products.

#### **About BEL**

> ESTD: 1954

HQ: Bangalore, Karnataka

CMD : Manoj Jain

#### Launch of BharatGen:



The first

Language Model Initiative launched in Delhi

- officially launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State.
- the initiative will create generative AI systems that can generate high-quality text and multimodal content in various Indian languages.
- BharatGen reduces reliance on foreign technologies and strengthens the domestic AI ecosystem for startups, industries, educational, and research institutions and government agencies.
- The state funded project is being developed by a consortium led by IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Expected to be completed in 2 years.

### PM Modi, Spanish PM launch C-295 aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a plant in Vadodara, where Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will manufacture the C-295 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was also present in Gujarat.
- The facility will be the first private sector final assembly line for military aircraft in India
- foundation stone of the Final Assembly Line (FAL) plant in October 2022.

#### Where is the C295 produced and by whom?

- The C295 was originally produced by a Spanish aircraft manufacturer named Construcciones Aeronáuticas SA.
- This company is now part of Airbus and the aircraft's manufacturing takes place at Airbus's plant in Spain.
- In September 2021, India signed a Rs 21,935 crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C295 aircraft to replace the IAF's ageing Avro-748 planes.
- 40 aircraft will be manufactured by TASL in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.
- The **16 fly-away aircraft will be delivered** between September 2023 and August 2025.
- The first Made-in-India aircraft will be rolled out of the manufacturing facility in September 2026 and

- the remaining 39 will have to be produced by August 2031.
- The C295MW is a transport aircraft with a 5 to 10tonne capacity and a maximum speed of 480 kmph.



#### **Spain**

- Capital: Madrid
- Currency: Euro
- Spain is bordered to the west by Portugal;
- to the northeast it borders France, from which it is separated by the tiny principality of Andorra and by the great wall of the Pyrenees Mountains



#### Prime Minister launched "Desh Ka PrakritiParikshan Abhiyan

"Desh Ka PrakritiParikshan Abhiyan" - a nationwide campaign promoting health awareness and

highlighting the importance of holistic well-being as part of daily life.

- Led by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Ayush, with 4,70,000 dedicated volunteers, this campaign aims to revolutionize health awareness efforts among citizens and will also attempt multiple Guinness World Records.
- Prime Minister also inaugurated Phase II of India's First All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AlIA) in New Delhi

### Union Minister Manohar Lal launches 'Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali' campaign

 In alignment with this vision, the Swachh Bharat Mission, under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), rolls out the 'Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali' campaign from October 28th to November 3rd, 2024.

#### The campaign includes:

- a) Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs)
- b) General Cleanliness Drives
- c) **Public Engagement with RRR Centres**: Encouraging the collection of old items to promote the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
- d) **Swachhata Mein Bhaagidari**: Focusing on 'Vocal for Local,' establishing Swachh Food Streets, creating Waste to Art projects, promoting 'Light a Lamp' initiatives, and advocating for a single-use plastic-free Diwali.

### Government and Meta Launch 'Scam se Bacho' Campaign to Combat Online Scams

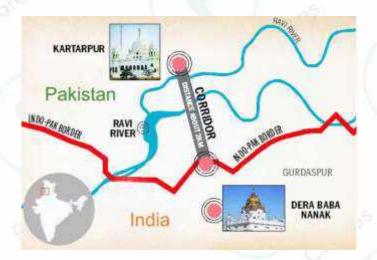


- Meta launched its two-month-long safety campaign 'Scam se Bacho'
- In collaboration of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

#### India-Pakistan agree to extend Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor agreement for another five years



- Jaishankar went to Pakistan on October 15-16 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting of Council of Heads of Government
- The first visit by an Indian Foreign Minister after Sushma Swaraj went to Islamabad for the Heart of Asia meeting in December 2015.
- India and Pakistan agreed to renew their pact on the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for another five years.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy
   Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar
- Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor agreement, signed on October 24, 2019 to facilitate the visa-free visit of pilgrims from India to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan through the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, was valid for a period of five years,
- Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev.
- The corridor was built to commemorate 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism on 12th November 2019.



#### Amit Shah Inaugurates New Passenger Terminal & a Cargo Gate at Petrapole Land Port on India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal

- The Petrapole Land Port, situated in Uttar 24
   Parganas district, is the largest land port in South
   Asia and serves as a vital gateway for trade and commerce between the two countries.
- The cargo gate named 'Maitri Dwar'
- The Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)
   border is one of the busiest land ports along the
   Bangladesh border as nearly 70% of trade between
   the two countries takes place here.
- Petrapole is the largest land port in South Asia
- It is also the eighth largest international immigration port of India
- The Maitri Dwar (friendship gate) is a joint cargo gate at the Zero Line agreed upon by both countries.



#### PM Modi Honors Kargil War Soldiers, Kicks Off Shinkun La Tunnel Project On 25th Vijay Diwas



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kargil War Memorial on the occasion of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- Mr. Modi will also commence construction work for the Shinkun La Tunnel Project .
- This project is important to improve connectivity to Leh, especially during bad weather.

- This 4.1 Kilometer long twin tube tunnel will be constructed at an altitude of around Fifteen thousand 800 feet on the Nimu-Padum-Darcha Road to provide all weather connectivity to Leh.
- Once completed, it will be the highest tunnel in the world.
- Shinkun La tunnel will not only ensure swift and efficient movement of our armed forces and equipment but also foster economic and social development in Ladakh.

### The Vizhinjam Port is all set to receive its first mothership



- With the completion of the first phase of the country's first exclusive trans-shipment port, the Vizhinjam Port is all set to receive its first mothership.
- It is India's first deepwater container transshipment port, being built by Adani Vizhinjam Ports Private Ltd.
- **Location**: It is located at Vizhinjam, a coastal town in **Thiruvananthapuram** District, **Kerala**.
- It is located around 10 nautical miles from the international shipping route connecting Europe and the Persian Gulf with East Asia, through which around 30 percent of global maritime cargo passes.
- It has a **natural draft of 18-20 meters**, which means that some of the **largest container vessels** in the world **will be able to dock here**.
- There would be about 30 berths, most of which would be capable of handling mother vessels.



### India's first integrated agri-export facility to come up at Jawaharlal Nehru Port

- Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal approved a Rs 284.19 crore integrated agri-export facility project at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai.
- This facility is the first of its kind in India.
- It will address inefficiencies in logistics- The facility aims to streamline the logistics process.
- It aims to reduce multiple handlings of agricultural products- By centralizing the export process, the facility will minimize the need for multiple handlings of products. This will reduce the risk of damage and loss during transit.
- The facility will help extend the shelf life of agricultural products.
- It is designed to empower farmers-By providing a more efficient export process, farmers will get better returns for their produce. It will enable them to reach international markets more effectively
- The project is expected to boost job opportunities.
- It will enhance export capacity.
- Targeted Export Items

The facility will focus on exporting several prominent agricultural products, including:

- Non-basmati rice
- Maize
- Spices
- Onion
- Wheat

#### Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Asia's 1st CEPI "Pre-Clinical Network Facility" In Faridabad, Haryana



The Faridabad-based Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) – Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) or BRICTHSTI is the first laboratory in Asia and 9th in the

world to be accredited by the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

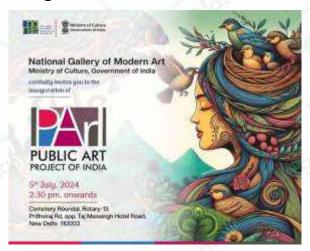
#### **About CEPI**

- CEPI was founded in 2017 in Davos, Switzerland, to develop vaccines against future epidemics.
- The CEPI labs are in Europe, Australia, and the United States of America.
- BRIC-THSI was chosen for its capability to handle the Biosafety Level -3(BSL3) pathogen.
- BSL-3 Lab conducts research on microbes that can cause serious or potentially lethal diseases through inhalation, example - COVID-19, yellow fever, and West Nile virus

#### About the BRIC-THSTI

- The Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) – Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) was set up in 2009.
- It comes under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

#### Ministry of Culture initiates Project PARI for the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting



- "Project PARI (Public Art of India)", being executed by the Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art, in Delhi, for the beautification of the public spaces for the upcoming event.
- The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) is scheduled to be held in New Delhi between July 21-31 July
- The WHC decides on inscription of new sites into the UNESCO World Heritage List. India will be hosting the meeting for the first time.

# Govt Launches 'Model Skill Loan Scheme' To Provide Education And Upskilling Opportunities To 25,000 Youngsters



- Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary launched the 'Model Skill Loan Scheme' in New Delhi.
- The scheme aims to empower the country's futureready workforce.
- Under the scheme, education and upskilling opportunities will be provided to 25 thousand youth across the country.
- Under the new scheme, the loan amount limit has been increased to 7.5 lakh rupees which was 1.5 lakh rupees earlier.
- several Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC), scheduled banks, and rural banks also have been added to the scheme which will provide hassle-free loans to students.
- This scheme had been mentioned by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Union Budget 2024-25.
- The New Model Skill Loan Scheme is tailored to support advanced-level skill courses, which often come with higher fees, creating a significant financial barrier for many deserving students.
- This initiative aims to bridge that gap, ensuring that aspiring candidates receive the necessary financial support to pursue their skill training.

### NITI Aayog to launch 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'



NITI
 Aayog is

- launching 'Sampoornata Abhiyan', a 3-month campaign from 4th July 30th September 2024,
- to undertake a sustained effort to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts and 6 key indicators in Aspirational Blocks across the country.
- 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' seeks to achieve saturation in each of the 6 identified indicators in the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.

### 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' will focus on the following 6 identified KPIs across all Aspirational Blocks:

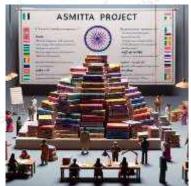
- Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care (ANC) within the first trimester
- Percentage of persons screened for **Diabetes** against the targeted population in the Block
- Percentage of persons screened for Hypertension against the targeted population in the Block
- Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) regularly
- Percentage of Soil Health Cards generated against the soil sample collection target
- Percentage of SHGs that have received a Revolving Fund against the total SHGs in the block

| Aspirational Districts                     | Aspirational Blocks                        |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Programme                                  | Programme                                  |  |  |  |
| Launched in <b>January</b>                 | Launched in January                        |  |  |  |
| 2018 by Hon'ble Prime                      | 2023 by Hon'ble Prime                      |  |  |  |
| Minister                                   | Minister                                   |  |  |  |
| Aims to quickly and                        | Aims for saturation of                     |  |  |  |
| effectively transform 112                  | essential government                       |  |  |  |
| districts across the                       | services in <b>500</b>                     |  |  |  |
| country                                    | Blocks (329 Districts)                     |  |  |  |
| 1000 ( III                                 | across the country                         |  |  |  |
| Focuses on five themes:                    | Focuses on five themes:                    |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Health &amp; Nutrition</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Health &amp; Nutrition</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
| Education                                  | <ul> <li>Education</li> </ul>              |  |  |  |
| Agriculture & Water                        | <ul> <li>Agriculture and</li> </ul>        |  |  |  |
| Resources                                  | Allied Services                            |  |  |  |
| Financial Inclusion &                      | Basic Infrastructure                       |  |  |  |
| Skill Development                          | Social Development                         |  |  |  |
| Infrastructure                             |  |  |  |  |
| Progress in measured                       | Progress is measured                       |  |  |  |
| on <b>81 indicators</b> of                 | on <b>40 indicators</b> of                 |  |  |  |
| development                                | development                                |  |  |  |

The 6 identified KPIs across <u>Aspirational Districts</u> under 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' are:

- Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care (ANC) within the first trimester
- Percentage of pregnant women taking
   Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly
- Percentage of children fully immunized (9-11 months) (BCG+DPT3+OPV3+Measles 1)
- · Number of Soil Health Cards distributed
- Percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level
- Percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within 1 month of the start of the academic session

# The project, titled ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing), launched



- The Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) launched a project to develop
   22,000 books in 22 scheduled languages in the next five years
- It is a collaborative effort of the UGC and the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, a high-powered committee under the ministry, to promote Indian languages in education.
- "Launch of three landmark initiatives— ASMITA, Bahubhasha Shabdkosh and Real-time Translation Architecture, will give momentum to imparting learning in Bharatiya Bhashas
- "Bahubhasha Shabdakosh" a single-point reference for all the words in all Indian languages and their meanings.
- "This initiative will be developed by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in collaboration with the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

### PM Modi dedicated to nation 3 indigenously developed computers in Pune

 The 3 PARAM Rudra Supercomputers are developed indigenously under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

- These supercomputers have been deployed in Pune, Delhi and Kolkata
- to boost research in the fields of astronomy, medicine and high-energy physics
- PM Modi also launched 2 high-performance computing (HPC) systems for weather research named 'Arka' and 'Arunika'
- Expected to significantly enhance the accuracy and lead time of predictions related to tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation, thunderstorms, hailstorms, heat waves, droughts, and other critical weather phenomena.
- The systems will be located at two sites:
  - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)in Pune
  - National Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF) in Noida.
- Arka and Arunika will replace the existing highpower computing systems Mihir and Pratyush located at IITM, Pune and NCMRWF, Noida respectively.

#### Government Launches Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack

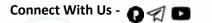
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information
   Technology (MeitY) launched a series of blockchain based solutions, aimed at enhancing transparency,
   security, and efficiency in digital service delivery.
- The Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack is designed to offer Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS) with a geographically distributed setup to support a range of permissioned blockchain applications.
- The stack is hosted across NIC Data Centers in Bhubaneswar, Pune, and Hyderabad, ensuring robust and scalable service delivery.

#### Vishvasya BaaS Features

- Rapid end-to-end permissioned blockchain application development & deployment
- Ready to use security audited blockchain containers for production setup
- Blockchain specific security audit guidelines &bBest practices
- Geographically distributed infrastructure across three Data Centres (Hyderabad, Pune and Bhubaneswar)
- Framework augmented with documentation for easy onboarding of stakeholders
- NBF Lite Light weight platform bundled & offered for Rapid prototyping, Research & Learning

The applications of the Vishvasya BaaS.

1. e-Stamps Solution



- 2. Judiciary Application
- 3. IPS officers service level training record management
- 4. Forensic Application
- 5. Praamaanik verification of mobile app authenticity
- 6. Consent Management Framework
- 7. IoT Device Security Management
- 8. Cotton bale identification and tracking
- 9. Domicile Certificate Chain
- 10. Document Chain (Caste Certificate Chain, Property Chain, Education Certificate Chain)
- 11. Tracking of Agriculture Produce
- 12. Inspection system for Child Care Institutions

### Cabinet approves a 309 Km long new line project between Indore and Mumbai



- The project covers six districts in two states,
   Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
- The project falls under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity
- The project will promote tourism in the region by providing a shorter route between the western and southwestern parts of the country and Central India.

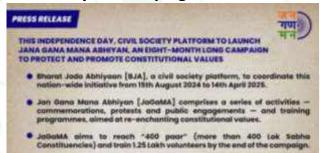
# Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has launched a pilot project to transform 60 Fair Price Shops (FPS) into 'Jan Poshan Kendras'

Launched by Union Minister of Consumer Affairs,
 Food and Public Distribution and New and

### Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh

- The Jan Poshan Kendra will provide better income to Fair Price Shop dealers and nutrition-rich food items to consumers under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana
- Jan Poshan Kendra will have provision for storing 50% products under the category of nutrition while the rest for keeping other household items.
- The project also includes the introduction of several new digital tools and support systems designed to enhance transparency and operational efficiency:
- FPS Sahay: An application providing paperless, presence-less, and collateral-free financing for ration dealers.
- Mera Ration App 2.0: An app designed to give consumers information about the public distribution system
- Quality Management System (QMS), Quality Manual, Contract Manual, and NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) Accreditation of Laboratories

### Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan launches Jana Gana Mana Abhiyaan campaign



- Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan (BJA), a civil society platform, has launched an eight-month campaign Jana Gana Mana Abhiyaan (JaGaMA) from August 15 (Independence Day) to April 14, 2025 (Ambedkar Jayanti)
- Objective to promote constitutional values, protect democratic institutions and strengthen non-violent political, ideological and cultural resistance to defend the Republic.

#### India and Israel Launch New Water Technology Centre at IIT-Madras



- This tripartite agreement is signed by the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the AMRUT mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- The Center of Water Technology aims to become a hub for innovation, research, and capacity-building in water technologies, particularly focusing on sustainable solutions for urban water supply.
- To kickstart this initiative, a capacity-building course on '24/7 Water Supply in Urban Areas' was organised at IIT-Madras

# India's second 700 MW nuclear power KAPS-4 plant starts operations at full capacity

- India's second home-built 700 MW nuclear power reactor at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat started operating at its full capacity,
- The full power operation of KAPS-4 after the smooth operation of its twin unit KAPS-3 at full power demonstrates the strength of the first of a kind indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) design,
- India is building 14 more 700 MW nuclear power reactors of the same design which are expected to commence operations progressively by 2031-32.
- Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is built by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy.

# Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurates National Pest Surveillance System



Union Agriculture

- Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Albased mobile App, National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS).
- For farmers to send photos of crops from their field, if affected by pest or insect and these will reach scientists and experts
- It will help in accurate diagnosis and accurate treatment

### Indian Railways Introduces Advanced Water Level Monitoring System.



- An advanced Water Level Monitoring System on trains was inaugurated, in the Brahmaputra Mail Express train at Kamakhya Railway Station.
- This innovative system marks a major step forward in water management on long-distance trains, designed to ensure continuous and reliable water availability for passengers.
- It utilizes LoRa and GPRS-based communication, enabling long-range, low-power wireless transmission of data, making it particularly suitable for remote locations.
- The system also includes a built-in Real-Time Clock to synchronize data logging with precise time stamps, thereby aiding in accurate data analysis and ensuring efficient water management.

### Cabinet approves setting up of 12 industrial smart cities across 10 states



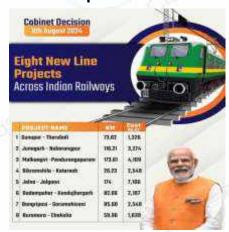
- Union cabinet approved 12 industrial smart cities under the National Industrial Corridor
   Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore to boost domestic manufacturing.
- The project spans across 10 states and is strategically planned along six major corridors.
   These industrial areas will be located in Khurpia in Uttrakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi

in, Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Kopparthy in Andhra Pradesh and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan.

#### The industrial smart cities:

- Aligned with vision of Viksit Bharat
- Grand necklace of Industrial Smart Cities on the backbone of Golden Quadrilateral
- Employment potential 10 Lakh direct and up to 30 Lakh indirect jobs
- Investment potential Rs. 1.5 lakh crore
- Built on PM GatiShakti principles
- 'Plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' concepts with planned urbanization

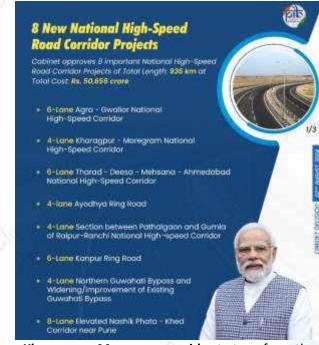
# Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gives nod to eight railway projects worth 24,657 crore rupees



- The total estimated cost of the projects is Rs 24,657 crore.
- These projects will save 767 crore kg of CO2, which is equivalent to planting 30 crore trees.
- CCEA (Chairperson) PM
- Aspirational districts and tribal areas will get a major push of development through these projects.

#### Union Cabinet approved 8 National High-Speed Road Corridors

- The government approved eight national highspeed road corridor projects of length 936 km entailing investment of Rs 50,655 crore to improve logistics efficiency and connectivity across the country.
- The implementation of these eight important projects will generate an estimated 4.42 crore mandays of direct and indirect employment
- Travel time between Agra and Gwalior will be reduced by 50%



- Kharagpur Moregram corridor to transform the economy of West Bengal and North-East
- Highway networks around Kanpur to be decongested by Kanpur Ring Road
- Unlocking growth of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh through completion of Raipur Ranchi Corridor
- The new corridor between Tharad and Ahmedabad to complete the High Speed Road Network in Gujarat for seamless port connectivity
- The Guwahati ring road to facilitate un-hindered access to North-East
- Travelling to Ayodhya will be much faster now
- 8-Lane elevated flyover corridor section between
   Pune and Nashik will eliminate logistics nightmare

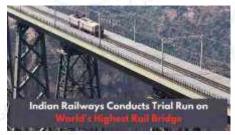
#### Ministry of Coal initiates India's First Ever Pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification in Jharkhand



- The Ministry of Coal, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has embarked on an innovative pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand.
- This first ever groundbreaking initiative aims to revolutionize the coal industry by using in-situ coal

- gasification to convert it into valuable gases such as methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.
- These gases can be utilized to produce synthetic natural gas, chemical feedstocks for fuels, fertilizers, explosives, and other industrial applications.
- Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) provides a crucial benefit by unlocking coal deposits that are not economically feasible to extract using conventional mining techniques.
- In December 2015, the Ministry of Coal approved a comprehensive policy framework for UCG in areas rich in coal and lignite.
- Current Minister of Coal G Kishan Reddy

#### Chenab Bridge: Indian Railways Successfully Conducts Trial Run on World's Highest Rail Bridge



- Indian Railways achieved a historic milestone with the successful trial run of an eight-coach Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train on the famed Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- trial run was conducted on a 46-km-long electrified line section between Sangaldan in Ramban district and Reasi at a speed of 40 kmph,
- This marks the inaugural full train crossing on the iconic bridge between Dugga and Bakkal stations over the Chenab river, the highest arch railway bridge globally.
- The electrification work on this section has been executed with state-of-the-art technology, ROCS (Rigid Overhead Conductor System) at 25 kV, for the first time on railway.

#### **Chenab Rail Bridge**

- It is located between Bakkal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- The 1.3-km-long bridge is located 359 metres above the Chenab riverbed.
- It is the highest single-arch railway bridge in the world
- It is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project**.

• life span of 120 years. Built to be 'blast-proof' and is capable of withstanding the nation's maximum intensity zone-V earthquake forces.

# Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Port Projects and launches Skilling Program at Jawaharlal Nehru Port

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbanand Sonwal, visited Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), to inaugurate three lake beautification and rejuvenation projects in the JN Port vicinity.
- These lakes are named after the great saints of Maharashtra Saint Dyaneshwar Maharaj, Saint Eknath Maharaj and Saint Namdeo Maharaj.
- JNPA inception 26 May,1969 (the second largest container port in India after Mundra Port)
- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Vadhvan Skilling Program's Whatsapp ChatBot developed by JNPA.
- This tool is designed to provide information about Vadhvan Port, and guide users through the process of visiting JN Port.



#### Cabinet approves development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for expansion of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi.
- The expansion, which will be funded by Airports Authority of India's (AAI) internal resources, will include construction of a new terminal building,

apron extension, runway extension, parallel taxi track and allied works.

- It will enhance its annual passenger handling capacity from 3.9 million to 9.9 million.
- The estimated financial outgo will be ₹2,869.65 crore.



- Varanasi airport will be developed as a green airport with the primary objective of ensuring environmental sustainability through energy optimization, waste recycling, carbon footprint reduction, solar energy utilization.
- Varanasi is PM Modi's parliamentary constituency.

# Union Cabinet approved the Rs 76,220 crore Vadhavan Port Project in Maharashtra



- A new major port is to come up
   at Vadhavan, situated in the Dahanu taluka of the
   Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- The development of a new port, Vadhavan, is in alignment with the PM Gatishakti programme.
- The Vadhavan Port will be developed as an allweather Greenfield deep draft major port in Vadhavan, Palghar District, Maharashtra.
- Nine container terminals, each 1000 meters long, will be constructed.

 The Vadhvan port will have a cumulative capacity to handle annual cargoes of 298 million metric tons (MMT)



- The port will be constructed by Vadhavan Port
   Project Limited (VPPL), a special purpose vehicle
   formed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority
   (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB)
   with a shareholding of 74 per cent and 26 per cent
   resp.
- The project's cost will include the development of core infrastructure, terminals, and other commercial infrastructure in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode
- This will be one of the largest port projects in India and is expected to serve as a gateway port for the upcoming India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) and International North-South Transportation Corridor (INSTC).
- Opposition The local population, especially the fishermen and the farmers are opposing the construction of Vadhavan port as they fear that it will adversely affect their livelihood.
- Also, the Dahanu area is ecologically fragile and the environmentalists are opposing the project as it will harm the sensitive ecology of the area.

### Gensol-Matrix to set up India's first green hydrogen valley project in Pune

- Gensol Engineering Limited and Matrix Gas & Renewables Limited have announced a partnership to develop India's first Green Hydrogen Valley in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The project will supply green hydrogen to the specialty chemical industry around the clock for the next 20 years.

### Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project



- The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. to conduct two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana at Noida And Hyderabad.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Namo Drone Didi scheme under the Sashakt Nari-Viksit Bharat programme on 11 March 2024 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi.
- Under the Drone Didi scheme, the government aims to train and equip 15000 women-led Self Help Groups with agricultural drones to assist in tasks such as crop monitoring, spraying fertilisers and sowing seeds.

### Border Roads Organisation To Start Work On Shinku La Tunnel



- It is an upcoming motorable tunnel under the 16,580 feet high Shinku-La pass between Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zanskar valley.
- It is located on the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha Road link. The road will be the first all-weather road connecting Ladakh to the rest of the country

 After completion, the 4.1-kilometre-long Shinku-la tunnel will be the world's highest tunnel at 16580 feet, surpassing China's Mila tunnel. The tunnel is likely to be completed by 2025

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates Greenfield Projects under PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices



- A total of 51 plants were inaugurated out of which
   22 are for bulk drugs and 39 of medical devices.
- Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) are called bulk drugs. These are the main ingredients of a drug or medicine.
- The Production Linked Incentive, or PLI scheme envisages manufacturing of 41 Bulk Drugs with a total outlay of ₹6,940 crore during the tenure of the scheme from 2020-21 to 2029-30.
- India continues to import around 70 % of medical devices. PLI scheme is expected to further bring down the import bill.
- India has moved on to become a major exporter of bulk drugs and medical devices, Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya
- Today India is self-sustainable in critical API making, and our medical exports are expected to reach ₹75,000 crore in the coming days

### 'One nation, one airspace': India's project ISHAN



 In order to streamline and enhance air traffic management (ATM), India has initiated the process of consolidating its four airspace regions into a single entity spanning the entire nation - Indian

- Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative, centered in Nagpur.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has called for expressions of interest to prepare a detailed project report for it
- Indian airspace is controlled through four flight information regions (FIRs) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, and a sub-flight information region at Guwahati.
- Expected benefits of ISHAN seamless operations, reduced congestion, increased capacity, efficient routing, and reduced flight times
- Once ISHAN is implemented, all coordination for domestic flights flying in upper airspace (above 25,000 ft) will be handled by air traffic controllers (ATCOs) in Nagpur. The ATCOs in every region or airport would only be required to guide the flights approaching or taking off from an airport until they enter the upper space

### Paradip Port has achieved highest ever coastal shipping traffic in FY 2023-24



- Paradip Port Authority (PPA's) has reached recent record-breaking achievement of clocking incredible
   145.38 MMT cargo throughput in FY 2023-24
- For the first time in the 56 years history of operation, Paradip Port surpassed Deendayal Port, Kandla to emerge as the highest cargo handling major port of the country.
- Paradip Port has also recorded growth of 7.4% of traffic on YoY basis.
- During the financial year the Port has achieved highest ever coastal shipping traffic of 59.19 million metric tonnes, with a growth of 0.76 million metric tonnes i.e. 1.30% over the previous year.

#### **West Bengal**

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Riverine)

#### <u>Odisha</u>

Paradip Port (Natural)

#### **Andhra Pradesh**

Visakhapatnam Port (Natural)

#### <u>Tamil Nadu</u>

- Kamarajar Port (Artificial)
- Chennai Port (Artificial)
- V. O. Chidambaranar Port (Artificial)



#### Gujarat

Deendayal Port (Natural)

#### Maharashtra

- Mumbai Port Trust (Natural)
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Artificial)

#### <u>Goa</u>

Mormugao Port (Natural)

#### Karnataka

New Mangalore Port (Natural)

#### Kerala

Kochi Port (Natural)

Major port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra (upcoming)

### Adani's Vizhinjam Port Approved As India's First Transshipment Hub



- The Centre has given sanction to Adani's **Vizhinjam Port in Kerala** to operate as a transshipment port --**a first for the country**.
- A transshipment port is a crucial hub where cargo is transferred from one big vessel to several smaller ones before they reach the final port of discharge.

- It will now help India in its **ambition to become a** manufacturing hub.
- Approximately 75 per cent of India's transshipment cargo is currently processed at ports overseas, with destinations such as Colombo, Singapore

#### SJVN inaugurates of First Multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project of the Nation



- SJVN Limited has achieved a significant milestone
  with the inauguration of India's first Multi-purpose
  (Combined Heat & Power) Green Hydrogen Pilot
  Project at SJVN's 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro
  Power Station (NJHPS) in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- The green hydrogen produced from the project will be utilized for High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF)
   Coating Facility of NJHPS for meeting its combustion fuel requirements, it will also generate electricity through its fuel cell of 25 kW capacity.
- Inaugurated by CMD Smt. Geeta Kapur

#### **SJVN Limited**

 SJVN, formerly known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule – 'A' CPSE under the supervision of Ministry of Power



- It is involved in hydroelectric power generation and transmission.
- It was incorporated in 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

### For Hydro electric projects budgetary support scheme approved by cabinet



 The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister
 Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power

- for modification of the scheme of budgetary support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) with a total outlay of Rs.12461 crore.
- The scheme would be implemented from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32.
- Over the next 8 years, the scheme will support hydro power projects with a cumulative generation capacity of approximately 31,350 MW.
- It applies to all hydro projects over 25 MW, including those in the private sector.

#### Benefits of scheme

- Faster development of hydro electric projects
- Improve infrastructure in the remote and hilly project locations
- Provide large number of direct employment to the local people along with indirect employment
- Entrepreneurial opportunities through transportation, tourism
- Encourage fresh investments into hydro power sector

#### NHPC Limited to collaborate with Norwegian company for implementation of Floating Solar Energy Technology in India



NHPC Limited, the largest organization for hydropower development in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company operating as a technology provider to the floating solar industry.

#### **About NHPC Limited**

- NHPC Limited (formerly known as National Hydroelectric Power Corp.) is a Government of India Mini Ratna Category-I Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power.
- It was incorporated in the year 1975 under the Companies Act, 1956, with the objective of developing hydroelectric power in the country.
- NHPC is a premier organization in the country for the development of hydropower.

#### **GRID-INDIA Achieves Miniratna Status**



- Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India) is being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) by the Ministry of Power
- Established in 2009
- CMD S R Narasimhan

### NFL, IREDA & HUDCO granted 'Navratna status' by Department of Public Enterprises

- National Fertilizers Limited (NFL):
- incorporated on 23rd August 1974.
  Its Corporate Office is at NOIDA (U.P).
- NFL comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and is one of the largest producer urea in India.
- CMD U. Saravanan

### Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO):

- It is an Indian public sector undertaking engaged in housing finance and infrastructure project finance.
- Chairman & Managing Director Sanjay Kulshrestha



#### Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

it is a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFC) promotes, develops and extends financial assistance
for Renewable Energy and Energy
Efficiency/Conservation Projects.

# It is a Public Limited Government Company established as on 11th March 1987.



- under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- As on March 2024, GoI held 75% stake in IREDA.

#### **CMD - Pradip Kumar Das**

#### Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced grant of 'Mini RATNA' status (Category-1) for Central Electronics Limited (CEL)

#### Navratna CPSEs

- Bharat Electronics Limited
- 2. Container Corporation of India Limited
- 3. Engineers India Limited
- 4. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 5. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
- 6. National Aluminium Company Limited
- 7. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited
- 8. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited
- 9. NMDC Limited
- 10. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
- 11. Shipping Corporation of India Limited
- 12. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
- 13. ONGC Videsh Ltd
- 14. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited
- 15. IRCON International Limited
- 16. RITES Limited

#### **Central Electronics Limited**

- Under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology.
- Established in 1974
- Pioneer in the country in the field of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV)
- HEADQUARTER: Ghaziabad

#### NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status



- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has granted the navratna status to four more state-owned public enterprises –
  - 1. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd
  - 2. Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd

- 3. Railtel Corporation of India Ltd
- 4. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd
- The number of navratna firms have increased to 25
  as a result, from 21 earlier. Navratna status provides
  more financial autonomy to the entities.

#### **Railtel Corporation of India Ltd**

 RailTel was formed as a PSU fully owned by Railways in Sept, 2000

#### **Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd**

 It was set up on 20th September 2011 to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM)

#### **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd**

 It was incorporated in 1975 with the objective of developing hydroelectric power in the country.

#### Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd

 It was incorporated in 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

### Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd becomes 14th Maharatna CPSE



The Government introduced the 'Navratna' scheme in 1997

- 'Navratna' CPSEs were granted powers in capital expenditure, joint ventures, and human resources management.
- a new classification—'Maharatna'—to recognize those with the potential to become Indian multinational companies (MNCs)

Established on December 23, 1940, as Hindustan Aircraft Limited in Bangalore by visionary Walchand Hirachand, the company aimed to manufacture aircraft domestically.

The **Government of India** became a shareholder in 1941, assuming full management **control in 1942**.

In 1964, Hindustan Aircraft Limited amalgamated with Aeronautics India Limited and it was named "Hindustan Aeronautics Limited"

HAL's developments, like Light Combat Aircraft
(LCA) namely Tejas and Light Utility Helicopter
(LUH), are central to modernizing the Indian Armed
Forces.

To qualify for Maharatna status, companies must meet specific criteria:

- 1. **Navratna Status**: The company must have previously been conferred Navratna status.
- Stock Market Listing: The company must be listed on the Indian stock exchange, complying with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations regarding public shareholding.

#### Financial Performance over the last 3 years:

An average annual turnover of over ₹25,000 crore

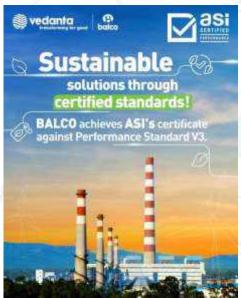
- An average annual net worth exceeding ₹15,000 crore
- An average annual net profit after tax
   greater than ₹5,000 crore
- Global Presence: The company should have significant international operations or a global presence.

### Gem And Jewellery Sector Granted AEO Status By Indian Government



- Finance Ministry has given Authorised Economic
   Operator (AEO) status to the gem and jewellery sector
- Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is the apex body of the sector.
- Asian Star, a leading diamond manufacturer, is the first recipient in the industry. The AEO program, under the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework, aims to secure international supply chains.
- Under this programme, an entity engaged in international trade is approved by the Customs as compliant with supply chain security standards, and granted AEO status and certain benefits.
- AEO status offers benefits like quicker clearance and enhanced security, aligning with World Trade Organization trade facilitation agreements.
- AEO was introduced in India in 2011

#### Vedanta's BALCO: First Indian Company Certified with ASI Performance Standard



- Chhattisgarh-based Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has emerged as the first Indian company to achieve the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification
- for the manufacture and supply of a wide range of primary aluminium products at its facility in Korba (Chhattisgarh).
- The certification recognizes BALCO's adherence to across three sustainability pillars: Environment,
   Social, and Governance.

# Union Minister launched nationwide 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024' campaign



The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched the **fifth edition** of "Jal Shakti
Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign on 9th March, 2024, at the NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi.

- The campaign, themed "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti," emphasises the integral role of women in water conservation and management.
- The campaign comes under the National Water Mission, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in

- collaboration with Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
- The campaign will be implemented till the 30th of November, 2024
- Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan in 2019 as a "Jan Andolan" to initiate water conservation at the grass-root level through citizen participation to accelerate water conservation across the country.

### India's fastest and indigenously designed IP/MPLS router launched



- India's fastest and indigenously designed IP/MPLS
   (Multiprotocol Label Switching) router was
   launched in Bengaluru by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union
   Minister for Communications, Electronics and
   Information Technology.
- MPLS is a routing technique in telecommunications networks that directs data from one node to the next, based on labels rather than network addresses.
- with a capacity of 2.4 Terabits per second (TBPS)

### PM inaugurates Kochrab Ashram in Sabarmati, Gujarat

PM Modi visited Sabarmati Ashram and inaugurated redeveloped Kochrab Ashram

- It was the first Ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi after coming to India from South Africa in 1915.
- Kochrab Ashram is where Gandhiji stayed before shifting to Sabarmati.
- Bapu's Sabarmati Ashram area got shrinked from 120 acres to 5 Acres

PM modi launched **₹1,200 crore Master plan of Gandhi Ashram Memorial** 

- Under this master plan, the existing 5-acre area of the Ashram will be expanded to 55 acres. 36 existing buildings shall undergo restoration.
- Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat; Chief Minister
   Bhupendra Patel

### India's first museum dedicated to cooperatives is coming up in Kozhikode

- The International Cooperative Museum\_- will showcase the success and achievements of cooperative movements in India, especially Kerala.
- A ₹150 crore project of Karassery Service Cooperative Bank
- the museum will be the **second of its kind in the** world (the first is in Toad Lane, U.K., set up in 1844).
- There are more than 8 lakh cooperatives in India today, with a collective membership of 29 crore.
- Maharashtra has the maximum number of cooperative societies, at 2.3 lakh, with 5 crore members.

### India's 1st under- river metro tunnel in Kolkata

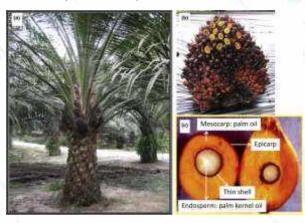


- PM Modi inaugurates India's first under-river metro tunnel in Kolkata - first transportation tunnel 'under any mighty river in India.
- The metro tunnel has been built under Kolkata's Hooghly River that will connect Howrah Maidan to Esplanade.
- The Metro will take to a 520-metre stretch under the river Hooghly in 45 seconds.
- been built at a cost of Rs 4,965 crore and it is the deepest Metro station in India at Howrah (Howrah Metro Station)— which is 33 metres below the ground level.
- Executed by the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation
   Limited (KMRCL)
- Kolkata was also the first city in India to have an operational metro system in 1984.

### India's First Integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit by 3F Oil Palm



- India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- at Roing in lower Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The commencement of operations is in line to encourage domestic oilseeds production.
- This factory is part of Mission Palm Oil and is India's first oil palm factory under NMEO-OP



#### **NMEO-OP**

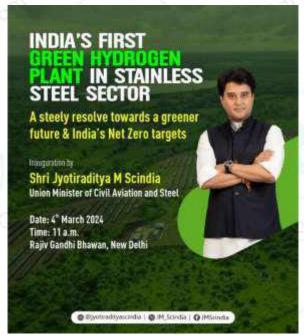
- The Indian government launched the National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) in August 2021.
- The mission has aimed to increase oil palm cultivation and boost crude palm oil production to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26

### The First PLI- Automotive Certificate to OLA Electric Technologies Pvt. Ltd.



- International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), under Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), awarded its first PLI – Automotive Certificate to Ola Electric Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme of MHI for Automobiles and Auto Component
- They have received this certificate for showcasing their dedication to the 'Make in Bharat' Abhiyan and strengthening the domestic production ecosystem.

### India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector



- located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar, Haryana.
- This project to be the world's first off-grid Green
   Hydrogen plant for the stainless steel industry and
   the world's first Green Hydrogen plant with rooftop
   & floating solar
- This project is also a state-of-the-art green hydrogen facility with a target to reduce carbon emissions around 2,700 Metric Tonnes per annum and 54,000 tons of CO2 emissions over next two decades.

### India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed commencement of "core loading" at India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu
- A Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) is a nuclear reactor that uses fast neutron to generate more nuclear fuels (fissionable material) than they consume while generating power, dramatically enhancing the efficiency of the use of resources.
- The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) has been fully designed and constructed indigenously by BHAVINI
- Government had approved in 2003, the creation of Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) to

- construct and operate India's most advanced nuclear reactor-Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR).
- Once commissioned, India will only be the second country after Russia to have commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor.
- The Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) will initially use the Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.
- Notably, despite the advanced technology involved, both the capital cost and the per unit electricity cost is comparable to other nuclear and conventional power plants.

# Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper trainset



- at BEML Complex in Bengaluru
- The Vande Bharat Sleeper trainset, designed by BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited)
- Chairman and Managing Director of BEML -Shantanu Roy

#### India's first 'Vande Metro' renamed as 'Namo Bharat Rapid Rail' ahead of launch by PM Modi



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first
   'Vande Metro' services between Bhuj and Ahmedabad.
- Ahead of the launch, the Railways Ministry renamed the service to 'Namo Bharat Rapid Rail.'

#### India's First Bio-Hydrogen Project

- The Indian government awarded a contract to develop the country's first bio-hydrogen project, led by Gensol Engineering in collaboration with Matrix Gas & Renewables.
- The project will convert 25 tons of bio- waste into 1 ton of hydrogen per day.
- The project, to be completed within 18 months, aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission

India to get first national security semiconductor fabrication plant as part of collaboration with U.S.



- Under a transformative collaboration with the US, India will get a national security semiconductor fabrication plant that will produce chips for use in military hardware and next-generation telecommunications.
- It will be the first ever India-US semiconductor fabrication partnership.
- Named 'Shakti', the fab will concentrate on producing infrared, gallium nitride, and silicon carbide semiconductors.
- This initiative will be supported by the India
   Semiconductor Mission and involves a strategic technology partnership between Bharat Semi,
   3rdiTech, and the US Space Force.
- The Fab becomes not only India's first, but one of the world's first multi-material fabs for national security.

#### NTPC Kayamkulam to pioneer methanolbased power generation in India



 The Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project (NTPC Kayamkulam) is set to launch a pilot project to generate electricity using methanol, marking a first-of-its-kind initiative in India.

- The NTPC recently signed an MoU with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited to demonstrate methanol firing in the plant's existing gas turbine system.
- Methanol is a clean-burning fuel that produces fewer harmful emissions than traditional fuels.
- The Phase 1 "test firing" will last for a year. If successful, methanol usage could reduce power generation costs, support a circular carbon economy, and lower emissions.

#### **About Methanol (CH₃OH)**

- It is a light, volatile, colorless and flammable liquid with a distinctive alcoholic odor similar to that of ethanol but is more acutely toxic.
- Also called methyl alcohol and wood spirit. It can completely mix with water.
- Increasingly, syngas, a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide derived from biomass, is used for methanol production.

#### **Benefits**

- Lower production costs—Methanol is cheap to produce relative to other alternative fuels.
- Improved safety—Methanol has a lower risk of flammability compared to gasoline.
- Increased energy security—Methanol can be manufactured from a variety of domestic carbonbased feedstocks, such as biomass, natural gas, and coal.

#### **Applications:**

Used to **make chemicals**, to remove water from automotive and aviation fuels, as a solvent for paints and plastics, and as an ingredient in a wide variety of products.

# Government Approves 'Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Ltd'. (ASHVINI) for Nuclear Power Development



- The government has approved a joint venture
   'Anushakti Vidyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI)'
   between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India
   Limited (NPCIL) and the National Thermal Power
   Corporation (NTPC)
- to build four 700 MWe nuclear power plants at Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan.
- ASHVINI will be a subsidiary of NPCIL, which will have 51 per cent stake in the entity.
- The Mahi Banswara project of 4x700 MWe
   Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) will be implemented by ASHVINI.
- India has set ambitious targets to achieve 22,800 MW of nuclear power capacity by 2031-32, a substantial increase from the current 8,180 MW.

### Third indigenous pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR) attains criticality: NPCIL

- Home-built 700 MWe nuclear power reactor RAPP (Rajasthan Atomic Power Project in Rawatbhata)
   Unit 7 has achieved criticality (start of controlled fission chain reaction) is expected to start commercial electricity generation later this year
- Earlier, two 700 MWe PHWRs started commercial operation at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat.
- NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd)
   currently operates 24 reactors with a total capacity
   of 8,180 MWe and has 8 units (including RAPP-7)
   with a capacity of 6,800 MWe under construction.
- In addition, 10 more reactors with a total capacity of 7,000 MWe are in pre-project phase and are expected to be completed progressively by 2031-32.





#### Nuclear Power Plants in India - Operational

| Name of<br>Nuclear Power<br>Station                     | Location         | Operator | Capacity |
|---|------------------|----------|----------|
| Kakrapar<br>Atomic Power<br>Station – 1993              | Gujarat          | NPCIL    | 440      |
| (Kalpakkam)<br>Madras Atomic<br>Power Station –<br>1984 | Tamil Nadu       | NPCIL    | 440      |
| Narora Atomic<br>Power Station-<br>1991                 | Uttar<br>Pradesh | NPCIL    | 440      |
| Kaiga Nuclear<br>Power Plant -<br>2000                  | Karnataka        | NPCIL    | 880      |
| Rajasthan<br>Atomic Power<br>Station – 1973             | Rajasthan        | NPCIL    | 1,180    |
| Tarapur Atomic<br>Power Station –<br>1969               | Maharashtra      | NPCIL    | 1,400    |
| Kudankulam<br>Nuclear Power<br>Plant – 2013             | Tamil Nadu       | NPCIL    | 2,000    |

### Rubber Research Institute signs MoU with IndianOil

 A memorandum of understanding was signed between Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)  to enhance the research on using Rubber Process
 Oils marketed by IOCL in different tyre and nontyre rubber products.



#### Rubber Research Institute of India

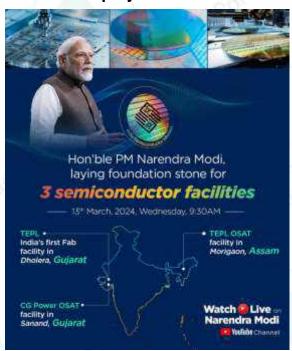
- Established in 1955 in Kottayam, Kerala as the research department of the Rubber Board under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Rubber process oil (RPO) is a petroleum-based oil used in the rubber industry to manufacture products like tires, conveyor belts, and automotive components.
- RPOs are used as lubricants and extenders, and are carefully selected to enhance the processability of rubber compounds.

### Indian Railways-Wabtec JV to Export Locomotives from Marhowra Plant



- Wabtec Locomotive Private Limited is a joint venture between Indian Railways and Wabtec
- For the first time, the plant will manufacture locomotives for export.
- The Marhowra plant will begin exporting these locomotives in 2025.
- situated in Marhowra, Bihar, was established in 2018

### PM Modi lays foundation stone of 3 semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 trn



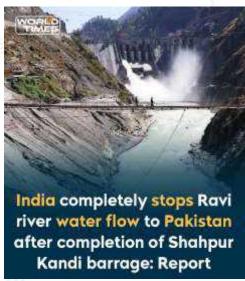
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat'
- and virtually laid the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth about Rs 1.25 lakh crore
- The three projects are the Semiconductor fabrication facility:
  - Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) in Gujarat
  - OSAT facility in Sanand in Gujarat
  - Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam
- The semiconductor fabrication facility at the Dholera will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited
- With a total investment of more than Rs 91,000 crore, this will be the first commercial semiconductor fab in the country and will commence chip production by 2026.

### India's first septic tank cleaning robot strengthening Swatch Bharat campaign



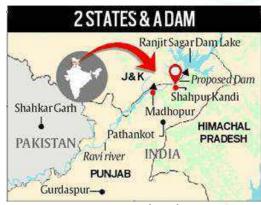
- India's first septic tank cleaning robot, called 'Homosep Atom', offering an end-to-end solution to eliminate manual scavenging
- Developed by the startup incubated in the Department of Science and Technology (DST)-Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIT Madras.
- It has reached 16 cities in different parts of India

### India Stops Water Flow To Pakistan As Shahpur Kandi Barrage Is Complete



- India has successfully stopped the flow of water from the Ravi River to Pakistan following the completion of the Shahpur Kandi Barrage, situated in Pathankot district (Punjab), on the border of Punjab and J&K, downstream from the existing Ranjit Sagar Dam.
- The water released by Ranjit Sagar Dam is utilized for generating power from this project.
- The main purpose behind the construction of this dam is power generation and irrigation in Punjab and J&K.
- This development is in line with the Indus Water
  Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960,
  granting India exclusive rights over the waters of the
  Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas rivers.
- Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao laid the foundation stone for the Shahpur Kandi Barrage Project in 1995.





- The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed between India and Pakistan on September 19, 1960, after 9 years of negotiations.
- The treaty, signed by the then Indian Prime Minister
  Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Pakistani President
  Ayub Khan, covers the Indus River and its five
  tributaries. The World Bank helped broker the
  treaty.
- The treaty gives India control over the three eastern rivers, the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej, while Pakistan has control over the three western rivers, the Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum.
- The treaty also establishes a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries, called the Permanent Indus Commission.

#### **About Ravi River:**

- It is a trans-boundary river of India and Pakistan.
- It is one of the five tributaries of the Indus River
- It originates in the western Himalayas in the Multhan tehsil of the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Length: The total length of the Ravi River is approximately 720 kilometers Around 158 kilometers of the river's course lie in India, and the remaining 562 kilometers flow through Pakistan.
- It is also called 'The River of Lahore' since that city is situated on its eastern bank.

#### BIS Signs MoU With GBPUAT To Develop First-Of-Its-Kind Standardized Agriculture Demonstration Farm



- The Bureau of Indian Standards-BIS has signed MoU with Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology-GBPUAT to develop the first-of-its-kind Standardized Agriculture Demonstration Farm in India.
- This farm will serve as an experimental site for testing and implementing various agricultural practices and new technologies in accordance with Indian Standards.
- GBPUAT, also known as Pantnagar University, is the first agricultural university of India. It was inaugurated by Jawahar Lal Nehru on 17 November 1960 as the "Uttar Pradesh Agricultural University

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates ONGC's sea survival centre in Goa



- It aims to advance the Indian sea survival training ecosystem to global standards as a one-of-a-kind Integrated Sea Survival Training Centre.
- It is expected to train 10,000-15,000 personnel annually.

### PM Modi announces world's largest grain storage plan



- The 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector' launched
- will result in thousands of warehouses and godowns in every corner of the country.
- of 700 lakh metric tons will be completed in the next five years at a cost of 1.25 lakh crore rupees.
- it would enable farmers to store their produce and sell it at the right time according to their own needs while also helping to avail loans from banks.

also laid foundation stone for additional 500
 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across
 the country for construction of godowns and other
 agri infrastructure.

### India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat



- PM Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel at Cochin Shipyard under the Harit Nauka initiative.
- The fuel cell powered vessel has zero emission, zero noise and is energy efficient, which in turn reduces the effect of global warming.
- Embracing green hydrogen as a maritime fuel takes centre stage in India's dedication to a sustainable future, targeting net zero emissions by the year 2070.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth more than Rs 17,300 crores in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu
- Prime Minister also inaugurated projects to establish the V. O. Chidambaranar Port as India's first Green Hydrogen Hub Port, including a desalination plant, hydrogen production, etc.

### PM Modi to dedicate AIIMS Mangalagiri to nation





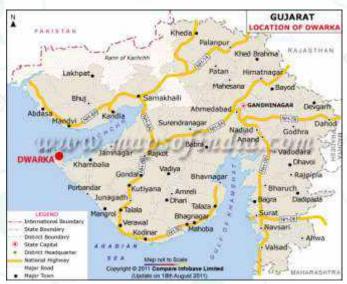
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh to the nation.
- Mangalagiri AIIMS is a world-class hospital with 960 beds and 125 medical seats.
- The project with a cost of Rs. 1618 crores.
- Also lay the foundation stone for nine critical care blocks for the AIIMS.
- he will also inaugurate an advanced microbiology food testing laboratory at Vishakhapatnam and four mobile food testing laboratories across the state.

 All these health projects with the total cost of ₹1858 crore

#### PM Modi inaugurates cable-stayed 'Sudarshan Setu' bridge in Gujarat



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Sudarshan Setu'
- The bridge, was known as 'Signature Bridge', has been renamed as 'Sudarshan Setu' or Sudarshan Bridge.
- The country's longest cable-stayed bridge of 2.32 km
- on the Arabian sea connecting Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district
- the four-lane cable-stayed bridge has a unique design, featuring a footpath adorned with verses from Srimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on both sides.
- The 2.32 km bridge,
- including 900 metres of central double span cablestayed portion
- a 2.45 km long approach road,
- constructed at a cost of ₹979 crore.
- The four-lane 27.20 metre wide bridge has 2.50 metre wide footpaths on each side





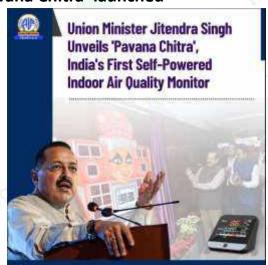
- Beyt Dwarka is an island near Okha port, which is nearly 30 km from Dwarka town, where the famous Dwarkadhish temple of Lord Krishna is situated.
- At present, devotees visiting the temple at Beyt
  Dwarka can travel only during the day by boat, while
  the construction of the bridge will allow them to
  travel at all times.
- The bridge was initiated by the Centre in 2017



- he is also scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects in Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka and Porbandar districts
- including the electrification of a 533-km railway line and the inauguration of two offshore pipelines under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at Vadinar
- Prime Minister Modi will also inaugurate five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) campuses in Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh)



# India's first Airport based self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility 'Pavana Chitra' launched



- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh dedicates India's first Airport based self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport
- The off-grid air quality monitor is powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by CSIR-NIIST

### On Vande Bharat platform India to Unveil 250 MPH Bullet Train



- India is preparing to launch an indigenous bullet train that will reach speeds of more than 250 kilometres per hour (km/h).
- Manufactured by the Indian Railways' Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai
- The indigenous bullet train will outpace the speed of any existing trains within the Indian Railways network
- will operate on the recently announced north, south, and east corridors.
- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) is responsible for executing the bullet train project

#### PM Modi to inaugurate two new Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation two new Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station: KAPS-3 and KAPS-4 for Rs 22,500 crore at Navsari in South Gujarat.
- The PM will also initiate work commencement for the construction of PM MITRA Park in Navsari.
- The KAPS-3 and KAPS-4 projects have a cumulative capacity of 1400 MW and are the largest indigenous PHWRs.
- They are first-of-its-kind reactors with advanced safety features.
- These two reactors will produce about 10.4 billion units of clean electricity per year and benefit consumers of multiple states like Gujarat,
   Maharashtra, MP, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

### Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates first Skill India Centre of the country in Odisha

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the first Skill India Centre (SIC) of the country in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- The introduction of low-cost courses in the SIC will empower large youth and make them a part of the evolving job market.
- aim to empower over 1,200 students through this centre

# Cochin International Airport and BPCL Collaborate for World's First Green Hydrogen Plant at Airport Premises





- The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala has entered into an MOU with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to set up a green hydrogen plant in its premises to produce 1000 KW of power.
- The first Green Hydrogen plant in an airport in the world
- The project is expected to be completed early next year, and the initial output will be utilized for powering vehicles within the airport.

#### **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited**

- 1. Received Maharatna status in 2017.
- 2. Formed -1976
- 3. Under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- 4. BPCL is India's 2nd largest fuel retailer.

#### Country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy in Hyderabad



- Union Culture Minister, G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is establishing the museum
- Over one lakh inscriptions discovered across the country and preserved by ASI, will be displayed in the museum.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman had announced in Budget 2023, the establishment of the Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI) with the digitisation of one lakh ancient inscriptions.

# India-Bangladesh open trade through Maia (West Bengal)-Sultanganj (Bangladesh) river ports on Ganga river



- In a significant step towards bolstering trade and connectivity, India and Bangladesh initiated the first trial movement of vessels between Maia Port in India and Sultanganj Port in Bangladesh on February 12, 2024.
- Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports,
   Shipping and Waterways flagged off the First Cargo vessels carrying stones from Maia inland customs port.
- The riverine distance between Maia port and Sultanganj port is 16km, out of which 4.5km of waterways are in India and the remaining 11.5km are in Bangladesh.
- When the river port becomes fully operational, this
  move will lower the prices of different
  commodities on either side of the border due to the
  low transportation costs and it will also boost trade
  and connectivity between India and Bangladesh

### Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' campaign



- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated a year long pan India campaign Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman to commemorate the 75th Year of India as Republic.
- Campaign by the Ministry of Law and Justice
- Aims to reaffirm the collective commitment to the principles given in the Constitution of India and celebrate the shared values that bind the nation.
- Themes Sabko Nyay Har Ghar Nyaya, Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp and Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan.
- Nyaya Setu launched that aims to extend and expand the reach of legal services till the last mile.
- DISHA SCHEME The release of the DISHA
   achievement booklet of the Scheme on 'Access to Justice'
- DISHA 'Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice'

Under DISHA scheme, Tele Law Programme has connected more than 67 lakh citizens for prelitigation advice through Mobile App and through 2.5 lakh Common Service Centers situated in 36 States and UTs in the country.

#### Nitin Gadkari Announces Over 200 Ropeway Projects Worth 1.25 Lakh Crore under Parvatmala Program

- Announcement made in the 'Ropeway : Symposium-Cum-Exhibition' in New Delhi
- The Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2022-23 had announced National Ropeways
   Development Programme – "Parvatmala"
- The scheme will be taken up on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode, which will be a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.
- Nodal Ministry- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH)

### PM Modi Launches 'Swachh Mandir' Campaign



- aim to make pilgrimage sites pristine.
- Cleanliness campaign at all pilgrimage sites from January 14 to 22

#### PM Modi To Inaugurate India's Longest Sea Bridge 'Atal Setu' In Mumbai On Jan 12 during Maharashtra visit



- Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as Atal Setu
- The bridge is officially named the Atal Bihari
   Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu
- It is the longest bridge in India and also the longest sea bridge in India. Built at cost of about Rs 17,840 crore
- Stretching from Sewri in Mumbai to Nhava Sheva in Uran taluka in Raigad district.
- It is about **21.8 km long 6-lane bridge** having about 16.5 km length over sea and about 5.5 km on the land.
- The foundation stone of the bridge was laid by PM Modi in December, 2016.
- MTHL promises a revolutionary travel experience between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, cutting commute time from two hours to 20 minutes.
- 10 million litres of fuel to be saved annually

# ONGC initiates oil production from its flagship deep-water project in the Krishna Godavari basin offshore



- PM Modi applauded as 'first oil' production commences from the complex and difficult deepwater Krishna Godavari basin (KG-DWN-98/2 Block, situated off the coast of Bay of Bengal).
- 30 kilometres off the coast of Kakinada in the Krishna Godavari Basin, the first oil was extracted
- This project is expected to add 7% to current national oil production & 7% to national Natural Gas production, contributing towards an energy AatmanirbharBharat



- India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement.
- The country is also a major importer of natural gas, as domestic gas output only meets around 50 per cent of the demand.



**Godavari** rises in the Sahyadris, near Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra

**Krishna River** originates in the Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar

- > ONGC was founded on 14 August 1956
- > It was conferred with 'Maharatna' status.
- under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Headquarters New Delhi.

#### I-STEM to launch Samavesha project at IISc Bengaluru to connect researchers with labs and equipment



#### Linking Researchers and Resources

- I-STEM (Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map) is launching the Samavesha project at IISc., Bengaluru.
- The project targets connecting researchers with scientific institutes through an online portal
- I-STEM, an initiative of the Office of Principal
   Scientific Advisor, Government of India, is planning to conduct around 50 Samavesha across India in 2024.
- Expected outcomes:
  - Increased indigenous product innovation
  - Knowledge Exchange Ecosystem
  - National Advancements:

#### India's First National Highway Steel Slag Road section on NH- 66 Mumbai-Goa National Highway inaugurated

Steel slag roads are roads built using **steel slag**, a byproduct of steel production

Steel slag roads are a green technology that can offer a sustainable and durable road network.

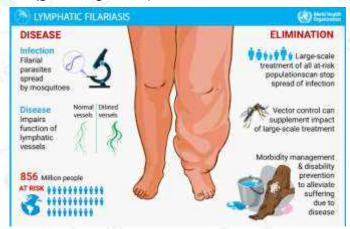
Steel Slag Road Technology, **developed by CSIR-Central**Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) is transforming the waste of steel industries into wealth and is helping the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to build stronger and eco-friendly national highways in the country.

JSW Steel, under the CSIR-CRRI technological guidance, has constructed the 1 km long four lane steel slag road section on Indapur-Panvel Section of NH-66 Mumbai-Goa.

In June 2022, **Surat in Gujarat became the first city** in India to get a processed steel slag road

#### MoS Health SP Baghel launches Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination

- Lymphatic filariasis (LF) is a parasitic infection caused by microscopic worms that infect the lymphatic system.
- The lymphatic system helps maintain the body's fluid balance and fight infections. LF is also known as elephantiasis.
- Lymphatic Filariasis (elephantiasis) is a priority disease which is targeted to be eliminated by 2027 (global target 2030).



- first phase of the Bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign
- The campaign aims to check disease transmission by providing free preventive medications to the residents in areas affected by the disease.
- The campaign will cover 92 districts across 11 states and will run for the next two weeks.

- The 11 endemic states, including Assam, Bihar,
  Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh,
  Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal,
  and Gujarat
- 75% of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) districts are from 5 states Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, Odisha and Telangana.

### Prime Minister launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign



- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- Shri Modi's planted a Peepal tree at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi.
- This day was initiated by United Nations General
   Assembly in 1972 during the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.
- To mark this event, the first World Environment
   Day was celebrated a year later, in 1973. Since then, it has been celebrated every year on 5th of June.

#### World Record created by Planting Over 5 Lakh Saplings in One Hour

- 128 Infantry Battalion and Ecological Task Force of Territorial Army (one of the 6 units of MoEF&CC) registered a World Record of planting over 5 lakh saplings in one hour under "Special Plantation Drive" at Jaisalmer.
- Under the Prime Minister's campaign "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" and the TA's outreach program "Bhagidari & Zimmedari," aimed to enhance ecological restoration and promote environmental awareness among the local communities.



- the banner "Protect Trees"
- the motto "Those who protect the trees are protected,"

#### Five And A Half Crore Trees Will Be Planted In MP Under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign Started By PM Modi

- The Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign in Madhya Pradesh is being started from the birth anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.
- The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign is being run in all the cities and villages of the state **till July 15.**

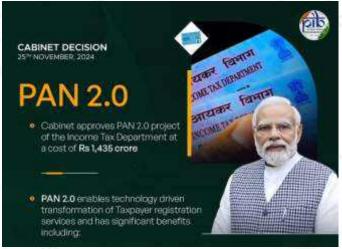
#### JP Nadda Launches National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024



- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare -Jagat Prakash Nadda
- The goal behind the STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024 is to attain zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea
- In 2014, India was the first country to introduce the Rotavirus vaccine (to protect against rotavirus infections, which are the leading cause of severe diarrhea among young children.).
- The campaign's 2024 slogan, "Diarrhoea ki
  Roktham, Safai aur ORS se rakhen apna dhyaan"
  ("डायरिया की रोकथाम, सफाई और ओ आर एस से
  रखें अपना ध्यान")
- The STOP Diarrhoea Campaign will be implemented in two phases: the Preparatory Phase from 14th to 30th June 2024, and the Campaign Phase from 1st July to 31st August 2024.

# Centre approves PAN 2.0 Project of Income Tax Department, to make it a common business identifier

The government announced the ₹1,435 crore PAN
 2.0 Project



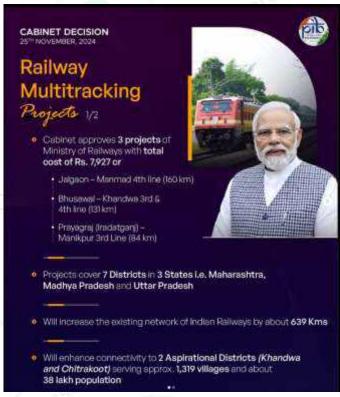
- PAN 2.0 Project is aimed at modernizing and enhancing the Permanent Account Number (PAN) system in India.
- The PAN is a unique 10-digit identifier issued to Indian taxpayers, which is used for various financial transactions, including filing tax returns, tracking investments, and conducting banking operations.
- However, the PAN system had some challenges, such as duplication, fraud, and limited integration with other databases. The PAN 2.0 project seeks to address these issues and bring the PAN system up to modern standards.

#### **Key Features and Objectives of PAN 2.0 Project:**

- Digitization and Integration with other government databases (such as Aadhaar, GSTN, and banks)
- Data Security and Fraud Prevention
- Simplified Process for PAN Issuance
- Improved Tax Administration
- Global Standards Compliance (making cross-border tax reporting more efficient)
- Reduction of Duplicate PANs
- Pan-India Digital Infrastructure (particularly in rural areas.)
- PAN 2.0 will be an upgrade of the current PAN/TAN
   1.0 eco-system

| TAN (Tax Deduction and      | PAN (Permanent              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Collection Account          | Account Number)             |
| Number)                     |                             |
| TAN is specific to the tax  | PAN is a broader identity   |
| deduction or collection     | number used for all tax-    |
| process. It's only relevant | related matters in India,   |
| for entities or individuals | including filing tax        |
| responsible for TDS or      | returns, tracking financial |
| TCS.                        | transactions, and more      |

#### **CCEA** approves three Railway projects



#### worth ₹7,927 crore

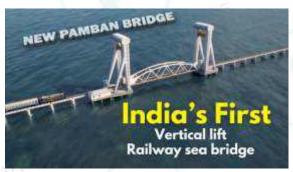
- CCEA Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- The three projects covering seven districts in three States – Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh – will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 639 km.

The Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor, which is likely to boost maritime ties between India and Russia, is operational now



- The Chennai-Vladivostok sea route will cover a distance of about 5,600 nautical miles.
- container ships carrying crude oil, metal and textile have started coming to Indian ports,
- estimated to reduce the time required to transport cargo between the Indian and Russian Ports of the Far East Region by up to 16 days.
- The current trade route between Mumbai and St Petersburg in Russia covers a distance of 8,675 nautical miles, and the time taken for transportation is around 35 to 40 days.
- Vladivostok is the largest Russian port on the Pacific Ocean, and it is located about 50 kilometres from the China-Russia border.

## India's First Vertical Lift Rail Bridge: The New Pamban Bridge



- Constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
- The Pamban Bridge is 2.05 km long bridge with a unique 72 m Vertical Lift span, one of its kind in the country.
- It is cleared for operation by Commissioner of Railway Safety. But Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) flagged multiple violations for not following standard design of RDSO, a railways body.
- Railway board formed a five-members special committee to look into the serious lapses regarding the construction.
- The committee will submit its report in one and half months.

#### **About New Pamban Bridge**

- It is India's first vertical-lift railway sea bridge.
- It connects Rameswaram on Pamban Island to Mandapam on the mainland in Tamil Nadu.
- The new bridge is being built parallel to the old Pamban Bridge and will replace it.
- The old & iconic Pamban Bridge, India's first sea bridge, was opened in 1914.
- The old Pamban railway sea bridge was closed in December 2022 due to excessive vibrations
- The new bridge has been designed for double railway line and future electrification as well.

| Length of Bridge            | 2.05 km                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Length of Lift Span         | 72.5 m                        |
| Builder                     | Rail Vikas Nigam Limited      |
|                             | (RVNL)                        |
| <b>Cost of Construction</b> | ₹535 crore                    |
| Unique Feature              | Fully automated vertical lift |
|                             | span with 22m air clearance   |
|                             | above sea level for ship      |
|                             | movement                      |
| Train Compatibility         | High-speed trains             |
| Decommissioned              | Old Pamban Bridge (1914–      |
| Bridge                      | 2022)                         |
| Foundation                  | Laid by Prime Minister        |
|                             | Narendra Modi in November     |
|                             | 2019                          |

## India Partners with France to Establish Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum as Global Cultural Landmark

- The Ministry of Culture has announced a landmark partnership with France Museums Dévelopement (FMD) to develop the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum as a world-class cultural institution.
- It builds upon the Letter of Intent signed in 2020, which emphasized museum and heritage cooperation.
- This ambitious project is an integral part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project and is set to span approximately 1,55,000 square meters across the iconic North and South Blocks in New Delhi.
- France, renowned for its expertise in such projects, exemplified by the Louvre, Grand Palais, and Hôtel de la Marine

## Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit Kisan Kavach



- Designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure
- Developed by BRIC-inStem, Bangalore, in collaboration with Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd.

 The washable and reusable suit, priced at ₹4,000, can last up to a year and employs advanced fabric technology to deactivate harmful pesticides upon contact

## Centre to launch National Campaign 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' in New Delhi



- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi will launch a national campaign "Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat" tomorrow, on 27th November 2024, in a function to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- Inspired by the success of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'
   a flagship scheme launched by the Prime Minister
   Shri Narendra Modi on 22nd January, 2015
- Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat is inspired by the vision of Prime Minister of a 'Viksit Bharat' by the year 2047
- The event will also witness the unveiling of the 'Child Marriage Free Bharat' portal, a dedicated online platform to support the campaign's mission of raising awareness against, and prevention of child marriage and effective reporting of incidences of child marriage.
- today, almost 1 in 5 girls are getting married before they attain the legal age of marriage i.e. 18 years.

#### Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches 'Nayi Chetna' Campaign Against Gender Violence



 Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the third edition of Nayi Chetna

 Pahal Badlaav Ki, a national campaign against gender-based violence, at Rang Bhawan Auditorium, New Delhi.

  The month-long campaign, organized by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development, will run across all Indian States and Union Territories until 23rd December 2024.

#### Govt to Launch National Campaign "Ab Koi Bahana Nahi" in New Delhi

- Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi will launch a national campaign "Ab Koi Bahana Nahi" November 25 at Rang Bhawan, All India Radio in New Delhi.
- This campaign is a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Women and Child Development and Rural Development, with support from UN Women which calls on the public, government and key stakeholders to take actionable steps to eliminate gender-based violence.
- The campaign is launched along with the 'Nayi Chetna 3.0 campaign,' led by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Notably, November 25 is celebrated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women while December 10 is Human Rights Day.

#### **NATIONAL EVENTS**

75th Independence Day Celebration

**India Energy Week** 

The Voicebox," initiative

ICAR's 'Foundation And Technology Day'

4th Anniversary Of NEP 2020

**SEHER Program** 

**World Heritage Young Professionals Forum** 

**Green Hydrogen Training Program** 

'Retired Sportsperson Empowerment

Training' (RESET) Programme

'Global Wind Day 202

ISRO' Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)

Karmayogi Saptah

Startup Mahakumbh 2024

**STREE Program** 

**Anusandhan National Research Foundation** 

Panchayat Se Parliament Tak' programme

27th National Youth Festival

**Poshan Utsav** 

**First International Solar Festival** 

Swacchata Hi Sewa Abhiyan 2024

**Aadi Mahotsav** 

Sashakt Nari - Viksit Bharat programme

**Lakhpati Didi Initiative** 

Shiksha Saptah

Major Highlights of 78th Independence Day Celebrations 2024



- This was Prime Minister 11th Independence Day speech.
- Manmohan Singh unfurled the tricolour 10 times during 2004-2014
- Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi did the honours 17 and 16 times respectively.
- Theme for Indian Independence Day Celebrations 2024 is "Viksit Bharat," reflecting the government's vision of transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2047, marking the 100th year of Independence.
- Chhattisgarh's Maoist-hit Bastar region Tricolour hoisted for the first time on Independence Day
- Ministry of Defence initiated an ambitious tree plantation drive, aiming to plant approximately 1.5 million trees nationwide. This initiative, part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in the Name of Mother) campaign
- The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign was **officially launched by PM Narendra Modi on World Environment Day, June 5,** 2024.
- The campaign sets an ambitious target of planting **800 million saplings by September 2024 and 1.4 billion saplings by March 2025.**
- This large-scale initiative aims to enhance environmental protection and foster a sustainable future.
- Speech included the following key points:
  - > Viksit Bharat Vision: A pledge to transform India into a developed nation by 2047.
  - > Economic Growth: Focus on making India the third-largest global economy.
  - Infrastructure Development: Plans to invest heavily in infrastructure, including railways and highways.
  - > Corruption and Dynastic Politics: A call to fight corruption
  - Women's Empowerment: Emphasis on women's safety and their role in nation-building.
  - Pitch for uniform civil code and 'one nation one election'.
  - > PM Modi vows to create 75,000 new medical seats in next 5 years

#### 75th Republic Day Parade 2024

- The official program commenced at the Kartavya Path with President Droupadi Murmu unfurling the tricolor followed by the national anthem.
- The parade was held at the Kartavya Path in Delhi, and started at Vijay Chowk
- The parade was commanded by Parade
   Commander, Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar,
- General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, a secondgeneration Army officer
- The 2024 Republic Day parade began with a performance by the "Aavahan" band, featuring 112 women artists playing Indian musical instruments. The performance included music from the Sankh, Naadswaram, and Nagada.

- This year's Republic Day parade was 'womencentric', indicating the roles played by women in various sectors.
- The event also featured tableaux representing states, Union Territories, and various ministries.
- Twin themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat -Loktantra ki Matruka
- The parade also included a 95-member marching contingent and a 33-member band contingent from France. French President Emmanuel Macron was the chief guest at the event.
- The center of attraction was the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the recently inducted C-295 transport aircraft
- More than 200 women personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) participated in parade.
- The CRPF is the largest paramilitary force in the world
- The force has the distinction of raising the first-ever women armed police battalion in the country.
- The CRPF holds the distinction of raising one of the first women band contingents.

#### 75th Republic Day: Beating Retreat 2024



- Indian tunes being played during the 'Beating Retreat' ceremony on January 29, 2024, marking the end of 75th Republic Day celebrations.
- The chief guest of the function is the President of India.
- The music bands of Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will play 31 captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes.
- Beating Retreat Ceremony was performed for the first time in India in the 1950's when Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited India for the first time after India attained Independence from the British.

## Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs hosts inaugural 'The Great Indian Board Reboot: Roadshow 2024' in Mumbai

at the NSE Headquarters

- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), the apex think tank of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India
- conducted in partnership with National Stock Exchange - NSE India and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- The event underscored the evolving challenges and opportunities in corporate governance, with a special emphasis on board renewal, diversity, and the integration of new technologies and regulatory frameworks.
- 'The Great Indian Board Reboot: Roadshow 2024' is aimed at setting a new benchmarks in discussions around corporate governance in India

## Earth Sciences Ministry Celebrates Its 18th Foundation Day



- Day at its Prithvi Bhavan Headquarters in New Delhi.
- The Ministry was founded on 27 July, 2006 and marked nearly two decades of significant contributions to Earth system sciences.
- Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood was the chief guest of the foundation day this year.

### PM Modi inaugurates India Energy Week in Goa



- 2nd edition of the India Energy Week 2024 from 6
   9 February 2024 in Goa, at the IPSHEM-ONGC
   Training Institute.
- Organized by the Federation of Indian Petroleum [FIPI] Industry under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Welcoming over 35,000 attendees, 350 exhibitors, 400 speakers and 4,000+ delegates, from over 100 countries

#### **Highlights of PM Address in Goa**

- India's robust economic growth, surpassing 7.5 %, and projected India to become the world's thirdlargest economy shortly
- In the next 5-6 years, the investment of USD 67 billion is going to be done in the energy sector in India
- Govt. plans to significantly enhance India's refining capacity, aiming to increase it from 254 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum) to 450 MMTPA by 2030.
- India's solar installed capacity has increased by more than 20 times over the past decade.
- Ethanol blending has surged from a mere 1.5 per cent to over 12 per cent.
- India is the third largest oil consumer and the third largest <u>LPG consumer</u>. We are the world's fourth largest importer of LNG, fourth largest refiner and fourth largest automobile market.
- India's carbon emission share is just 4% globally, but still we are improving on our energy mix for a sustainable future. Our goal is to achieve Net Zero Emission by 2070

# The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and Netflix India launched "The Voicebox," initiative to train voice-over artists in multiple languages.

- NFDC, a public sector enterprise under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB), have joined hands with Netflix India to launch an upskilling program for voice-over artists in India called "The Voicebox".
- Languages English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali,
   Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Gujarati
- Structured workshops will be conducted in seven major cities — New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kochi for the voice over artists
- At least 50 per cent of the participants in each batch will be women.

- Each batch would accommodate up to 30 candidates, with 210 participants selected through preliminary screening. At least 50% of the participants will be women.
- Top participants will be chosen to contribute to Netflix's special project, "Azaadi ki Amrit Kahaniya", where they will lend their voice to narrate stories reflecting the Indian independence movement.
- Pearl Academy will join as a Training Partner for this programme

#### ICAR's 'Foundation And Technology Day' Celebration In New Delhi



- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- The Council's key initiatives '100 Days 100
   Varieties', '100 Days 100 Technologies', and 'One Scientist One Product'.
- 'One Scientist-One Product' programme will improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- At the beginning of every year, the scientist or a group of scientists will have to identify the product, and the ICAR will map the scientist's or the group's work. The scheme will work for five years.
- This year, prioritising seed hubs for high-yielding oilseeds and pulses varieties.
- The ICAR is also working to develop 100 new seed varieties and 100 farm technologies in 100 days as part of the Centre's 100-day action plan.
- ICAR establishment year: 16 July 1929
- Director of ICAR: Himanshu Pathak

## Govt To Celebrate 4th Anniversary Of NEP 2020 With Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam In New Delhi



 Ministry of Education will celebrate the fourth anniversary of the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) with Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS), 2024 at Manekshaw Centre Auditorium in New Delhi.

### Home Minister To Chair 7th Apex-Level Meeting Of NCORD

- 7th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination
   Center (NCORD) in New Delhi on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.
- Mr. Shah will launch the National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS' (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra) aims to establish a user-friendly platform for every citizen to conveniently report drug-related matters 24×7.
- He will inaugurate the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) zonal office at Srinagar.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will achieve PM Modi's goal of a drug-free India by 2047 through a three-point strategy — strengthening of institutional structure, coordination among all narco agencies and extensive public awareness campaign.
- The NCORD mechanism was formed in 2016 for better coordination between states and Ministry of Home Affairs.

#### Women Entrepreneurship Platform and TransUnion CIBIL Partner to Launch SEHER Program to Empower Women



- SEHER, a credit education program launched by the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL,
- will empower women entrepreneurs in India with financial literacy content and business skills
- The Women Entrepreneurship Program (WEP) is a public-private partnership platform incubated at Niti Aayog in 2018 and aims to create an enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in India.

#### IIT Delhi And Prasar Bharati To Host Two-Day Robot Competition 'DD-Robocon' India 2024 In Delhi



- at Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi.
- The event will host more than 750 students from over 45 colleges, institutions, and universities in the country.
- The winning team from DD-Robocon will represent India at the international Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Robocon 2024, which will take place in QuangNinh, Vietnam.
- The team of Institute of Technology, Nirma
   University won the Robot Competition DD-Robocon
   India 2024.
- Pimpri-Chinchwad College of Engineering, Pune first runner-up
- MIT World Peace University Pune second runnerup spot.

#### NIC and Spices Board of India signed MoU



 The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed a Memorandum of

- Understanding (MoU) to detect, classify cardamom diseases using AI models
- The project, spearheaded by NIC's Centre of Excellence in AI in Kolkata, aims to analyze images of cardamom leaves to identify diseases early.

### **World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2024**



- from 14th to 23rd July 2024, at New Delhi.
- Organised by the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, which is part ASI
- Organised as part of UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting.
- Attended by 50 Young professionals from across the globe
- The theme World Heritage in the 21st Century: Building Capacities and Exploring Opportunities for Youth.
- New Delhi will host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting from 21 to 31 July 2024.

## Government to launch 'Kisano Ki Baat' radio programme

- · the program will start in September .
- to make science accessible to farmers.
- It will be modeled after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly Mann Ki Baat programme on Akashvani.
- Along with Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Agricultural scientists and department officials will provide information to the farmers.

#### "VIRAASAT", 10<sup>th</sup> National Handloom Day Begins At Handloom Haat, New Delhi



- The Textile Ministry is organising a fortnight-long exhibition called "VIRAASAT," to celebrate the 10th National Handloom Day
- The National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC), an arm of the Textiles Ministry is organising this handloom expo.
- The first National Handloom Day was held on 7th August 2015 by PM Modi in Chennai.

#### Hindu College launched Green Hydrogen Training Program

- Hindu College, in association with the Hydrocarbon Sector Skill Council (HSSC, set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas – MoPNG) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship – MSDE,
- launched the first skill training program on 'green hydrogen' for young students under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana-PMKVY scheme.
- This is part of the National Green Hydrogen
   Mission-NGHM, in which a large number of
   students will be given this awareness programme on
   Green Hydrogen.

## RailTel partnered with Cylus to enhance railway cybersecurity



- RailTel has partnered with Cylus to enhance cybersecurity for Indian Railways by deploying CylusOne™ to secure railway signaling and telecom systems.
- RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. is an Indian public sector enterprise which provides broadband and VPN services.
- RailTel was formed in September 2000 with the objective of creating a nationwide broadband, telecom and multimedia network, and to modernise train control operation and safety system of Indian Railways

# Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches 'Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training' (RESET) Programme





- Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched "Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training" (RESET) Programme on the National Sports Day in New Delhi
- The programme will support retired athletes on their career development journey by empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills and making them more employable.

#### Who are eligible to apply?

- The athletes, who have retired from an active sports career and are aged between 20-50 years
- Who have been winners of an International Medal/participants in international events, or
- have been National medallists/State
   medallists/participants in competitions recognized
   by National Sports Federations/Indian Olympic
   Association/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Initially, the programmes will be of two levels based on educational qualifications viz., Class 12th and above and Class 11th and below.
- For this pilot phase, Lakshmibai National Institute
  of Physical Education (LNIPE) will be the lead
  institute to implement the Programme.

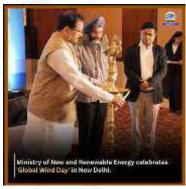
#### NITI Aayog launch 'GearShift Challenge' for Zero-Emission Truck Adoption



NITI Aayog, in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, CALSTART/Drive to Zero, and WRI India, announced the launch of the

- NITI GearShift Challenge as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- This pioneering hackathon aims to foster innovative business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks in India, addressing the nation's pressing economic and environmental challenges.
- Road freight accounts for 55% of India's annual diesel consumption and nearly 40% of CO2 emissions from road transport. There is an urgent need to transition to more sustainable solutions.

## Ministry of New and Renewable Energy organises 'Global Wind Day 2024'



- on the 15th of June 2024.
- aimed at celebrating the glorious success of Indian
   Wind Sector so far and also discussing the
   potential way forward for accelerating wind energy adoption in India.
- With a central theme of "Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India",
- With a cumulative installed wind power capacity of 46.4 GW by May 2024, India has progressed to become the fourth largest in the world (after China, US, Germany).
- Wind energy is crucial to India's efforts in achieving 50% of its electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030 and net zero by 2070.

### 3rd Indian Analytical Congress being held at CSIR-IIP Dehradun



The three-day 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Analytical Congress is being held in Uttarkhand's capital, Dehradun, from 5 -7 June 2024.

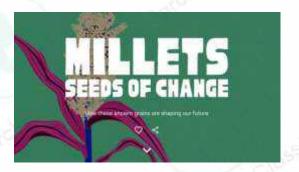
- The Congress was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of Ladakh University, Prof. S.K. Mehta.
- It is an international conference organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) and the Indian Society of Analytical Scientists (ISAS-Delhi Chapter).
- Theme is: "Role of Science and Technology in Green Transitions".

#### ISRO' Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)



- "Young Scientist Programme", or "YUva Vigyani KAryakram" YUVIKA, is a learning and awareness creating programme of the ISRO to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science, and Space Applications to younger students with a preference to rural areas.
- The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research /career
- Eligibility: Those who have finished class 8 and are currently studying in class 9 could apply for the programme.
- Three students from each state/Union Territory will participate in this programme every year, covering CBSE, ICSE, and state-board syllabus.
- The selection is based on **8th Standard academic** performance and extracurricular activities.

## Google Arts & Culture Launches Digital Exhibition "Millets: Seeds of Change"



- Google Arts & Culture launched a new digital exhibit, "Millets: Seeds of Change," at Krishi Bhawan in Delhi.
- The exhibition has been launched in collaboration with India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to celebrate the rich history and growing international importance of millets, of which India is the world's largest producer.
- India had spearheaded the UNGA resolution to declare 2023 the International Year of Millets

Sangeet Natak Akademi to organize 'Shakti – Festival of Music and Dance' at seven different Shaktipeeths in the country



- From 9th to 17th April (Navratri)
- at 7 different Shaktipeeths
- The inauguration of the Shakti festival will begin from the Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati and this will be concluded at Shaktipeeth Maa Harsidhi Temple, Jaisinghpur, Ujjain.
- There are 51 Shaktipeeth in India

#### Union Minister launches revamped Jiyo Parsi Programme and Avesta-Pahlavi Language Centre



 In the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, the Minister of Minority Affairs Smriti Zubin Irani launched the revamped Jiyo Parsi Programme at New Delhi

- The event witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to develop 'the Centre for Avesta-Pahlavi Studies at the University of Mumbai.
- Jiyo Parsi is a central sector scheme launched in 2013-14 to arrest the population decline of the Parsi Community by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions.
- Avesta Pahlavi, the ancient and sacred language of the Parsis is one of the ancient languages used by members of the Parsi community.
- Aims to establish the Centre and required infrastructure for undertaking certificate courses, diploma courses, and PhD programs with an amount of 11.20 Crore rupees.

## PM Modi inaugurated 'Karmayogi Saptah' to enhance civil servants' capacity development



- Karmayogi Saptah-National Learning Week (NLW) launched on October 19 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- The initiative aims to bolster individual and organizational capacity development for civil servants across the nation.
- Launched in September 2020, Mission Karmayogi envisions a future-ready civil service grounded in Indian values while adopting a global perspective.

### PM Narendra Modi participated in Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 on 2nd October



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024, marking the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Launched by PM Modi on October 2, 2014, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan includes two key

**components**: the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

#### IIHR's three-day national horticultural fair



- Three-day national horticultural fair-2024 of the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru
- From 5th -7th March, 2024
- Theme "Nextgen technology led horticulture for sustainable development"
- The fair will showcase the country's most advanced and recent technologies in the sector such as smart irrigation, controlled environment management, vertical farming, environment-friendly practices for sustainable horticulture, and digital horticulture.

#### Startup Mahakumbh 2024



- A first-of-its-kind event bringing together the entire startup ecosystem of India including startups, investors, incubators and accelerators, and industry leaders from several sectors.
- Held from March 18-20, 2024 at Bharat
   Mandapam, New Delhi
- Central Theme: 'Bharat Innovates'
- Focus on AI+SaaS, D2C/consumer brands, agritech, fintech, and more.
- SaaS (Software as a service) is one of three main categories of cloud computing, alongside infrastructure as a service (laaS) and platform as a service (PaaS)
- India is the third largest Startup ecosystem in the world and over 50% of Startups are from tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

#### Tourism Ministry to organize annual event "Bharat Parv" from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January



- Ministry of Tourism will organize the 9 day annual event 'Bharat Parv' at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of Red Fort, Delhi as part of the Republic Day celebrations.
- The Parv has participation from 26 Central
   Ministries and Departments showcasing citizen
   centric schemes and initiatives of the Government.
- The highlights of the mega event are the Republic Day Parade tableaux, dynamic cultural performances by the Zonal Cultural Centres, handicraft and handloom display and enthusiastic performances by the Armed Forces Band

## MoRD and CESL Sign MoU for STREE Program

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) signed an MoU with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) to launch "Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Bicycles" (STREE) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- The initiative aims to empower rural women, promote economic independence, and reduce lastmile mobility congestion (via electric bicycles).
- The partnership supports the vision of creating 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didis.

#### MoE flagship R&D innovation fair 'IInvenTiv-2024' inaugurated by Minister Dharmendra Pradhan



• IInvenTiv-2024', the second edition of Research and Development (R&D) fair by the 23 Indian Institutes

- of Technology (IITs) in the country was inaugurated by Union Minister of Education (MoE) **Dharmendra Pradhan at the IIT Hyderabad.**
- Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)
  hosted the second edition of the Ministry of
  Education's flagship event, IlnvenTiv-2024 on
  January 19 and 20.
- The current edition targets affordable healthcare, agriculture and food processing, sustainable technologies including climate change, e-mobility, clean energy, defence and space, and Industry 4.0.

## India elected as First Vice Chair of FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management



- India has been elected as the First Vice Chair of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.
- This is the first time in 59 years that India has been appointed to this role.
- The Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management is a forum for discussing fisheries management issues at the national, regional, and global levels.
- India is one of the top fishing nations with over 28 million inland and marine fishers.

  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- The FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Its goal is to achieve food and security for all.
- Founded on 16 October 1945
- Headquarter Rome, Italy
- Director-General Qu Dongyu
- India became a founding member of the FAO in 1945.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> edition of PM Modi's Interactive Programme "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024"

- Held at Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan on 29th January.
- Pariksha Pe Charcha is part of the larger movement
   'Exam Warriors' led by Prime Minister Narendra
   Modi, to create a stress-free atmosphere for youngsters.



- It is a movement that is driven by PM Modi's efforts to bring together students, parents, teachers and the society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully
- Praiksha Pe Charcha programme began in 2018

## PM Modi To Lead 10th International Day Of Yoga Celebrations In Srinagar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 10th International Day of Yoga celebration in Srinagar on the 21<sup>st</sup> June
- Theme 2024: Yoga for Self and Society
- Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav launched a Common Yoga Protocol Book in Braille Script to support visually impaired people to learn and Practice Yoga
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organizing a unique initiative 'Yoga for Space' to mark the International Day of Yoga.
- All scientists and officials of ISRO will perform Yoga together as per the Common Yoga Protocol guidelines.

#### Union Minister Annapurna Devi launches the 7th edition of "Rashtriya Poshan Mah "at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat



### Ministry of Education organized an International Conference titled "Spectrum of Literacy"

- on 7th September 2024 (Before International Literacy Day 2024)
- held virtually from CIET, NCERT, New Delhi.
- to reflect the broad and diverse challenges and opportunities in education globally.

## Nadi Utsav 2024 inaugurated at IGNCA on 19th September in New Delhi

- Celebrating the significance of India's rivers, Nadi Utsav 2024 was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts – IGNCA in New Delhi
- The 5th edition of the festival is being celebrated under the theme 'Rivers in Reverse: Making of a Lifeline'
- Kangsabati River (also variously known as the Kasai and Cossye) rises from the Chota Nagpur plateau in the state of West Bengal

#### Ministry of Tourism develops first ever nation-wide Intellectual Property, 'Dekho Apna Desh, People's Choice Contest 2024



- Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India has developed the first-ever nation-wide IP (Intellectual Property), 'Dekho Apna Desh, People's Choice 2024' to understand the pulse of 'Bharat ki Janta'.
- The initiative was launched by the PM Narendra Modi on 7th March, 2024 in Srinagar.
- Voting is open until 15th September, 2024.
- The aim of the nation-wide poll is to engage with citizens to identify most preferred tourist attractions and understand tourist perceptions across 5 tourism categories - Spiritual, Cultural & Heritage, Nature & Wildlife, Adventure and others.

#### PM Modi Chairs Inaugural Governing Board Meeting of Anusandhan National Research Foundation in New Delhi

 Prime Minister Narendra Modi is chairing the first Governing Board meeting of the newly formed Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) in New Delhi.  ANRF was established on the recommendation of National Education Policy 2020.



- Established under the ANRF Act, 2023, the foundation aims to fund, coordinate, and promote research across India's universities and colleges.
- With a total budget of Rs 50,000 crore over five years, the government's contribution is Rs 14,000 crore, while the rest must be raised from nongovernmental sources like industry and philanthropists.

#### LS Speaker Om Birla inaugurates 'Panchayat Se Parliament Tak' programme



- This programme was hosted by the Parliament for 500 women representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies at the Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi.
- Aimed at empowering and supporting women grassroot leaders

#### NITI Aayog hosts National Workshop on "Harnessing Potential of Fisheries in Marine States"



- Organized by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Government of Kerala and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi, Kerala.
- It brought together key stakeholders from central and state governments, researchers, industry representatives, and practitioners.

 Discussion on marine fisheries' full growth potential as a mass-employment generator and foreign exchange earner for India.

#### **NITI Aayog**

- Serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India
- Formation 1 January 2015.
- NITI Aayog Chairperson Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson: Suman Bery

#### **India International Science Festival 2023**





- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India is organizing the 9th edition of IISF 2023
- From Jan 17-20, 2024
- Theme is "Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal".
- Host: Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) –
   Translational Health Science and Technology
   Institute (THSTI) located in Faridabad (Haryana) is the host institute of the grand event.
- This time, 22 countries are also participating at IISF 2023.
- IISF is the largest science festival which brings together and connects all the segments of society.
   This has been organised since 2015

## PM Modi to Inaugurate 27<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the National Youth Festival at Nashik, Maharashtra on 12th January.
- Theme "MYBharat-ViksitBharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth"
- During his Maharashtra visit, Prime Minister will also inaugurate 'Bharat Ratnam', a Mega Common Facilitation Centre for the Gems and Jewellery

- sector at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone- Special Economic Zone (SEEPZ SEZ).
- The Prime Minister will launch Namo Mahila
   Shashaktikaran Abhiyaan, which aims to empower women in the State by providing skill development training and exposure to entrepreneurship development.

### 2023 National Street Food Festival Concludes in New Delhi



- organized by National Association of Street Vendors of India NASVI.
- Took place from December 29–31, 2023.
- It is the first Zero Waste Street Food Festival in India.

## Wings India 2024 event held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad

- from January 18–21, 2024
- Organised by Airports Authority of India in collaboration with the Ministry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in Hyderabad.
- the biggest civil aviation show in Asia, will be showcasing an array of new-generation aircraft displays, allied aviation services, auxiliary unit industries, and advancements in the tourism sector.
- Main theme 'Connecting India with the World in Amritkal'
- Boeing aircraft, 777-9 and the new Airbus A350 will be displayed for the first time at the Wings India air show in Hyderabad.
- Sarang helicopter team from the Indian Air Force (IAF)will be performing various manoeuvres in the Begumpet area and over the Hussainsagar Lake.

## Second edition of India Energy Week scheduled to take place in Goa

- · From 6th to 9th of February
- participation of Energy ministers from 17 different countries, over 35 thousand attendees, and more than 900 exhibitors.

- The special Make in India Pavilion will be organized to showcase innovative solutions of Indian MSMEs in the energy sector.
- six countries namely Canada, Germany, Russia, the Netherlands, the UK, and the USA will set up their pavilions at the event.





## Sagar Parikrama (Phase X) event being organized from 1st January 2024 to 6th January 2024



- at various locations of Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying - Parshottam Rupala - to participate in the event
- Union Minister will distribute Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to beneficiaries like fishermen, aqua farmers and other stakeholders.

#### Ministry of Women and Child Development Organizes 'Poshan Utsav: Celebrating Nutrition' in Delhi



 The event was graced by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani and Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

- The event witnessed the launch of the "Poshan Utsav Book" and a Cartoon Coalition aimed at promoting the POSHAN cause.
- A memorandum of understanding was also exchanged to develop comic books in collaboration with Amar Chitra Katha, to raise awareness about nutrition across the country.
- Poshan Utsav, conceived as a celebratory fair under the POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2018.
- serves as a platform to advocate holistic nutrition, particularly targeting young children and women.
- The initiative aims to sensitize them to age-appropriate good health practices, effectively combating the



challenges of malnutrition prevalent in the country.

## **WAVES Anime and Manga Contest Launched**





- The Information & Broadcasting Ministry, in collaboration with the Media & Entertainment Association of India (MEAI), has officially launched the WAVES Anime & Manga Contest.
- It aims to nurture local talent and tap into the growing interest in Japanese manga and anime among Indian audiences.

- The Government is gearing up to host the inaugural World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) to bolster India's media and entertainment industry and extend its global influence.
- The Summit is being held in Goa from November
   20th to November 25th this year.

#### PM Narendra Modi virtually addresses first International Solar Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the twoday first International Solar Festival through video conferencing, being held in New Delhi.
- India's solar energy capacity has increased 32-fold in the last 10 years, and this speed and scale will help the country achieve 500 gigaatt non-fossil capacity by 2030.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an intergovernmental organization that was launched in 2015
- By the Prime Minister of India and the President of France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris.
- The idea for the One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative was put forth by India in 2018.
- All member states of the United Nations are eligible to join the ISA.
- Headquarter: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.

## Global Textiles Expo 'Bharat Tex 2025' to held from February 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> next year



- It will be a global scale textile trade fair and knowledge platform.
- being organised by a consortium of Textile Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and supported by the Ministry of Textiles.

### Aatmnirbhar Bharat Utsav Inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi



- Hosted by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the Aatmnirbhar Bharat Utsav
- The Ustav, from 3- 10 Jan, will showcase and celebrate the stride made towards self-reliance in the country.

#### DoNER Ministry to host the first edition of Uttar Purvi Mahotsav in New Delhi

- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern
  Region (DoNER) will organise Uttar Purvi Mahotsav
  2024 from January 13-17 at Bharat Mandapam in
  New Delhi.
- It aims at showcasing the rich diversity of Northeast India, blending traditional arts, crafts and cultures under one vibrant umbrella.

## Amit Shah Addressed (I4C) Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre's First Foundation Day

- In New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> September
- The I4C was established in October 2018 under Ministry of Home Affairs.



Amit Shah also launched key initiatives for the protection against cybercrime :

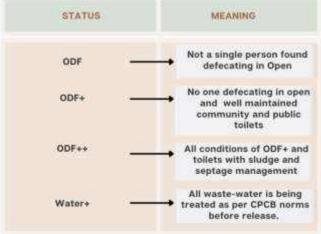
- Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre
- web-based module Samanvaya, a platform for cybercrime data repository, sharing, mapping, and analytics, as well as a coordination tool for law enforcement agencies.
- Cyber Commandos programme, establishing a wing of trained specialists in states and UTs and central police organizations.
- Suspect Registry based on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal in collaboration with banks and financial intermediaries.

## Swacchata Hi Sewa Abhiyan 2024 to begin from Sept 17



- Swacchata Hi Sewa Abhiyan 2024 will be celebrated from 17th September to 2nd October across the country.
- The theme Swabhav Swachhata-Sanskaar Swacchta.
- Swachh Bharat Mission celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.
- the government will transform 2 lakh Cleanliness
   Target Units (CTU) as part of this year's campaign.
- Safai Mitra Suraksha Camps will be organized to provide single-window services for the health and welfare of sanitation workers.
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched on October 2, 2014
- The objective of the Mission was to eliminate open defecation, eradicate manual scavenging, and promote scientific solid waste management.





#### World Food India 2024 in New Delhi



- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is hosting World Food India 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- From 19th to 22nd September 2024
- Featuring over 90 countries, 26 Indian states & 18 government bodies
- Japan participating as partner country
- Vietnam & Iran focus countries.
- First edition of World Food India in 2017

#### An event titled "सक्षम नारी संशक्त भारत -Women in the Workforce for Viksit Bharat" organized at Bharat Mandapam



- Jointly organized by Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Labour & Employment
- at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 30<sup>th</sup> January,2024.
- Chaired by the Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smriti Zubin Irani, and the Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav
- 'The launch of an advisory by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to employers to promote gender equality and women work force participation
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued advisories for women workforce participation and their safety security in the building, construction & highways sectors respectively.

- Industry Pledge by more than 1000 companies on increasing women participation in workforce and sharing of their success stories towards this.
- "National Minimum Standards and Protocol for Crèches (Operation and Management)" launched, prepared by the Ministry of Women & Child Development

### Textile ministry to host 'One Bharat Sari Walkathon' in Kota

- At Kota, Rajasthan on , 4th February 2024
- as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav taking place from February 3 to 8.
- The initiative aims to promote fitness awareness among women, encouraging them to lead healthier lives, while also celebrating the rich textile heritage of India.

#### **Sarees & States**

| Saree                    | State          |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Pochampally (Ikat)       | Telangana      |
| Chanderi                 | Madhya pradesh |
| Baluchari and Tant       | West Bengal    |
| Banarasi                 | Uttar Pradesh  |
| Kanjivaram Silk Saree    | Tamil nadu     |
| Sambalpuri, Bomkai Saree | Odisha         |
| Paithani, Nauvari Saree  | Maharashtra    |
| Kasavu                   | Kerala         |
| Muga saree               | Assam          |

## **'SMART 2.0'** launched for Ayurveda Teaching Professionals

- The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) along with National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) has launched 'SMART 2.0' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching professionals) program
- to promote robust clinical studies in priority areas of Ayurveda with Ayurveda academic institutions/hospitals across the country
- The objective of 'SMART 2.0' is to generate a tangible evidence to demonstrate efficacy and safety of Ayurveda interventions using interdisciplinary research methods and translating it into public health care.
- Under the 'SMART 1.0', around 10 diseases were covered with the active participation of teaching professionals from 38 colleges.

#### 'Startup Mahakumbh' 2024 in March



- Startup Mahakumbh, a 3-day exhibition of startups across domains, will be organized from March 18-20. 2024
- · Theme- 'Bharat Innovates'
- Organised by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at Bharat Mandapam and Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
- During the curtain raiser of 'Startup Mahakumbh',
   Union Minister of Commerce and Industry,
   Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and
   Textiles, Piyush Goyal launched Bharat Startup
   Ecosystem Registry and the website and logo of
   Startup Mahakumbh

## President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate a day-long 'Purple Fest' at Amrit Udyaan in Rashtrapati Bhawan



- President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a day long 'Purple Fest' at Amrit Udyaan in Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is organizing the Purple Fest.
- after the success of 'International Purple Fest, 2024' at Goa in January.
- The key activities at 'Purple Fest' will be Amrit
  Udyaan visit, Know your Disabilities, Purple Cafe,
  Purple Kaleidoscope, Purple Live Experience Zone,
  and Purple Sports.

#### President Of India Inaugurates Aadi Mahotsav



- at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- with aim to showcase the rich diversity of India's tribal heritage. This year this festival is being organized from February 10 to 18, 2024.
- The Aadi Mahotsav is being organized by TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs

#### 25 years to India's largest theatre festival 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav'

Bharat Rang
 Mahotsav, also
 known as the
 National Theatre
 Festival, is India's
 largest theatre
 festival



- It's a 21 days annual event that takes place across 15 cities in India and features over 150 plays, workshops, and discussions.
- 25<sup>th</sup> 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav was launched in Mumbai
- National School of Drama (NSD) in New Delhi started the festival in 1999 to showcase the work of Indian theater practitioners.

## Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated two-day ULLAS Mela in New Delhi



Department of School Education and Literacy,
Ministry of Education organised ULLAS Mela on 6th7th February, 2024 in collaboration with Cell for
National Centre for Literacy (CNCL), NCERT

- to showcase various National and State level activities under ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.
- To achieve the target of 100% literacy by 2030, the Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored innovative scheme called Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Program for the period of FYs 2022-2027.
- The scheme is popularly known as ULLAS:
   Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society,
   upholding the motto "Jan-Jan Sakshar".
- The scheme, in line with NEP 2020, targets all nonliterates of age 15 years and above.

#### IIT Delhi And Prasar Bharati To Host Two-Day Robot Competition 'DD-Robocon' India 2024 In Delhi

- at Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi.
- The event will host more than 750 students from over 45 colleges, institutions, and universities in the country.
- The winning team from DD-Robocon will represent India at the international Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Robocon 2024, which will take place in QuangNinh, Vietnam.

## AllA hosted 'Saushrutam 2024' with live surgical demonstrations

- The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi successfully concluded its Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti, marking the celebration of Sushruta Jayanti-2024 (15 July).
- Sushruta Ancient physician from Kashi (Varanasi) known as the Father of Indian Medicine and Father of Surgery.
- Author of Sushruta Samhita (written in Sanskrit), one of the Great Trilogy of Ayurvedic Medicine (Others being Charaka Samhita by Maharishi Charak and Astanga Hridaya by Vagabhata).

## Empowering Indian Startups in AI, Microsoft and iCreate Launch iMPEL-AI Program



- International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate), Microsoft signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) facilitated by the Ministry of Electronics & IT to boost AI startups in India.
- Launched iMPEL-AI (iCreate-Microsoft programme for Emerging Leaders in Artificial Intelligence) programme.
- The program will screen 1100 Al innovators across India to become Al Most Valuable Players (MVPs).
- Focus on priority themes Healthcare, Financial Inclusion, Sustainability, Education, Agriculture, and Smart Cities.
- In the second stage, the program will select and scale 100 startups across India to build with Azure OpenAI.
- The top 25 will receive go-to- market support from Microsoft's Global Network to develop advanced, globally competitive products.

#### Sashakt Nari - Viksit Bharat programme



- During the programme, the Prime Minister handed over drones to 1000 Namo Drone Didis
- The 'Namo Drone Didi' scheme is aimed at empowering rural women by training them to be drone pilots and making them integral stakeholders of local farming supply chains
- PM said that over 1 crore women have become
   'Lakhpati Didis' due to various government schemes

#### Lakhpati Didi Initiative

- announced by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2023.
- Objective: To encourage women to start microenterprises within their villages.
- Under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative, the **government** aims to train 3 crore women.
- The programme is aimed at training women in selfhelp groups (SHGs) so that they can earn a sustainable income of at least Rs 1 lakh per annum per household.
- initiated by DAY-NRLM
- (DAY-NRLM) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission

## Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme



 extending financial support for the meritorious students of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) schools who lack means.

### Operalia, the global opera competition, to be held in India for the first time



 Mumbai Operalia—one of the world's biggest opera singing competitions—is coming to Mumbai's National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) this September

## 16<sup>th</sup> National Youth Parliament Competition

- The students of Central University of Punjab,
   Bathinda which stood first at National Level in the 16<sup>th</sup> National Youth Parliament Competition.
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been organising Youth Parliament Competitions for Universities/Colleges for the past 27 years.
- The competition took place at the GMC Balayogi Auditorium in the Parliament Library Building, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi

#### Global Expo 2024 in New Delhi

- The 3-day exhibition on automotive technology, parts, components, and electric vehicle charging will take place from February 1–3, 2024 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi
- The Expo is India's first global mobility expo and will feature over 800 exhibitors from across India and the world.

- The event will see over 1 lakh visitors
- The Expo will host exhibition, conferences and other events including a CEO Conclave.



#### Secretary Ministry Of AYUSH Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha Inaugurates Yoga Mahotsav 2024



- celebrating the 100-day countdown to this year's International Day of Yoga.
- June 21 was declared as the International Yoga Day by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Theme of Yoga Mahotsav 2024 "Yoga for Women Empowerment"

#### Nation's Biggest Skill Competition, IndiaSkills 2024 inaugurated in New Delhi



- Organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- Lasting 4 days, IndiaSkills will feature competitions in 61 skills, ranging from traditional crafts to modern technologies.

- Participants have been trained in various institutions including ITIs, NSTIs, Polytechnics, engineering institutes, nursing institutes, and biotechnology institutes, reflecting the high-quality training available in India's skill network.
- Winners of IndiaSkills will receive training from industry experts to prepare for the WorldSkills Competition in Lyon, France, in September 2024, where they will compete with representatives from over 70 countries.
- The competition also introduces a new competition information system called Qrencia.

#### Department Of School Education And Literacy To Observe Shiksha Saptah From 22 July



- The Department of School Education and Literacy will observe Shiksha Saptah starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, which will continue until the 28th of July.
- The aim of Shiksha Saptah is to promote collaboration and the impactful educational reforms introduced by National Education Policy 2020 among students, educators, and stakeholders.
- During the week theme based days will be observed.
- It includes Teaching-Learning Material Day,
   Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Day, Sports
   Day and Cultural Day.

#### NITI Aayog & WIPO To Build Joint Programs Towards Innovation, Entrepreneurship & IP For Global South

- NITI Aayog signed a Joint Letter of Intent (JLoI) with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) under its Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
- aimed at building programs for innovation,
   entrepreneurship and intellectual property (IP) for countries in the global south.



- Will enhance understanding and awareness about IPR right from the school-level and unlock the innovation potential of the world as well as foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- WIPO is the nodal institution that releases the Global Innovation Index (GII) annually.
- As per the GII 2023 report, India had retained the 40th position of 132 economies featured in the GII ranking.

## NITI Aayog launches 15-day 'Jal Utsav' to create awareness and sensitivity towards water conservation

- 15 day 'Jal Utsav' starting to create awareness and sensitivity towards water management, conservation and sustainability.
- November 6-24, 2024
- 'Jal Utsav' is on the lines of 'Nadi Utsav' during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chief Secretaries Conference held in December, 2023.



 Jal Utsav is being implemented in 20 Aspirational Districts/Blocks in partnership with National Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti  They would also launch "Fact Sheet on Jal Sampada (water assets)" of their respective blocks and districts.

## Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to inaugurate 12th edition of International Tourism Mart

- The 12th edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM) for the northeastern region commenced in Assam's Kaziranga and will conclude on November 29.
- An annual event organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India,
- Designed to highlight the tourism potential of the North Eastern region for both domestic and international audiences.
- This event serves as a vital platform, bringing together tourism businesses and entrepreneurs from the eight North Eastern States--Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim
- To foster collaboration and interactions among buyers, sellers, media, government agencies, and other stakeholders.

#### PM Modi inaugurated Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav showcasing cultural fabric of North-East



- On 6th December at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The three-day cultural festival, being celebrated for the first time - held from 6th to 8th December.
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, and Sikkim are also referred to as the 'Ashtalakshmi' or eight forms of prosperity
- The 'Mahotsav' will provide an unprecedented platform to showcase the region's vibrant textile industry, artisanal crafts and unique Geographical Indication (GI) products
- The Union Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, also released the mascot for Asthalakshmi Mahotsav-Purvi (a girl, and she is wearing attire that represents the elements of the eight states of the North East).

### IIT Jammu to host grand finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024 from Dec 11



- Smart India Hackathon a **nationwide initiative** that brings together the brightest young minds **for developing innovative solutions to critical issues.**
- This year, 30 teams will compete in the grand finale to address vital cybersecurity challenges posed by the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Center (NCIIPC)
- The seventh edition of the Smart India Hackathon (Software Edition), organised by the Union Ministry of Education, will commence on December 11 across 51 nodal centres nationwide, with IIT-Jammu playing a prominent role as one of the hosts.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> edition of India Internet Governance Forum



- The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF)
  2024 held on December 9-10, 2024, at the Bharat
  Mandapam Convention Center, Pragati Maidan,
  New Delhi.
- to advance a secure, inclusive, and sustainable digital ecosystem
- Supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI),
- theme "Innovating Internet Governance for India."
- The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) is the Indian chapter of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF), a global multistakeholder platform that fosters dialogue on public policy issues related to the Internet.
- Established in 2021

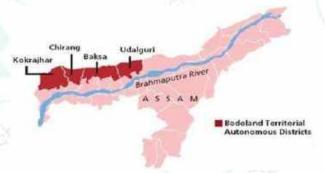
## Ministry of Culture presents a special festival series titled 'Amrit Parampara'



- External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar inagurated
   'Kaveri Meets Ganga' First Programme under
   Amrit Parampara festival series held from 2nd to
   5th November 2024 at Delhi
- Kaveri Meets Ganga' is bringing the best of dance and musical traditions from South India to North India

### PM to inaugurate the 1<sup>st</sup> Bodoland Mohotsov at Delhi

- on 15th November at SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi.
- The two day Mahotsav on 15th and 16th November.
- The theme 'Peace and Harmony for Prosperous Bharat'
- It is a mega event on language, literature, and culture to sustain peace and build a Vibrant Bodo Society.
- It aims to integrate the indigenous Bodo people
  residing not only in Bodoland but also in other parts
  of Assam, West Bengal, Nepal, and other
  international border areas of the North East.
- Population: Bodos are the single largest community among the notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam
- They constitute about 5-6% of Assam's population.



#### **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)**

- It is an autonomous region in the state of Assam
- It is made up of four districts (Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri) on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river, by the foothills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.

## Panchayati Raj Ministry organized One-Day Finance Commissions Conclave on Devolution to Development

- Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) organized a One-Day Finance Commissions Conclave – Devolution to Development at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on November 14th, 2024.
- The Conclave held under the leadership of Dr.
   Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission

# Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the "Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network" (VISION)

aimed at nurturing education, skill development, and innovation among underprivileged children.



#### NATIONAL PARK AND WLS

Cheetah Sourcing for Wildlife Sanctuary
Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary
India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve
Kuno National Park
Project Cheetah

## India, Kenya to Discuss Cheetah Sourcing for Wildlife Sanctuary

 INDIA is likely to host a delegation of Kenyan officials later this month to explore the possibility of sourcing cheetahs from Kenya for the next phase of Project Cheetah

- The Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was chosen as the second site for reintroduction of cheetahs last year.
- Project Cheetah, India's ambitious attempt to introduce African cheetahs in the wild in the country, was launched in September 2022.





- Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district is home to 27 cheetahs (13 adults and 14 cubs) translocated from Namibia and South Africa. 10 cheetahs have died so far owing to illnesses and infections.
- As part of Project Cheetah, India plans to introduce 8 to 14 cheetahs annually for five years, subject to availability.

#### **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**



- It is situated in northwestern Madhya Pradesh, with one of its boundaries running along the border of Rajasthan.
- The sanctuary was notified in 1974
- River Chambal flows through the sanctuary, dividing it into two parts.

Environmentalists Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana create India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve



- India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve, "Rajaji Raghati Biosphere (RRB)" is a 35-acre private forest initiative led by ecologist Vijay Dhasmana, who is known for restoring the Aravalli landscapes
- Situated within the Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand, the biosphere overlooks the rocky white Raghati riverbed, nestled in the Shivalik foothills.
- The duo and their team conducted extensive surveys to identify suitable native plant species, especially those rare or disappearing in the region.

### Four cubs born to Namibian cheetah at Kuno National Park



- Namibian Cheetah named Jwala has given birth to three cubs
- Few weeks earlier Namibian Cheetah Aasha gave birth to her cubs.
- the total number of cheetahs at the Kuno NP currently stands at 20 (six males, seven females and seven cubs).
- Cheetah females have a gestation period of 92-95 days; and will give birth to a litter of approximately three or five cubs.

#### **Project Cheetah**

- World's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.
- Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India formally commenced on September 17, 2022
- To restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared extinct in the country in 1952.
- The project involves the translocation of cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh
- The first batch of 8 cheetahs was introduced in India from Namibia in September 2022.
- The second batch of 12 cheetahs was flown in from South Africa in February 2023.

#### KUNO NATIONAL PARK



- Kuno National Park lies in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh in Central India near the Vindhyan Hills.
- Named after Kuno River (one of the main tributaries of Chambal River)

#### **National Parks In MP**

| Kanha National Park       |
|---------------------------|
| Bandhavgarh National Park |
| Madhav National Park      |
| Sanjay National Park      |
| Van Vihar National Park   |
| Panna National Park       |
| Satpura National Park     |
| Pench National Park       |
| Fossils National Park     |
| Dinosaur fossil park      |
| Kuno National Park        |

#### **ELEPHANT AND TIGER RESERVE**

#### Rajaji Tiger Reserve

Arignar Anna Zoological Park

India's 1<sup>st</sup> Dolphin Research Centre
International Big Cat Alliance

## Hog Deer Spotted For First Time In Chilla Range of Uttarakhand's Rajaji Tiger Reserve

- Hog deer, also known as the Pada, is an endangered species according to the IUCN Red List.
- It is also protected under the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972.

#### About Rajaji Tiger Reserve:



- Rajaji National Park and tiger reserve is spread over three districts of Uttarakhand: Haridwar, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal.
- It is situated along the hills and foothills of the Shiwalik ranges

## Arignar Anna Zoological Park gets 3 new bird species from Kanpur in animal exchange programme



- The Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP), Vandalur has received:
  - a pair of Egyptian vultures ('endangered' in India)
  - three Himalayan griffons
  - five mottled wood owls
  - Established in 1855, AAZP is one of the largest and oldest zoos in the country.
- located on the outskirts of Chennai city



- AAZP in exchange, has provided to the Kanpur zoo
  - a pair of reticulated pythons
  - two pairs of mouse deer
  - three ostriches
  - > a pair of green iguanas
  - a male grey wolf to Kanpur zoo





## India's 1<sup>st</sup> Dolphin Research Centre Inaugurated In Patna



- Inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar
- Built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, the National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) stands on the banks of the Ganges inside the Patna University campus
- It will help students and researchers understand the behaviour of freshwater dolphins, particularly of those found in the Ganges.
- The Gangetic River Dolphin (Platanista gangetica) was declared the national aquatic animal in the year 2009.

 The NDRC project was approved in 2013 on the request of Professor R.K. Sinha — also known as the Dolphin Man of India



- The Ganges dolphin was officially discovered in the year 1801.
- They live in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India and Bangladesh.
- According to a count conducted by the Bihar government, there were 1,048 dolphins in the Ganges in 2018.

#### **Gangetic Dolphin**

- Essentially blind. They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds.
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule I
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix 1
- Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) in Bhagalpur, Bihar is the only dolphin sanctuary in India and crucial for the conservation of the Endangered Gangetic river dolphin

## Establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)



- Union Cabinet approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India
- with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.
- 16 of 96 'big cat' countries have signed on so far

- PM Modi during his speech on the occasion of Global Tiger Day, 2019 called for an Alliance of Global Leaders to curb poaching in Asia.
- The India-headquartered alliance was conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries and others to establish a common platform for conservation.
- Out of the seven big cats (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah), barring the puma and jaguar, the rest 5 are found in India

Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh notified as 57th Tiger Reserve of India



- Ratapani Tiger Reserve has a core area of 763.8 sq km, buffer area of 507.6 sq km and total area of 1271.4 sq km.
- 8th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh (after Kanha, Satpura, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Sanjay Dubri, Panna and Veerangana Durgavati).
- Location: Spanning Raisen and Sehore districts

| 54 <sup>th</sup> | Veerangana    | Madhya       | 2023 | 1414.28  |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|------|----------|
| 20               | Durgavati     | Pradesh      |      |          |
| - 10             | Tiger Reserve |              | ě.   |          |
| 55 <sup>th</sup> | Dholpur-      | Rajasthan    | 2023 | 599.64   |
| 2                | Karauli Tiger |              | 7.   | .60      |
|                  | Reserve       | 100          | / 16 | 301      |
| 56 <sup>th</sup> | Guru          | Chhattisgarh | 2024 | 2,829.38 |
|                  | Ghasidas-     | 205          | _    |          |
|                  | Tamor Pingla  | 300.         |      |          |
|                  | Tiger Reserve | 00           |      |          |

- The tiger reserves in India were set up as a part of Project Tiger initiated in 1973 and are administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) of Government of India.
- As per the 'Status of Tigers: Co-predators & Prey in India-2022' report released by the NTCA and Wildlife Institute of India, the tiger population in Madhya Pradesh is estimated to be 785, the highest in the country, followed by Karnataka-563 and Uttarakhand-560

#### **WORLD HERITAGE SITES**

**Moidams Of Assam** 

**Maratha Military Landscapes** 

**UNESCO's Memory of the World Register** 

Novel Sultana's Dream part of UNESCO's "Memory of the World"







## Moidams Of Assam Receives Prestigious 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site Tag In Cultural Category

- Assam's 'Moidams', the burial grounds for Ahom dynasty, have found their place of pride in the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list under the 'Cultural Property' category.
- The Charaideo Moidam is the first from the northeast and the 43rd from India to be recognised as a World Heritage Site [In cultural category].
- Assam has two other such sites in the natural category Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, both upgraded to tiger reserves.
- Out of the 386 moidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative

#### What are Moidams?

- A moidam or "home for spirit," is a tumulus a mound of earth raised over a grave – of Ahom royalty and aristocracy. Moidams in Assam are mostly found in the Charaideo district. [The site, set in the foothills of the Patkai Ranges in Assam]
- The Tai Ahom, who arrived in Assam in the 13th century, constructed moidams for the royal families initially with wood and later with stone and burnt bricks
- The Tai Ahom considered their rulers divine and developed a distinct funerary tradition of constructing moidams for royal burials.
- There are 90 Moidams found mainly in the foothills of the Patkai Ranges in eastern Assam.
- Tai-Ahom created moidams (burial mounds) in the hills, forests and water, forming a sacred geographical area. <u>Banyan trees</u> were used for coffins, and bark manuscripts were planted in the Moidams
- In Assam, while Charaideo contains ones of Ahom royals, other moidams of aristocrats and chiefs can be found scattered across the eastern part of the state, between Jorhat and Dibrugarh.
- India is hosting the <u>World Heritage Committee Meeting</u> for the first time. It takes place from 21 to 31 July 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The World Heritage Committee meets annually and is responsible for managing all matters on World Heritage and deciding on sites to be inscribed on the World Heritage list.

## UNESCO Adds 25 New Sites To World Heritage List During 46th World Heritage Committee Session

- 19 of these sites have been inducted as Cultural Heritage Sites, while 4 have been inducted under the Natural category and 2 under the "Mixed" category.
- India's Moidams of Assam was inducted as India's 43rd World Heritage Site.
- The Moidams has propelled the nation at the 6th position globally for the most number of World Heritage Properties.

## 'Maratha Military Landscapes' to be India's nomination for UNESCO tag for 2024-25



 The 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' was included in the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2021.

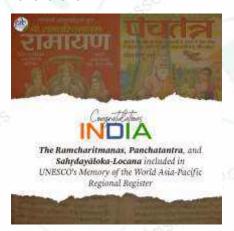


- The 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India', which developed between 17th and 19th centuries, represent an extraordinary fortification and military system envisioned by the Maratha rulers
- There are more than 390 forts in Maharashtra, out of which only 12 forts are selected under the 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India', and 8 of these forts are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- 12 components of this nomination are— Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay Durg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, and Gingee fort in Tamil Nadu.
- महाराष्ट्र में सलहेर किला, शिवनेरी किला, लोहगढ़, खंडेरी किला, रायगढ़, राजगढ़, प्रतापगढ़, सुवर्णदुर्ग, पन्हाला किला, विजय दुर्ग और सिंधुदुर्ग और तिमलनाडु में जिंजी किला
- This extraordinary network of forts are distinctive to the Sahyadri mountain ranges, the Konkan Coast,
   Deccan Plateau and the Eastern Ghats in the Indian Peninsula
- At present, there are 42 World Heritage Sites in India, out of which 34 are cultural sites, 7 are natural sites whereas 1 is mixed site.
- In Maharashtra, 6 sites have a UNESCO tag— five cultural and one natural:
  - Ajanta Caves (inscribed in 1983), Ellora Caves (1983), Elephanta Caves (1987),
  - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004),
  - Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (2018), and
  - Western Ghats of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala in natural category (2012)

## UNESCO adds three Indian literary masterpieces to Memory of the World Register

- The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana have been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.
- The register highlights the significance of preserving and celebrating diverse narratives and artistic expressions that shape our shared humanity

- Ramcharitmanas was authored by Goswami Tulsidas
- > Panchatantra by Pandit Vishnu Sharma
- Sahṛdayaloka-Locana by Acharya Anandvardhan



#### UNESCO Recognizes Feminist Utopian Novel Sultana's Dream as part of "Memory of the World"

- Sultana's Dream, the utopian novel of a world without men written by Bengali author Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain in 1905 British India (no Bangladesh), has been recognised by UNESCO as part of its Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Committee (MOWCAP)
- The Memory of the World Programme of the UNESCO aims to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, particularly in areas affected by conflict and/or natural disaster.



#### Ramayan & Ramcharitmanas

#### Ramayana

- Written by: Sage Valmiki
- Language: Sanskrit
- Traditionally dated between the 7th to 4th centuries BCE, though estimates vary.

#### Ramcharitmanas

- Written by: Goswami Tulsidas
- Language: Awadhi, a dialect of Hindi
- Written in the 16th century CE, specifically around 1574-1576.

#### SUPREME COURT

#### **New 'Lady Justice' Statue**

law on prohibition of child marriages prevail over Personal Laws

Aadhaar card not valid document to determine age

Breastfeeding a part of right to life

**Lok Adalat** 

new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court

Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC)

23<sup>rd</sup> Law Commission

**Electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional** 

Right against climate change is interlinked to

Articles 21 and 14

**Gender Sensitisation Committee** 

sub-classification within Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes

Delhi L-G's power to appoint

**Constitutional Validity of Section 6A** 

## 'Unconstitutional': SC on caste-based division of labour in prisons



- The bench comprising Chief Justice D Y
   Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj
   Misra
- Plea filed by journalist Sukanya Shantha challenged various provisions in state prison manuals on the grounds of being violative of Articles 14, 15, 17, 21, and 23 of the Constitution of India.
- The Supreme Court set aside caste-based discriminatory provisions in almost a dozen states' prison manuals, which included segregation of prisoners in separate barracks based on their caste.

#### **Supreme Court Unveils New 'Lady Justice' Statue**

The new 'Lady Justice' statue removes the blindfold and



The sword in her hand is also replaced by the constitution.

replaces the sword with the Constitution, focused on equality under constitutional law.

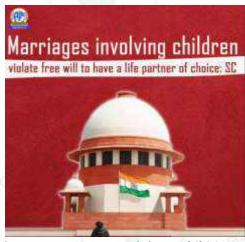
- The move was led by Chief Justice of India DY
   Chandrachud, who emphasized that "the law is not blind;
   it sees everyone equally."
- Shedding its colonial past, this transformation emphasizes transparency, accountability, and a commitment to upholding constitutional values, reflecting the evolving nature of justice in India today.
  - It termed "unconstitutional" rules in jail manuals mandating that only upper castes cook food,
     Scheduled Castes, especially Mehtars clean toilets, and discriminate on the basis of caste against convicts from denotified tribes and 'habitual offenders'.
  - The Court further observed that treating prisoners without dignity is a colonial legacy that must be abolished and that prisoners should be treated humanely by jail officials.
  - It directed states to amend their prison manuals within three months, and submit compliance reports.

| Article        | Provision                               |
|----------------|---|
| Equality       | This article guarantees that the state  |
| before law     | shall not deny any person equality      |
| (Article 14)   | before the law and the equal            |
| . 27           | protection of the laws within India     |
| Prohibition of | The state cannot discriminate           |
| discrimination | against citizens based on their         |
| on certain     | religion, race, caste, sex, or place of |
| grounds        | birth. It ensures that no citizen shall |
| (Article 15)   | be subjected to any disability,         |
| 130            | liability, or restriction on these      |
|                | grounds.                                |

| Article | Provision |
|---------|-----------|

| Abolition of     | This article abolishes               |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| untouchability   | untouchability in any form.          |
| (Article 17)     | 200                                  |
| Protection of    | It says that no one can be           |
| life and         | deprived of his or her life or       |
| personal liberty | personal liberty except according    |
| (Article 21)     | to the procedure established by      |
|                  | law.                                 |
| Prohibition of   | It says that trafficking in human    |
| traffic in human | beings and beggars, as well as       |
| beings and       | other forms of forced labour, is     |
| forced labour    | prohibited, and any violation of     |
| (Article 23)     | this provision is punishable by law. |

## SC rules that law on prohibition of child marriages will prevail over Personal Laws



- The Supreme Court said the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act cannot be stunted by traditions under any personal law and observed marriages involving children violate the free will to choose a life partner.
- A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y
   Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj
   Misra further issued a slew of guidelines for the effective implementation of the law on prevention of child marriages in the country.

## Aadhaar card not valid document to determine age: Supreme Court





- A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and Ujjal Bhuyan said the age of the deceased person had to be determined from the date of birth mentioned in the school leaving certificate.
- Aadhaar Card, while can be used to establish identity, is not per se proof of date of birth.
- the top court was hearing an appeal filed by relatives of a man who died in a road accident in 2015.
- The Supreme Court set aside an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which had accepted Aadhaar card for determining the age of a road accident victim to grant compensation.
- upheld the judgment of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT), which calculated the deceased's age on the basis of his school leaving certificate.

### Breastfeeding a part of right to life under Constitution: Kerala HC

- A mother's right to breastfeed and that of a baby to be breastfed are facets of the right to life under
   Article 21 of the Constitution, the Kerala High Court said.
- while quashing an order of a Child Welfare Committee (CWC) handing over custody of a breastfeeding infant to the father.

| Articles Related to Fundamental Rights (Articles 12-35) |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   |  |  |
| Defines 'State' and covers the                          |  |  |
| government and parliament of India                      |  |  |
| and state governments.                                  |  |  |
| Laws inconsistent with or in derogation                 |  |  |
| of the fundamental rights.                              |  |  |
|   |  |  |

#### The six fundamental rights are:

- 1. Right to equality (Article 14–18)
- 2. Right to freedom (Article 19-22)
- 3. Right against exploitation (Article 23–24)
- 4. Right to freedom of religion (Article 25-28)
- 5. Cultural and educational rights (Article 29–30)
- 6. Right to constitutional remedies (Article 32–35)

## SC to organise Special Lok Adalat from 29th July to 3rd August 2024

- In a significant move to clear pending cases and promote amicable settlements, the Supreme Court will organise Special Lok Adalat from 29th July to 3rd August 2024.
- This initiative marks a milestone in the Supreme Court's 75th year of establishment.

 Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has appealed to citizens whose cases are pending before the Apex Court to take benefit from this initiative.



#### **About Lok Adalat:**

- It is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms in India.
- It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at the pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.
- The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- Lok Adalats can be organized at the district, state, and national levels.
- Lok Adalat can make awards/decisions, which are deemed to be a decree of a civil court and are final and binding on all the parties concerned.
- Provided that any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under the law shall not be settled in Lok Adalat.
- The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, was amended in 2002 to provide for the establishment of the Permanent Lok Adalats to deal with cases pertaining to public utility services like transport, postal, telegraph, etc.
- These have been set up as permanent bodies and consists of a Chairman and two members

# SC Directs Centre To Frame Model Policy On Menstrual Leave By Holding Consultations With States & Other Stakeholders

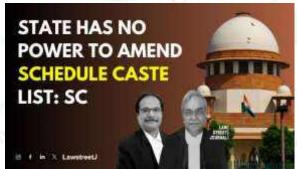
Responding to a PIL, the bench comprising Chief
 Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala
 and Manoj Misra said the issue related to policy
 and was not an issue for the courts to look into.

#### **Arguments:**



- Having that menstrual leave policy encourages the women to be part of the workforce;
- But it may prove to be counterproductive and "detrimental" to the cause as employers may avoid employing them.
- Asian countries like Japan and Indonesia have accepted menstrual leave policies.
- United Kingdom, Wales, Spain, Zambia, China, Taiwan and South Korea too have introduced menstrual leave policies for women in the workplace.

## States cannot tinker with Scheduled Castes List, Supreme Court holds



- Recently, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the states cannot make changes to the Scheduled Caste List published under Article 341 of the Constitution.
- Any inclusion or exclusion of any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within the castes, races or tribes has to be, by law made by the Parliament, and not by any other mode or manner,"
- The judgment came in a challenge by Dr. Bhim Rao
  Ambedkar Vichar Manch, Patna, to a July 1, 2015
  notification issued by the Bihar government, on the
  basis of the recommendation of the State Backward
  Commission to merge the Extremely Backward
  Class of Tanti-Tantwa with the Scheduled Caste of
  Pan/Sawasi in the Scheduled Castes List.

- The merger would enable the Tanti-Tantwa to claim the benefits of Scheduled Castes.
- Clause (1) of Article 341 mandates that the
   President, after consultation with the State
   Governor, may by public notification specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to a State or Union Territory.
- Clause (2) adds that any amendment or alteration or variation to the President's List under Article
   341 have to be made by a parliamentary law alone, and not by any notification.
- "This would mean that neither the Central government or the President can make any amendments or changes in the notification issued under Clause (1) specifying the castes in relation to the States or Union Territory," the Supreme Court underscored.

#### Muslim Woman Entitled To Maintenance From Husband After Divorce: Supreme Court

- In the case of Mohd Abdul Samad v. the State of Telangana, 2024, the Supreme Court (SC) of India said that a Muslim woman is entitled to maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- He has contended that a divorced Muslim woman is not entitled for maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC and has to invoke the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.
- The Court held that this right of a Muslim woman is in addition to the right under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act 1986.
- The bench comprised Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih

## President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court of India



- The new flag and the insignia, symbolizing justice and democracy, were conceptualised by the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi
- The flag features the Ashok Chakra, the Inconic Supreme Court building and the book of the Constitution.

#### **About Supreme Court**

- Article 124 of the Constitution states that "There shall be a Supreme Court of India."
- The Supreme Court came into existence on January 26, 1950, with the coming into force of the Constitution.
- On January, 28, 1950, two days after India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic, the Supreme Court was inaugurated.
- The first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated the present building of the Supreme Court of India on August 4, 1958.

## SC constitutes committee headed by former HC judge Justice Nawab Singh for grievant farmers



- The Supreme Court constituted a committee
  headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court
  judge Justice Nawab Singh to amicably resolve the
  grievances of protesting farmers at the Shambhu
  border between the States of Punjab and Haryana.
- The committee is to convene its first meeting within a week.
- A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan passed the order in a petition filed by the State of Haryana against an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court to remove the blockade at the Shambhu border (which was erected by Haryana to prevent the protesters from marching to Delhi).

## Appointment of CEC, EC: Supreme Court refuses to stay new law; issues notice for hearing in April

- As per the petition: The Centre's new law excluding CJI from a panel to select the CEC and ECs is against the very concept of separation of powers
- The Bench of Supreme Court has issued notice to the Union of India and listed the case for hearing in April.
- The matter concerns 'The CEC and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023'
- The Act states that the President will appoint the CEC and ECs based on the recommendations of a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will include the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of Opposition

## Supreme Court orders constitution of committee in all High Courts for implementation of judicial pay commission



- Observing that there is a need to maintain uniformity in service conditions of judicial officers across the country
- Constitution of a two-judge committee, to be nominated by the Chief Justice, in each high court for overseeing the implementation of the orders on pay, pension and other retirement benefits for judicial officers as per the Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC)
- The Committee shall be called the 'Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary' (CSCDJ)
- The principal functions of the committee to oversee the proper implementation of the recommendations of the SNJPC, including pay, pension, allowances and all allied matters as approved by this Court by its orders.
- Disbursements on account of arrears of salary, pension and allowances due and payable to judicial officers, retired judicial officers and family pensioners shall be computed and paid on or before February 29, 2024.

## Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC)

- SNJPC was set up on 16.11.2017 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice (Retd.) P. Venkatarama Reddi, former Judge of Supreme Court of India.
- SNJPC has submitted their report to this Department on dated 04.02.2020
- The 7th Pay Commission was established in 2014, and its recommendations went into effect in 2016.
- The commission's recommendations are currently used to determine the salaries of central government employees and pensioners.

## Centre notifies constitution of 23<sup>rd</sup> Law Commission



- The Union Ministry of Law and Justice released a notification announcing the establishment of the 23rd Law Commission of India for a period of three years (from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2027).
- Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of Law and Justice (Independent Charge)
- The 23rd Law Commission will comprise of:
  - 1. a full-time Chairperson;
  - four full-time members (including Member-Secretary);
  - Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as an exofficio member;
  - 4. Secretary, legislative department as an ex-officio member;
  - 5. and not more than five part-time members.
- Serving Supreme Court and High Court Judges will be chairperson and members of the Law Commission.

#### **About Law Commission of India:**

- It is a non-statutory body and is an executive bodyconstituted by a notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs with a definite terms of reference
- to carry out research in the field of law and the Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference.

History of Law Commission in India

- The first such Commission was established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833 under the Chairmanship of Lord Macaulay
- The Indian Code of Civil Procedure, the Indian Contract Act, the Indian Evidence Act, the Transfer of Property Act. etc. are products of the first four Law Commissions.
- The Government of India established the first Law Commission in 1955 with the then Attorney-General of India, Mr M. C. Setalvad, as its Chairman.

### Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court of India



- On 28th January, PM Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi.
- Launched citizen-centric multiple technology initiatives, -Digital Supreme Court Reports, Digital Courts 2.0 and a new website of the Supreme Court.
- The Digital Supreme Court Reports (SCR) will make Supreme Court all the judgments since 1950 available to the citizens of the country in a digital format and with open access.
- Digital Courts 2.0 application is a recent initiative under the e-Courts project to make court records available to the Judges of the district courts in electronic form.
- About Supreme Court:
- It came into existence on January 26, 1950, when the Constitution of India came into force.
- Supreme Court's first session was held on January 28, 1950, in the Chamber of Princes.
- In 1958, it moved to its current location on Tilak Marg, New Delhi.
- The Supreme Court of India comprises the Chief Justice and 33 other Judges appointed by the President of India.
- Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the age of 65 years.

## **Supreme Court declared Electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional**



- The Constitutional Bench of Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, has held the electoral bonds scheme is unconstitutional and is violative of Article 19(1)(a).
- In a unanimous verdict, a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court said the electoral bonds scheme, due to its anonymous nature, was violative of the right to information and thus affected free speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution
- To bring in the EB scheme in 2018, the Centre made multiple amendments through two Finance Acts— Finance Act, 2017 and Finance Act, 2016
- Amendments to the law, which allowed companies to make unlimited financial contributions to political parties under the cover of absolute



anonymity, declared 'manifestly arbitrary'

- The Bench directed the State Bank of India, the sole issuer of electoral bonds, to immediately stop its issuance
- and furnish the details since April 12, 2019 of donations through electoral bonds and the details of the political parties which received the contributions by March 6, 2024.

- It also directed the Election Commission to publish the details on electoral bonds on the website by March 13, 2024.
- Electoral bonds still not encashed by political parties should be returned to the bank, which will refund the purchaser.
- The Electoral Bond Scheme, which was notified by the government on January 2, 2018,
- The scheme introduced money instruments through which companies and individuals in India can donate to political parties anonymously.
- SBI is the authorized issuer.- issues the bonds in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.

### Chief Justice of India inaugurates Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre at premises of Supreme Court of India



- The Chief Justice of India Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated 'Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre' in the premises of Supreme Court of India.
- AYUSH Health and Wellness Centre (AYUSH HWC) component of Ayushman Bharat in National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

### **About National Ayush Mission:**

- It was launched in 2014 under Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It aims to enhance the availability, accessibility, and quality of Ayush healthcare services across the country through Ayush Health Wellness centers (AHWCs).

### **Electoral bonds data submitted by SBI**



- The biggest political donors over the last five years gave nearly Rs 6,000 crore to parties through electoral bonds, according to data submitted by the State Bank of India (SBI) to the Election Commission of India
- Topping the list is lottery firm Future Gaming and Hotel Services, which donated Rs 1,368 crore – a stunning 11% of all electoral bonds
- At the second spot is Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd with Rs 966 crore.
- Some of the big names in the list of top 20 donors include Vedanta (Rs 401 crore), Essel Mining and Industries (Rs 225 crore), and Bharti Airtel (Rs 198 crore).

### **Electoral bonds**

- The electoral bond scheme implemented in 2018.
- The electoral bonds scheme allowed people to make any amount of donation to political parties of their choice while maintaining anonymity.
- State Bank of India (SBI) issued the bonds in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
- It was struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on 15 February 2024

# SC forms expert panel to balance Bustard conservation with sustainable energy goals

- A three-judge bench of Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud constituted an expert committee to balance the conservation and protection of the endangered Great Indian Bustard bird population with the country's international commitments to promote renewable sources of energy.
- The large-winged birds are on the brink of extinction, with one of the causes being frequent collision with high-powered power cables running adjacent to its core habitats in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- The panel would determine the scope, extent and feasibility of underground and overhead electric lines in areas identified as priority spots for the birds in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D Y
   Chandrachud directed the committee to complete
   the task and submit a report to the court by July 31.

#### **Great Indian Bustard bird**

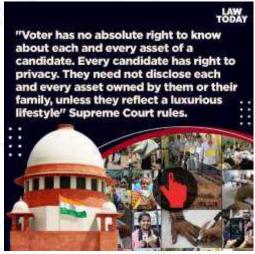


- State bird of Rajasthan
- Habitat: confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Conservation Status:**

- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
- Wildlife (Protection)Act, 1972: Schedule 1
- CITES: Appendix 1
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix I

# Candidates Have Right to Privacy from Voters: Supreme Court



- The Supreme Court said that candidates contesting elections need not disclose each and every moveable property owned by them or their dependents
- However, candidates need to disclose information about property that is of substantial value or reflects a luxurious lifestyle.
- a voter had no absolute right to know about each and every asset of a candidate and that a candidate had the right to privacy regarding matters irrelevant to his/her candidature.
- A Bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sanjay
   Kumar said a candidate's choice to retain his privacy on matters which were of no concern to the voters

- or were irrelevant to his candidature for public office did not amount to a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
- Such non-disclosure would not amount to a "defect of a substantial nature" under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.

### Representation of People Act, 1951

The Act was introduced following the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950 to lay down specific procedures and rules for the conduct of elections, which are fundamental to the democratic governance of the country.

The Representation of the People Act, 1951, along with the other laws governing elections, work in conjunction with the constitutional provisions to ensure the integrity of the electoral process in India.



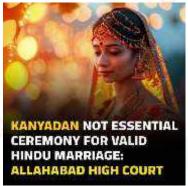
### Right against climate change is interlinked to Articles 21 and 14: SC



- In its first, the Supreme Court, through its judgment has recognized a right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change as a distinct right.
- The Court said that Articles 14 (equality before law and the equal protection of laws) and 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Indian Constitution are important sources of this right.
- The judgment came in a case connected with the survival of the endangered Great Indian Bustard species.
- An order was pronounced in open court on constituting an expert committee to examine the problem faced by the bird species whose natural

- habitat and flight routes collide with power transmission lines in **Gujarat and Rajasthan**.
- The case had been posted for further hearing in August 2024.
- Linking the right against climate change to Articles
   21 and 14, Chief Justice Chandrachud said the rights to life and equality could not be fully realised without a clean, stable environment.
- The judgment noted that the right to a healthy environment, safe from the ill-effects of climate change, was a "fundamental human right".
- The right to health (which is a part of the right to life under Article 21) is impacted due to factors such as air pollution, shifts in vector-borne diseases, rising temperatures, droughts, shortages in food supplies due to crop failure, storms, and flooding.
- The inability of underserved communities to adapt to climate change or cope with its effects violates the right to life as well as the right to equality
- The court also highlighted the interconnection between climate change and various human rights, including the right to health, indigenous rights, gender equality, and the right to development
- Despite governmental policy and rules and regulations recognising the adverse effects of climate change and seeking to combat it, there is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns.

# Kanyadaan Non-Essential in Hindu Marriage: Allahabad High Court



- A bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi Clarifies that 'kanyadaan' isn't mandatory for solemnisation of marriage under The Hindu Marriage Act 1955.
- The Court emphasized on 'Saptapadi' (seven steps or saat pheras) as marriage's fundamental ritual as per section 7 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

#### **Hindu Marriage Act**

- The matrimony of a Hindu couple is governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
- The Act deals with the registration of the marriage (after its solemnization) of a man and woman

- belonging to **Hindu**, **Sikh**, **Buddhist**, **or Jain community**.
- The inclusion of the other three religions within the ambit of the term 'Hindu' is in pursuance of the definition of the term under Article 25(2)(b) of the Indian Constitution.
- The conditions laid down in the Act are as follows
  - There should not be an already existing spouse (of either of the parties) alive at the time of formalization of the marriage.
  - No party is incapacitated to give consent to their marriage due to unsound mind.
  - The legal age permitting marriage between a man and wife are being met; 21 for men, 18 for women

## Hindu marriage not valid unless performed with requisite ceremonies: SC



- A Hindu marriage is not an event for "song and dance", "wining and dining" or a commercial transaction, the Supreme Court has observed and said it cannot be recognised in the "absence of a valid ceremony" under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955
- A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih said where a Hindu marriage is not performed in accordance with the applicable rites or ceremonies such as 'saptapadi' (taking seven steps by the groom and the bride jointly before the sacred fire), the marriage will not be construed as a Hindu marriage.

### **About Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (HMA Act)**

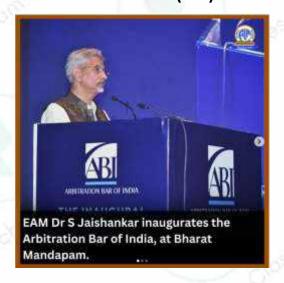
- It codifies the law relating to marriage among Hindus.
- It provides for the ceremonies and registration for Hindu marriage but also lays down rules regarding Divorce.
- A Hindu by birth or by conversion is the subject of the HMA Act.
- The definition of Hindu under the HMA Act includes
   Buddhist, Jain, and Sikh as well.

- Customary practices (Reeti-Riwaz) are well respected under the HMA Act. However, marriage ceremonies are subject to customs and accepted accordingly.
- Saptapadi, i.e., steps taken by the bride and groom before holy fire, is a necessary ritual for marriage among Hindus.
- Section 5 of the Act specifies that it is illegal to have two living wives at once, which is known as bigamy.
- A marriage is considered null and void if anyone one or both the people get married being mentally unfit.
- In such cases, the couple must get legal consent before getting married.

## Conference on Administration of Criminal Justice held in Guwahati

- Ministry of Law and Justice to organise two day Conference titled 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System', in association with the Government of Assam in Guwahati on 18th- 19th May 2024.
- To generate awareness about the recently enacted three new criminal laws to overhaul the criminal justice system in the country.
- The first conference of the series was held in New Delhi on 20th April 2024.
- As notified, these new criminal laws are to take effect from 1st July2024:
- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, will replace the earlier criminal laws namely, the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

# EAM Dr S Jaishankar Inaugurates Arbitration Bar Of India (ABI) In Delhi



- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar Inaugurated the Arbitration Bar of India at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi
- Arbitration is a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) that is used to resolve disputes outside of the courts.
- It involves the intervention of a third party, known as an arbitrator, who is chosen by the parties involved in the dispute.

# No mining within 1-km radius around tiger habitats: SC to Rajasthan



- The Supreme Court told authorities in Rajasthan that there cannot be any mining activity within 1km radius of critical tiger habitats.
- On April 26, 2023, the court, in a judgment, had said that mining within 1-km from the boundary of a national park or a wildlife sanctuary shall not be permissible. It added, "as such the prohibition... will be automatically applicable even to the critical tiger reserves".
- According to the court, Section 38XA of Wildlife
   Protection Act 1972 shows that tiger reserves stand
   on a higher pedestal than wildlife sanctuaries and
   national parks.
- The Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- It is well nestled in the Aravali Hills, covering an area of 800 sq km.
- Sariska was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was declared the tiger reserve later in 1978, making it a part of India's Project Tiger.
- It is the first reserve in the world to successfully relocate tigers.



### India's Supreme Court Reconstitutes Gender Sensitisation Committee



- The Supreme Court has reconstituted its Gender
   Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee.
- The 12-member committee is headed by the Supreme Court judge Hima Kohli, who is the Chairperson.
- In exercise of powers conferred by Clause 4(2) of the Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013

# Supreme Court holds sub-classification within Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes is permissible



- In a 6:1 landmark verdict, the Supreme Court
   (August 1) allowed the sub-categorisation of
   scheduled castes in reservations, allowing wider
   protection for underrepresented groups.
- A seven-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief
  Justice of India DY Chandrachud has thus ruled on
  whether sub-classification of Scheduled Castes and
  Scheduled Tribes is permissible for the purpose of
  reservation.
- The ruling will have crucial consequences for states
   which want to give wider protection to some castes
   that are grossly underrepresented despite
   reservation, in comparison to the so-called
   dominant scheduled castes.
- The court also held that "historical and empirical evidence indicates that Scheduled castes are not a homogenous class."
- The bench was examining if its 2004 judgment in EV
   Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh, in which it

- was held that Scheduled Castes formed a homogenous group and hence there cannot be any sub-division among them, needs a relook.
- The top court had said that not allowing the subclassification would lead to a situation where the "advanced among" them "would grab all benefits".

### Story till 2004 Judgement (EV Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh)

- In the 2004 judgement a five-judge bench held that only the President could notify which communities could receive reservation benefits as per Article
   341 of the Constitution, and states did not have the power to tamper with this.
- In 1975, the Punjab government issued a notification dividing its 25% SC reservation at that time into two categories.
- In the first category, seats were reserved solely for the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities, which were and continue to be considered two of the most economically and educationally backward communities in the state.
- Under the policy, they were to be given first preference for reservation in education and public employment. The second category consisted of the rest of the SC communities.
- While the notification remained in force for nearly 30 years, it ran into legal hurdles when in 2004, a five-judge Constitution Bench struck down a similar law introduced by Andhra Pradesh in 2000.
- In 2004, in E.V. Chinnaiah, the Supreme Court struck down the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2000 for being violative of the right to equality.
- The court held that the sub-classification would violate the right to equality and said that the SC list must be treated as a single, homogenous group.
- The court also drew attention to Article 341 of the Constitution, which gives the President the power to create a list of SC communities for the purposes of reservation.
- The states did not have the power to "interfere" or "disturb" this list, including through subclassification.

# Chief Justice of India and Seychelles inaugurated International conference on Law and Technology in Kerala

- An international conference on "Law and Technology: Sustainable, Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations"
- organised by the Commonwealth Legal Education
   Association

- 3 day conference inaugurated jointly by Chief
  Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud and the Chief
  Justice of Seychelles Justice Roney Govinden at
  Kumarakom in Kottayam district, Kerala.
- The conference aims to foster international cooperation, share best practices and develop innovative legal solutions to complex challenges pertaining to sustainable transport and tourism.

# SC constitutes 10-member 'National Task Force' to formulate protocol for ensuring safety of doctors



- The Supreme Court was hearing a suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata
- The task force will submit its interim report within three weeks and the final report within two months
- The NTF shall also suggest appropriate timelines by which the recommendations could be implemented based on the existing facilities in Hospitals.
- The Cabinet Secretary and the Home Secretary to the Union government, Ministry of Health Secretary, Chairperson - National Medical Commission Chairperson and National Board of Examinations President shall be the ex-officio members of the task force.

## Supreme Court upholds Delhi L-G's power to appoint aldermen to MCD



 The Supreme Court on August 5 held that the authority of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to

- nominate 10 persons with special knowledge of municipal administration to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is a statutory duty attached to his office and he is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- A bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, said in its order, "The statutory power under Section 3(3)(b)(i) to nominate persons of special knowledge was vested in the Lt Governor for the first time by the 1993 amendment to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 to incorporate the Constitutional changes through Articles 239AA, 239AB and introduction of Part IX-A relating to municipalities.

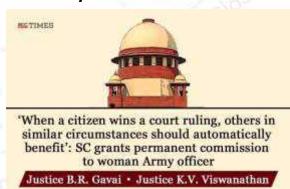
### SC Upholds Constitutional Validity of Section 6A of Citizenship Act for Assam Immigrants



- In a significant judgement, the Supreme Court (by 4:1 majority) on October 17 upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act.
- Bench CJI Chandrachud, Justices Kant, Sundresh, Misra and Justice J.B. Pardiwala
- Section 6A of the Citizenship Act grants Indian citizenship all immigrants from Bangladesh who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966, but before March 25, 1971, and since then are residents of Assam.
- As a result, the provision fixes March 24, 1971
   (midnight) as the cut-off date for granting
   citizenship to migrants, particularly those from
   Bangladesh, residing in Assam.
- Section 6A was inserted in 1985 into the
   Citizenship Act of 1955 and enacted as part of
   the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985, following
   the signing of the Assam accord.
- The Assam Accord was a tripartite agreement between the Central Government, the State Government of Assam, and the leaders of the Assam Movement. It sought to end the influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

- Section 6A was included with the objective of reducing the influx of migrants to India and dealing with those who had already migrated.
- The court ruled that Section 6A does not violate Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, which set 26th January 1950, as the cut-off for granting citizenship to migrants from East and West Pakistan.
- The cut-off date of midnight of March 24, 1971, is reasonable because the Pakistani Army launched Operation Searchlight to curb the Bangladeshi nationalist movement in East Pakistan on March 26, 1971.
- Assam's special citizenship law does not violate Article 14 (Equality), as the state's migrant situation was distinct from the rest of India.
- The Court opined that the mere presence of diverse ethnic groups within a state does not, in itself, constitute a violation of Article 29(1) of the Constitution (protection of interests of minorities).
- Thejudgment underlined parliamentary supremacy over citizenship matters under Article 11 of the Constitution.
- Section 6A falls within the bounds of the
   Constitution and does not contravene the
   foundational principles of fraternity, nor does it
   infringe upon Articles 6 and 7, Article 9, Article 14,
   Article 21 (protects the right to life and personal
   liberty), Article 29 (protects the cultural and
   educational rights of minorities), Article 326, or
   Article 355 of the Constitution of India
- It was emphasized that a nation can simultaneously accommodate immigrants and refugees while focusing on sustainable development and ensuring an equitable distribution of resources.
- The court found that the current mechanisms and Tribunals responsible for identifying illegal immigrants in Assam are inadequate.

## SC Grants Permanent Commission to Woman Army Officer



 The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman officer, who is posted as

- Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Dental Corps at Agra, challenging a January, 2022 order of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) Regional Bench, Lucknow.
- In a relief to a woman Army officer, the Supreme Court granted her permanent commission saying she was wrongly excluded from the consideration when other similarly placed officers were given the benefit.
- A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan, while illustrating, observed that thoughts on conditions of service and job perquisites would be last in the minds of valiant Indian soldiers bravely guarding the frontiers at Siachen or in other difficult terrains
- The bench exercised its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and directed the grant of permanent commission to her.

### SC status for converts: Govt extends tenure of Commission till October 2025

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has extended by a year the tenure of a commission established to examine whether Scheduled Castes (SC) status can be granted to individuals who have converted to religions other than Sikhism and Buddhism.
- The Commission of Inquiry, set up by the Centre in 2022 to examine if Scheduled Caste status can be granted to all Dalit converts.
- The three-member commission, headed by former
   Chief Justice of India Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, has now been given time till October 10, 2025
- The Commission of Inquiry was constituted on October 6, 2022, under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.
- The inquiry also covers related concerns regarding social justice, rights, and the possible extension of reserved status to converts from religions not traditionally included in SC classifications, such as Christianity and Islam.
- The Commission is now required to submit its report by October 10, 2025.

## Right to health is a fundamental right, no religion encourages pollution: SC

 The Supreme said that the right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right of every citizen under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and no religion encourages any activity which creates pollution.

### CRACKDOWN ON FIRECRACKERS

- Supreme Court says: "If fire crackers are burnt in this fashion then it also affects fundamental right to health of citizens"
- Top court directs Delhi police commissioner to immediately set up a special cell for the implementation of the ban and hold all SHOs of local police stations responsible for enforcing the ban



 Apex court asks neighbouring state governments to respond on banning manufacture, sale, storage and bursting of firecrackers in their areas

- Questioning the authorities for their failure to implement the ban on firecrackers in Delhi during Diwali,
- a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih further said that if firecrackers are burnt in this fashion it also affects the fundamental right to health of the citizens.

### Supreme Court Ruling on Challenge to 'Socialist' and 'Secular' in Preamble



- A Division Bench of the Supreme Court comprising Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar dismissed pleas challenging the inclusion of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble to our Constitution.
- stating that there was no legitimate cause or justification for challenging this Constitutional Amendment after nearly 44 years.
- The Court stated that 'secular' and 'socialist' and 'integrity' were inserted in the Preamble vide the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976.
- Article 368 of the Constitution permits amendment of the Constitution; the power to amend unquestionably rests with the Parliament and this amending power extends to the Preamble.

#### What was the current case?

- The current case was filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, advocate Ashwini Upadhyay and others.
- Mr. Upadhyay and others had opposed the insertion of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble.
- They argued that these were included during the Emergency and forced the people to follow specific ideologies.

#### What is the history of Preamble?

- The original Preamble adopted on November 26, 1949, declared India a sovereign, democratic, republic.
- Our Constituent Assembly consciously avoided the word 'socialist' as they felt that declaring the economic ideal of a country in its Constitution's preamble was not appropriate.
- People should decide what suits them according to time and age.

#### Indian secularism is different from western secularism

- In west, the state and religion are strictly separated and the government does not interfere in religious affairs.
- However, in India, the state enjoys the power to regulate the economic, financial, political and secular aspects associated with religious practice.
- It can also provide for social welfare and reform in religious practices.
- "Over time, India has developed its own interpretation of secularism, wherein the State neither supports any religion nor penalizes the profession and practice of any faith".

#### **JUDGEMENTS**

- In **Berubari case (1960),** the Supreme Court opined that the **Preamble is not a part of the Constitution** and thus not a source of any substantive power.
- Subsequently, in Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court reversed its earlier opinion and said that the Preamble is part of the Constitution and that it should be read and interpreted in the light of the vision envisioned in the Preamble.
- It also held that the Preamble is subject to the amending power of Parliament as any other provision of the Constitution.

# Supreme Court, in 4-3 verdict, overturns 1967 ruling denying minority status to AMU



- A seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court overruled its 1967 decision in S. Azeez Basha
   v. Union of India which held that the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is not a minority institution, because it's a central university.
- The final determination on whether AMU is a minority institution was left for a separate Bench to answer
- The majority verdict of SC laid down a test for determining whether an educational institution can claim minority status under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.
- The majority verdict, authored by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, held that the word "established" in Article 30(1) must be given a broad meaning and that the court will have to look into the details of who was the "brain" behind the establishment of an institution (to see whether that person was a member of the minority community), see what was the purpose of the establishment was, and what were the steps taken to implement this purpose (such as seeing how the land was obtained and who provided the funding).

#### KEY DATES IN AMU'S HISTORY, LEGAL CASE

- 1877: Syed Ahmad Khan establishes Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College for uplifting Muslims.
- 1920: The MAO College becomes AMU after the AMU Act is enacted.
- 1950: Parliament declares AMU an institution of national importance.
- 1951: AMU Act is amended, allowing non-Muslims to be members of the AMU Court, its supreme governing body at the time.
- 1965: Another amendment expands powers of AMU's Executive Council; University Court is no longer the supreme governing body.
- 1967: SC rules AMU cannot be classified as a minority institution (Azeez Basha case).

S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India

- In 1965, the Aligarh Muslim University Act of 1920 was amended to dilute the powers of governance
- The petitioners argued that the amendment violated the rights guaranteed to them by Article 30.
- They no longer could exercise the freedom to administer the university as per their choice as minorities. The Supreme Court upheld the amendment, on the grounds that the AMU was brought into existence by the Central Legislature and the Government of India. Art. 30(1), the Court held, only protects educational institutions brought into existence and administered by a minority.
- 1981: Indira Gandhi's government amends the AMU Act, declaring AMU was established for the educational, cultural advancement of Muslims.
- **2005:** AMU introduces 50% reservation for Muslim students in postgraduate medical courses.
- 2006: Allahabad HC quashes the policy and the 1981 amendment. The UPA government and AMU move SC against the verdict.
- 2016: The central government withdraws from the appeal, saying the UPA government's stand was "against the public policy of reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs/EWSs as applicable to central universities".
- **2019:** Three-judge SC Bench refers the issue to a seven-judge Bench.

# Supreme Court Upholds Validity of UP Madarsa Education Act Except Its Provisions Regulating Higher Education Degrees



- The SC stated that minority institutions such as madarsas have a right to provide religious education and handle their own administration under Article 30.
- The Supreme Court partially upheld the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act of 2004, barring the provisions relating to higher education.

- A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud overruled the March 22 ruling of the Allahabad High Court which struck down the entire Act for violating the principle of secularism.
- The High Court's ruling originated from a writ petition filed by Anshuman Singh Rathore, challenging the constitutional validity of the UP **Madarsa Board**
- SC confirmed that the State can regulate madrasa education to ensure standards of excellence.
- The landmark ruling defends minority rights while upholding secular standards in education.
- The 2024 Act, which allowed the Board to prescribe the academic curriculum, textbooks, qualification of teachers and standards of equipment and infrastructure, did not directly interfere with the day-to-day administration of recognised madrasas.

- The court, while noting that minorities had a right under Article 30 of the Constitution to establish and administer madrasas to impart religious or secular education, said the right was "not absolute".
- Article 21A must be read consistently with the rights of religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- The SC ruled that a part of the Madarsa Act's **Section 9** — which allows the Board to prescribe coursework, conduct exams, and grant degrees to those who have finished Kamil and Fazil courses is contrary to the UGC Act. Under Section 22 of the **UGC** Act, only universities which have been established under a central or state Act or have been "deemed" to be universities by the UGC can grant degrees. Therefore, the SC struck down a part of the Section 9.

### **GI TAG**

#### Odisha

**Arunachal Pradesh** 

**West Bengal** 

**Chandi Tarakasi** 

**Banglar muslin** 

Majuli Mask

Indian fig juice

### GI tags for over 17 products from Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and J&K

Odisha

Lanjia Saura paintings Khajuri Guda Dhenkanal Magji Koraput Kalajeera Rice

Dongaria Kondh shawl Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal Similipal 'Kai' Chutney

#### Lanjia Saura paintings

The Lanjia Saura paintings are a style of wall mural art. These paintings also called ekons or the idital.



### a milk product

Red ant chutney indigenous to Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar District



### **Dongaria Kondh shawl**

The traditional knitted shawls of the hill tribe Dongaria Kondh.



### Similipal Kai Chutney

**Dhenkanal Magji** (ढेंकनाल माजी)



### Khajuri Guda

produced from the sweet juice of palm called neera.



### **Arunachal Pradesh** Wancho Wooden Craft

#### Nayagarh Kanteimundi

Brinjal with lots of prickly thorns on the flesh as well as the whole plant grown in whole of Nayagarh district of Odisha



Adi Kekir (Ginger)





#### **West Bengal GI Tags**

- **Tangail Saree**
- **Garad Saree**
- Korial saree
- Kalonunia Rice
- Sundarban Honey

Gujarat's Kachchhi Kharek (Dates)

Jammu Kashmir's Ramban Anardana







### **Odisha's Centuries-Old 'Silver** Filigree' Gets GI Tag

- Cuttack's famous 'Chandi Tarakasi' or silver filigree has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- In Odia, 'Tarakasi' is a combination of two words — 'Tara' (wire) and 'Kasi' (design).
- Archaeological evidence suggest that filigree was incorporated into jewellery as early as 3500 BCE in Mesopotamia where it is practiced even today as Telkari work.
- According to historians, there is every possibility that the Tarakasi work reached Cuttack from Persia through Indonesia some 500 years ago by sea trade.

### Banglar muslin & other products get GI tag

#### **Banglar muslin**

The Banglar muslin is one of the popular traditional handloom craft of Bengal

Muslin is made of cotton and the threads maintain high tensile strength



Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic) a variety named after Riyawan village in Ratlam district of Madhya

# **Pradesh**

#### Ambaji White Marble, Gujarat

formed when limestone is re-crystallised under the earth's crust due to intense pressure and heat.

#### **Tripura Risa Textile**

- handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment.
- Risa is a part of traditional Tripuri attire that comprises three parts

- risa, rignai and rikutu.

### **Hyderabad Lac Bangles**

mirror work and encrusted precious stones handicraft

#### Majuli Mask of Assam

made in different variety and sizes as they are mainly divided into different categories -



'Mukha bhaona' face mask covers the face,

- 'Lotokoi' hanging mask which is bigger in size extends to the chest and,
- 'Cho Mukha' huge mask is a head and body mask.

#### Majuli Manuscript Painting of Assam

Illustrate numerous stories and chapters taken

from the great Hindu epics Ramayana, Mahabharata and above all subjects from the Bhagavata Purana.



### India's First GI-Tagged Fig Juice Exported to **Poland**

- Purandar (Pune) Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd is exporting its award-winning fig juice, made from GI-tagged Purandar Figs to Poland.
- This marks the first time Indian fig juice will reach the European market.
- The ready-to-drink fig juice, which has been granted a provisional patent, is manufactured by Purandar Highlands and has garnered significant recognition.
- It received accolades at SIAL 2023 and Macfrut Italy and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda) has facilitated the export.





### RAMSAR SITES

### Five more Indian wetlands added to Ramsar list

Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve

Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve

Aghanashini Estuary

**Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary** 

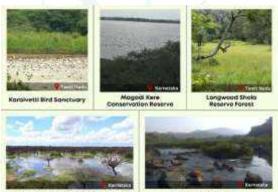
**Longwood Shola Reserve Forest** 

The Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries

**Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary** 

**Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary** 

Tawa Reservoir



#### 3 added in Karnataka:

- Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve (human-made wetland - one of the largest wintering grounds for Bar-headed goose in Southern India)
- Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve (humanmade Village Irrigation Tank built centuries back)
- Aghanashini Estuary (formed at the confluence of Aghanashini River with the Arabian sea)

#### 2 added in Tamil Nadu:

- Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary (one of the largest inland wetlands of Tamil Nadu)
- Longwood Shola Reserve Forest (forested wetland. Tamil word, "Solai", means a 'tropical rain forest'.)

#### **About Ramsar Sites**

- The total number of Ramsar Sites in India rise to 80.
- Ramsar sites are wetlands that are designated as being of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, signed on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.
- Came into force from 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1975.
- India signed the Ramsar Convention on February 1, 1982
- first Ramsar sites in India Chilika Lake in Orissa and Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, recognized in 1981
- maximum number of Ramsar Sites Tamil Nadu (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
- World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated on 2nd February
- Theme of WWD-2024 is 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing'

### Bihar Bird Sanctuaries Gain International Ramsar Status



- The Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries, both located in Bihar's Jamui district, are now recognised under the Ramsar Convention.
- taking the total number of highly recognised waterlogged ecosystems in the country to 82
- These two new wetlands are man-made reservoirs situated in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui.
- Both sites were declared as Wetlands of International importance on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5.
- A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, an international environmental treaty

signed on 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, under the auspices of UNESCO.

The Nakti Bird
Sanctuary was
developed primarily



for irrigation through the construction of Nakti

- In 1984, the wetland was designated as a Bird Sanctuary, highlighting its importance as a wintering habitat for several migratory species, with over 20,000 birds congregating during winter months.
- This includes one of the largest congregations of red-crested pochard (Netta rufina) on the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- The Nagi Bird
   Sanctuary was
   created following
   the damming of
   the Nagi River



- importance for migratory bird species, the Site was recognized locally as a Bird Sanctuary in 1984, and internationally as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International
- The site hosts one of the largest congregations of bar-headed geese (Anser indicus) on the Indo-Gangetic plain

# India adds three new Ramsar sites to wetlands network, bringing the total to 85



- The three new sites are the Nanjarayan Bird
   Sanctuary; the Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil
   Nadu; and the Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh.
- India is one of the 'contracting parties' to the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, on 2nd February, 1971.
- India became a signatory in 1982.
- Currently, Tamil Nadu harbours the maximum number of Ramsar sites (18 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).

- India has 19 types of wetlands, with Gujarat having the maximum area, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- India's Ramsar wetlands comprise around 10% of the total wetland area in the country across 18 States.
- The United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (142) —
  smaller countries than India have the maximum
  Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest
  area, with 148,000 sq. km. under the Convention's
  protection.



### **ELECTION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

World Record With 64.2 Crore Voters
Participating In Lok Sabha Polls

NOTA Creates New Record In Madhya Pradesh

youngest tribal woman to win from an unreserved seat

the world's highest polling station

Modi 3.0 Cabinet

18th Lok Sabha

particularly vulnerable tribal group, Shompen

**Budget Session** 

- · Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar
- In this Lok Sabha polls, 31.2 crore women voters
  cast their votes which is also the highest ever in the
  world.
- Recently appointed new Election Commissioners:
   Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

## NOTA Creates New Record In Madhya Pradesh, Crosses 1 Lakh Figure

- In Madhya Pradesh, None of the Above, NOTA, has created a new record in Indore in the Lok Sabha election results.
- For the first time in the electoral history of the country, NOTA has received so many votes.
- NOTA has received 1 lakh 55 thousand votes.
- So far, the record of the highest NOTA in the country was in the name of Gopalganj in Bihar. In the 2019 elections, NOTA registered 51,660 votes.

## Priyanka Jarkiholi is the youngest tribal woman to win from an unreserved seat



- Congress nominee Priyanka Jarkiholi has won from Chikkodi, Karnataka
- She became the youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament from an unreserved seat in Karnataka since independence.

India Creates World Record With 64.2 Crore Voters Participating In Lok Sabha Polls



## Tashigang, the world's highest polling station, stands at an altitude of 15,256 feet

- The world's highest polling station in Tashigang, located in the Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh at an altitude of 15,256 ft has been declared a model polling station.
- This polling station was set up for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when a 100% polling was recorded

Lok Sabha Secretariat Develops "Prerana Sthal" To Showcase Statues Of Great Leaders & Freedom Fighters Of India

• Earlier, these statues were installed at different parts of the Complex.

Narendra Modi took the oath as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive time



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath for a third straight term as the head of a coalition government after two full tenures in which the BJP was in majority on its own.
- President Droupadi Murmu administers the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Modi
- The 72 council of ministers had comprised the PM and ministers, including 30 other Cabinet

### Ministers, 5 Ministers of State with Independent Charge and 36 Ministers of State.

- Modi, 73, will be equalling the feat of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who won in 1952, 1957 and 1962 general elections.
- Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu to be youngest Union Minister in Cabinet
- The total strength of the council of ministers cannot exceed 15% of the total number of Lok Sabha MPs.
- The strength of the 18th Lok Sabha is 543 members and hence the council of ministers cannot be more than 81.
- The BJP won 240 seats, falling short of the 272 majority mark.
- BJP had won 303 seats in the 2019 general elections and 282 seats in the 2014 general elections.
- Interesting Fact Despite the Lok Sabha having 543 members, counting was conducted for 542 seats following the uncontested election of BJP's Surat candidate 'Mukesh Dalal'.

### All seven invitees from neighbouring countries arrive at Rashrapati Bhavan

- Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay,
- Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina,
- Maldives President Mohammad Muizzu,
- · Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth,
- Nepal PM P.K. Dahal Prachanda,
- Seychelles Vice President Ahmed Afif,
- Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe
- In 2014, the government had invited all leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) grouping, which included Afghanistan and Pakistan,
- In 2019 the leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping, including Myanmar and Thailand had attended the ceremony.

### Lok Sabha (Lower House/ First Chamber/Popular House/ The House of the People)

- Composition: The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is fixed at 550 out of which 530 members are to be the representatives of the states and 20 of the UTs.
- The current strength of Lok Sabha is 543, out of which 530 members represent the states and 13 represent the UTs.
- Earlier, the President also nominated two members from the Anglo-Indian community, but by the 95th

Amendment Act, 2009, this provision was valid till 2020 only.

- The normal term of Lok Sabha is five years.
- Minimum age to become a member is 25 years
- Speaker is the head of the house.

### Om Birla Re-Elected, Breaks 20-Year Lok Sabha Trend



- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla won the Kota parliamentary, Rajasthan seat, thus becoming the first presiding officer in 20 years to be re-elected to the Lower House.
- The last Lok Sabha speaker to get re-elected to the Lower House was P A Sangma, who was the presiding officer of the 11th Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998.
- Sangma, then a Congress member, was re-elected from Tura in Meghalaya in the 1998 Lok Sabha election.

# Modi 3.0 Cabinet: Complete list of ministers' portfolio

| Prime         | Prime Minister and also in-charge                |
|---------------|--|
| Minister      | of:  |
| Shri Narendra | Ministry of Personnel, Public                    |
| Modi          | Grievances and Pensions;                         |
|               | <ul> <li>Department of Atomic Energy;</li> </ul> |
|               | Department of Space;                             |
|               | All important policy issues; and                 |
|               | All other portfolios not allocated               |
|               | to any Minister.                                 |

| S.No | <b>Cabinet Minister</b> | Portfolio                |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.   | Shri Raj Nath Singh     | Minister of Defence.     |
| 2.   | Shri Amit Shah          | Minister of Home         |
|      | 300                     | Affairs; and Minister of |
| 20   | 3//                     | Cooperation.             |
| 3.   | Shri Nitin Jairam       | Minister of Road         |
|      | Gadkari                 | Transport and Highways.  |
| 4.   | Shri Jagat Prakash      | Minister of Health and   |
|      | Nadda                   | Family Welfare; and      |

| earbo | ok 2024               |                            |
|-------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 7     | age.                  | Minister of Chemicals      |
| 1     | 10-                   | and Fertilizers.           |
| 5.    | Shri Shivraj Singh    | Minister of Agriculture    |
|       | Chouhan               | and Farmers Welfare;       |
|       |                       | and Minister of Rural      |
|       | 1 1                   | Development.               |
| 6.    | Smt. Nirmala          | Minister of Finance; and   |
|       | Sitharaman            | Minister of Corporate      |
|       | 11011                 | Affairs.                   |
| 7.    | Dr. Subrahmanyam      | Minister of External       |
|       | Jaishankar            | Affairs.                   |
| 8.    | Shri Manohar Lal      | Minister of Housing and    |
| Π.    | Khattar               | Urban Affairs; and         |
|       | Tiraccar              | Minister of Power.         |
| 9.    | Shri H. D.            | Minister of Heavy          |
| ٥.    | Kumaraswamy           | Industries; and            |
|       | Kumaraswamy           | Minister of Steel.         |
| 10    | Chai Dianah Canal     |                            |
| 10.   | Shri Piyush Goyal     | Minister of Commerce       |
|       | 01.101                | and Industry.              |
| 11.   | Shri Dharmendra       | Minister of Education.     |
|       | Pradhan               | to William                 |
| 12.   | Shri Jitan Ram        | Minister of Micro, Small   |
|       | Manjhi                | and Medium                 |
|       | 11                    | Enterprises.               |
| 13.   | Shri Rajiv Ranjan     | Minister of Panchayati     |
|       | Singh alias Lalan     | Raj; and                   |
|       | Singh                 | Minister of Fisheries,     |
|       | / (                   | Animal Husbandry and       |
|       |                       | Dairying.                  |
| 14.   | Shri Sarbananda       | Minister of Ports,         |
|       | Sonowal               | Shipping and               |
|       |                       | Waterways.                 |
| 15.   | Dr. Virendra Kumar    | Minister of Social Justice |
|       | 2010                  | and Empowerment.           |
| 16.   | Shri Kinjarapu        | Minister of Civil          |
| 10.   | Rammohan Naidu        | Aviation.                  |
| 17.   | Shri Pralhad Joshi    | Minister of Consumer       |
| 17.   | Silii Fidilidu Josiii |                            |
|       | 27                    | Affairs, Food and Public   |
|       |                       | Distribution; and          |
|       |                       | Minister of New and        |
| 40    | cl : i l o            | Renewable Energy.          |
| 18.   | Shri Jual Oram        | Minister of Tribal Affairs |
| 10    | Chui Ciuinai Ciuah    | Minister of Textiles.      |
| 19.   | Shri Giriraj Singh    | wimster or rextiles.       |
| 20.   | Shri Ashwini          | Minister of Railways;      |
|       | Vaishnaw              | Minister of Information    |
|       | 1                     | and Broadcasting; and      |
|       | Clo.                  | Minister of Electronics    |
|       | V                     | and Information            |
|       |                       | Technology.                |
|       |                       |                            |
| 21.   | Shri Jyotiraditya M.  | Minister of                |

|       |                    | Minister of               |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|       |                    | Development of North      |
|       |                    | Eastern Region.           |
| 22.   | Shri Bhupender     | Minister of               |
|       | Yadav              | Environment, Forest and   |
|       | 100                | Climate Change.           |
| 23.   | Shri Gajendra      | Minister of Culture; and  |
|       | Singh Shekhawat    | Minister of Tourism.      |
| 24.   | Smt. Annpurna      | Minister of Women and     |
|       | Devi               | Child Development         |
| 25.   | Shri Kiren Rijiju  | Minister of               |
| NEED! |                    | Parliamentary Affairs;    |
| 100   |                    | and                       |
|       | / /                | Minister of Minority      |
|       |                    | Affairs.                  |
| 26.   | Shri Hardeep Singh | Minister of Petroleum     |
|       | Puri               | and Natural Gas           |
| 27.   | Dr. Mansukh        | Minister of Labour and    |
|       | Mandaviya          | Employment; and           |
|       | ~240               | Minister of Youth Affairs |
|       | A.c.               | and Sports.               |
| 28.   | Shri G. Kishan     | Minister of Coal; and     |
| 1     | Reddy              | Minister of Mines.        |
| 29.   | Shri Chirag Paswan | Minister of Food          |
| 25    | / (1)              | Processing Industries.    |
| 30.   | Shri C R Patil     | Minister of Jal Shakti.   |
|       |                    | / 200                     |

### The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha



- President Droupadi Murmu administered oath to BJP member Bhartruhari Mahtab as 'Speaker Protem' of the newly-constituted 18th Lok Sabha, tasked with running the proceedings of the Lok Sabha on June 24 and 25
- The President has entrusted him with the duties of the Speaker (pro tem) under Article 95(1) of the Constitution till the election of the new Speaker.
   Mahtab will preside over the House as his colleagues take oath.
- On June 26 a new Speaker will be elected

 Prime Minister Narendra Modi - the leader of the Lok Sabha, was the first to take oath as a member of the House.



- JP Nadda was appointed as the leader of House in Rajya Sabha. He replaces Piyush Goyal as the leader.
- Chairman of the House is Jadgeep Dhankar, while the Leader of Opposition is Mallikarjun Kharge.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha will also have an Leader of Opposition for the first time in ten years. In the previous two Lok Sabhas, the largest opposition party Congress could not get the post as it did not have the requisite numbers, which is one-tenth of the strength of the House.
- President Murmu will address the joint sitting of both houses on June 27.
- The session will conclude on July 3 and reassemble for the monsoon sitting on July 22.

#### Speaker pro tem' mean?

- Pro-tem is a Latin phrase which means "for the time being".
- The pro-tem speaker is appointed to preside over the sittings of the newly elected house.

#### **Duties**

- The Pro-tem Speaker presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha and administers the oath of office to the newly elected MPs.
- To conduct the vote for the speaker and deputy speaker. He also administers the floor test.

# Great Nicobar's particularly vulnerable tribal group, Shompen, cast their vote for the first time



- For the first time, members of the Shompen, one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the country and who reside in the dense tropical rain forests of the Great Nicobar island, took part in the election process by casting their votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.
- Shompen is the only PVTG in the region with Mongoloid features, such as light brown to yellow brown skin and oblique eye features.
- The estimated population of Shompen was 229 as per the 2011 Census data.

#### **PVTG:**

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.
- 1975, the Government of India declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs on the recommendation of Dhebar commission.
- Currently, there are 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.

#### **Characteristics of PVTGs:**

- Population stagnant/declining
- Technology pre-agricultural
- Literacy Level extremely low
- Economy Subsistence level

## 56 Rajya Sabha Seats From 15 States Go To Polls On February 27



- <u>About Rajya Sabha -</u> constitutionally the Council of States, is the upper house of the bicameral Parliament of India
- Term It is a permanent body, but one-third of its members retire every two years and are replaced by newly elected members. Each member serves a six-year term.
- Chair of the House- The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- Maximum strength is 250 (238 members are representatives from states and union territories, and 12 members are nominated by the President)
- The current capacity of the Rajya Sabha is 245 (233 elected, 12 appointed)

### Parliament Session Concludes as Both Houses Adjourn sine die

- After general elections for the 18th Lok Sabha, the First Session of Lok Sabha and 264th Session of Rajya Sabha were called from 24th and 27th June, respectively.
- Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on 2nd July, 2024 while Rajya Sabha has been adjourned sine die on 3rd July, 2024.
- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period i.e. without naming a day for reassembly.
- The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.
- He can also call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die.

### What are the differences between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?

| Provisions   | Lok Sabha          | Rajya Sabha           |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Election     | Members are        | Members are           |
| Procedure    | directly elected   | indirectly elected    |
| a definition | through the First  | through               |
| 200          | Past The Post      | proportional          |
| 0            | (FPTP) system.     | representation.       |
| Age          | Minimum age to     | The minimum age       |
|              | become a           | to become a           |
|              | member is 25       | member is 30 years.   |
|              | years.             | - / /                 |
| Term         | It continues for 5 | It is a permanent     |
|              | years.             | body                  |
| Chair of the | Speaker is the     | The Vice-President    |
| House        | head of the        | is the chairman of    |
| -09          | house.             | the house.            |
| Composition  | Maximum            | Maximum strength      |
|              | strength is 550.   | is 250. Out of which, |
| 10 Cm        | 530 members        | 238 members are       |
|              | represent states,  | from states, and 12   |
|              | and 20 members     | members are           |
|              | represent union    | nominated. The        |
|              | territories. The   | current strength is   |
|              | current strength   | fixed at 245.         |
|              | is 543.            |                       |
| Electoral    | A citizen above    | Only members of       |
| College      | the age of 18 can  | state legislative     |
| 136          | vote.              | assembly and union    |
|              | 1/ 2               | territories with      |
| 1000         | 7 (                | legislative assembly  |
| -300         | 70                 | can vote.             |

### Rashtrapati Bhavan renames Durbar Hall, Ashok Hall as Ganatantra Mandap, Ashok Mandap



- President Droupadi Murmu announced the renaming of two of the most important halls at Rashtrapati Bhavan – Durbar Hall and Ashok Hall.
- While Durbar Hall, the <u>venue of important</u> <u>ceremonies and celebrations such as the</u> <u>presentation of the national awards</u>, has been renamed Ganatantra Mandap, Ashok Hall, which is used for special events, will now be referred to as Ashok Mandap.
- Term 'durbar' refers to courts and assemblies of Indian rulers and the British and lost relevance after India became a republic or 'Ganatantra'.
- While Ashok Hall was originally a ballroom, the word 'Ashok' connotes someone who is "free from all sufferings".
- In January last year, a day before the historic
   Mughal Gardens was to open to the public for the season, the Rashtrapati Bhavan announced that it was giving it "a common name" of 'Amrit Udyan'
- In 2022, the pathway from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, which was earlier known as Rajpath, was renamed Kartavya Path

## **Budget Session of Parliament to begin from 31st January**

| Sessions of<br>Parliament<br>in India | Duration  | Also known as                               |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Budget<br>session                     | January End –<br>April End or May<br>first week | Longest, Budget<br>Session (1st<br>session) |
| Monsoon session                       | July Starting –<br>August/September             | Second session of 3 weeks                   |
| Winter session                        | November –<br>December                          | 3rd session.                                |

#### **Budget Facts**

- The word 'Budget' comes from the French word 'Bougette' which means a bag
- Independent India's first Union Budget was presented by RK Shanmukham Chetty on November 26, 1947
- First woman to present a Budget in India Indira Gandhi (1971) - the then Prime Minister of India, who also held the portfolio of Finance Minister

# Nirmala Sitharaman To Become 2<sup>nd</sup> FM To Present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets



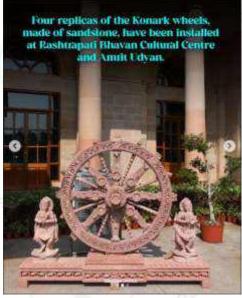
- She will be the second finance minister to present her sixth straight budget equaling her record with former PM Morarji Desai.
- Desai, during his tenure as finance minister, had presented a total of five annual budgets and one interim budget from 1959 to 1964.



- The first full-time woman finance minister of the country, has presented five full budgets since July 2019 and will present an interim or vote-on-account budget on February 1, 2024.
- At first, Arun Jaitley assumed control of the finance ministry and delivered five consecutive budgets from 2014-15 to 2018-19.
- In 2017, Jaitley broke away from the tradition established during the colonial era, which involved presenting the budget on the last working day of February, and instead moved it to the 1st of the month.

### Replicas of Konark Wheels at Rashtrapati Bhavan to Showcase India's Cultural Heritage

 Four replicas of the Konark wheels, made of sandstone, have been installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan.



- Installation of Konark wheels aims to showcase and promote rich heritage of the country among visitors.
- The Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the culmination of Odishan temple architecture.
- It was built in the shape of a colossal chariot carrying the Sun God. The Konark wheels are symbols of India's cultural legacy.

#### **Konark Sun Temple:**



- Location: It is located on the coastline of Odisha in Puri district.
- Also called the **Surya Devalaya**, the temple is dedicated to the **Hindu god Surya**.
- Textual evidence indicates that Narasimha I (who reigned between 1238 and 1264) of the Eastern
  Ganga dynasty built the temple in 1250.
- It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.
- Odisha style of architecture or Kalinga architecture.
- The temple complex has the appearance of a 100foot-high solar chariot, with 24 wheels and pulled by six horses, all carved from stone.
- Built from Khondalite rocks, is also known as 'BLACK PAGODA' due to its dark colour.

## The Winter Session of Parliament began on November 25, 2024





- The Winter Session of Parliament is one of the three parliamentary sessions held in a year.
- India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar.
   Conventionally though, Lok Sabha convenes in three sessions annually.
- Article 85 of the Indian Constitution governs the sessions of Parliament, including how it can be dissolved, prorogued, or summoned

#### **Summoning**

- Parliament sessions begin with a "summoning" by the President, based on the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs' recommendation.
- Article 85(1) of the Constitution mandates that the interval between two parliamentary sessions cannot exceed six months, ensuring that Parliament meets at least twice a year.

#### **Sessions of Parliament:**

- The longest, Budget Session (1st session), starts towards the end of January, and concludes by the end of April or first week of May.
- The session has a recess so that Parliamentary Committees can discuss the budgetary proposals.
- The second session is the three-week Monsoon
   Session, which usually begins in July and finishes in August.
- Winter Session (3rd session), is held from November to December.

#### **Adjournment**

 An adjournment temporarily suspends a Parliament sitting for hours, days, or weeks, without affecting pending bills or business, which resume upon reconvening.

#### Quorum

The quorum is the minimum number of members required for proceedings, set at one-tenth of the total membership, including the presiding officer.

Opposition submits notice to move no confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

### **NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION**



- for allegedly conducting the House in a partisan manner, making it the first such action in India's parliamentary history.
- Opposition parties have decided to move a notice under Article 67(b) of the Constitution, with 65 signatures.
- The minimum required numbers for moving a motion to remove the vice president is 50.

#### **About Article 67(b):**

- The <u>Vice President of India</u> serves as the ex-officio
   Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- Article 67(b) of the Indian Constitution outlines how the Vice President can be removed from office.
- It states that the Vice President may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council and agreed to by the House of the People.
- Grounds for Removal: The Constitution does not specify particular grounds for removal, leaving it to the discretion of the members of Parliament.
- No such resolution can be moved unless 'at least a 14-day notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.
- The notice must clearly state the intention to initiate the resolution and outline the reasons for it.
- Thus, the process to remove the Vice
   President begins in the Rajya Sabha, where the Vice
   President serves as the ex-officio Chairperson.

What is a No-Confidence Motion?



- In a parliamentary democracy, a government can be in power only if it commands a majority in the directly elected House.
- Article 75(3) of the Constitution embodies this rule by specifying that the Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- For testing this collective responsibility, the rules of Lok Sabha provide a particular mechanism – a motion of no-confidence.
- The procedure is specified under Rule 198 of the Lok Sabha. The Constitution does not mention either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion.

#### Who can move a No-Confidence Motion?

- Any Lok Sabha MP, who can garner the support of 50 colleagues, can, at any point of time, introduce a motion of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers.
- A no-confidence motion can be moved only in the Lok Sabha. It cannot be moved in the Rajya Sabha.
- The first no-confidence motion against the administration of the then Prime Minister
   Jawaharlal Nehru was presented in the Lok Sabha in August 1963.

### Packaged mineral drinking water in 'highrisk food' category: FSSAI



- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Manufacturers and processors of packaged drinking and mineral water must now pass mandatory inspections before obtaining a licence or registration.
- Additionally, businesses in the high-risk food category will be required to undergo annual audits by FSSAI-recognised third-party food safety agencies.

#### **SHORT NEWS**

 NCERT signs MoU with Flipkart to ensure affordable & seamless availability of NCERT publications across the country, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

### Cabinet approves opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas & 28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas



- As of date, there are 1,256 functional Kendriya
   Vidyalayas, including three abroad Moscow,
   Kathmandu and Tehran.
- Kendriya Vidyalayas are primarily opened to cater to educational needs of wards of transferable and non-transferable employees of Central Government including Defence and Paramilitary forces
- Navodaya Vidyalayas are affiliated to CBSE and provide free residential quality education to talented children from Class-VI to XII in rural areas, targeting socially and economically backward students

# President Droupadi Murmu Unveils Sanskrit and Maithili Translations of the Indian Constitution



- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the Indian constitution's translation in Sanskrit and Maithili language in New Delhi on 26 November 2024 on Samvidhan Diwas.
- Maithili is mainly spoken in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nepal.
- The government of India has undertaken a project to translate the Indian constitution into all 22 scheduled languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

#### Hindi Translation of the Indian Constitution

- Ghansyam Das Gupta was appointed head of the 41-member Translation Committee.
- On 24 January 1950, the committee submitted the translated Hindi copy of the Constitution to the

Chairman of the Constituent Assembly of India, **Dr Rajendra Prasad.** 

- The Constituent Assembly members signed both the English and Hindi versions of the Constitution on 24 January 1950.
- Article 394 A was inserted into the constitution by the 58th Constitutional Amendment Act 1987, which states that the Hindi translation of the Constitution is the authoritative text and has the same meaning as the original English version.
- A commemorative coin and stamp dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India was released.
- Release of Books titled "Making of the Constitution of India: A Glimpse" and "Making of the Constitution of India & its Glorious Journey"
- **Since 2015**, 26 November has been observed in the country as the Samvidhan Diwas.

### ICAI Signs MoU with CBSE to Enhance Commerce-Based Skill Courses in BFSI Sector



 The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to promote commerce-based skill courses for students across the country.

### About Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI):

- It is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, viz., the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, for regulating the profession of Chartered Accountancy in the country.
- It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.
- · Headquarters: New Delhi
- It is the second largest professional body of chartered accountants in the world.

#### **Centre Ends No Detention Rules In Schools**

• The government has scrapped the 'no-detention policy' for students in classes 5 and 8.

### Centre scraps 'no-detention' policy for Classes 5, 8; lays stress on remedial measures

The Hindu Bureau

The Centre has done away with the "modetention" policy for Classes 5 and 8, paring the way for educate to hald back students who are trustle to clear year-real examinations.

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Children to Fire and Compulsory Education takes to the Amendmenty Education takes.

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After all other option are collamied, if there is they shall be detained." the same time, so stude should be expelled fro school until Class 5," as Union School Educati Secretary Steller Nume.

The Robes farmer stars that if a child folk to fallithe the promotion eitheria, as notified folks fall the they shall be given additional materials and opportunity for re-examination within a period of two months, from the days of declaration of reachs. If the child talk in clear the ne-exmin, they should be found.

When the child is belt tack, the class trache dual grade the child as well in the pursuits. If necessary, and provide special and impact after identifying the bearing gaps a voicinas stages of assessment, Mr. Euraur further said, "We also want the searrong stationups of the

- Children who do not meet the promotion criteria will have a chance to retake the exams within two months of the result declaration. If they fail again, they will be retained in Class 5 or Class 8.
- The 'No Detention Policy' was introduced in 2009 under the Section 16 of Right to Education Act, which aimed to provide free and compulsory education to every child in India up to Class 8.
- The primary goal of the policy was to prevent students from being held back due to poor academic performance, as this was seen as a major factor contributing to school dropouts.
- By allowing automatic promotion, the policy aimed to create equal opportunities for children from diverse backgrounds and enable them to complete elementary education regardless of academic challenges.

### Why was this policy scrapped?

- Previously, Section 16 of the Right to Education Act, 2009, restricted schools from detaining students up to Class 8.
- However, many states opposed the policy, arguing that it left students ill-prepared for board exams and contributed to higher failure rates in Class 10.
- In 2015, 23 out of 28 states recommended scrapping the policy. As a result, Parliament amended the RTE Act in March 2019, allowing states to conduct regular exams in Classes 5 and 8 and officially ending the No Detention Policy.

#### **Short News**

 For Republic Day Celebration-2025, the theme for tableaux has been decided as 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas'.

### POLICIES/ GUIDELINES / COMMITTEES/ AGREEMENTS

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement

Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment (BioE3) Policy 2024

100% FDI in space sector

**Humsafar Policy** 

**Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy** 

ethylene oxide traces in MDH and Everest spices

**Calcium Carbide For Fruit Ripening** 

fortified rice

SAFAL test cycle 2024

1st foreign university in India

lateral entry in bureaucracy

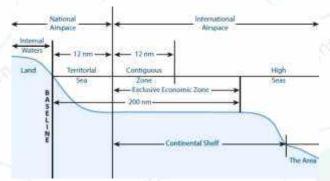
**One Nation One Election** 

**Nata Pratha** 

- It is an international treaty, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- Aims to protect marine biodiversity in the high seas through international cooperation.
- Also known as the 'High Seas Treaty,' the BBNJ
  Agreement ensures that no country can claim
  sovereign rights over marine resources in the high
  seas areas open to all for activities such as
  navigation, overflight, and laying submarine cables
  and pipelines.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will oversee the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement in India.
- The BBNJ Agreement will become the third implementation agreement under UNCLOS,
- alongside the 1994 Part XI Implementation
   Agreement (regulating mining in international
   seabed areas) and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks
   Agreement (conserving and managing fish stocks).
- The BBNJ Agreement will become legally binding
   120 days after 60 countries ratify it.
- High Seas absorb about 30% of the CO2 produced by humans each year, but only 1.5% of the High Seas are currently fully protected.
- UNCLOS, adopted in 1982 and effective from 1994, is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces
- It is also known as Law of the Sea.
- · It divides marine areas into five main zones namely-
  - 1. Internal Waters
  - Territorial Sea

India has decided to sign and ratify the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.





- 3. Contiguous Zone
- 4. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- 5. the High Seas

# Union Government Launches New Guidelines for Effective Public Grievance Redressal

IIM Bangalore signs MoU with alum Mathew Cyriac to set up country's first Global Centre of Excellence on PE & Venture Capital

Named after legendary investment conker Tony James the Contra arres to be a global thought leader for research in all matters relating to Private Equity and Venture Capital



- A key highlight of the guidelines is an integrated platform for grievance filing called the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- The timeline for grievance resolution has been shortened to 21 days from the earlier 30 days

- Nodal officers will be appointed in all ministries and departments to address grievances promptly and efficiently.
- Departments with high grievance loads will have dedicated nodal officers.
- A monthly 'grievance redressal assessment index' will rank various ministries and departments.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh released the Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment (BioE3) Policy 2024



- BioE3 policy will prove to be a milestone not only for the bio economy but a game changer for Viksit Bharat @2047"
- The policy is aimed at 'Fostering High Performance
  Biomanufacturing' aligned with National initiatives
  of the government of India such as 'Net Zero'
  carbon economy and Mission LiFE( Lifestyle for
  environment).
- BioE3 policy will have a momentous impact on various sectors like food, energy and health.
- He also highlighted the six thematic themes which were
  - 1. Bio-based chemicals and enzymes
  - 2. Functional foods and Smart proteins
  - 3. Precision biotherapeutics
  - 4. Climate resilient agriculture
  - 5. Carbon capture and its utilisation
  - 6. Futuristic marine and space research
- India's bio economy skyrocketed from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024

### Government allows 100% FDI in space sector

- The Union Cabinet has eased regulations to allow 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country's space sector.
- For satellite manufacturing and operations, satellite data products, ground segments, and user segments, up to 74% FDI (automatic route).

for launch vehicles, spaceports, and associated systems or subsystems, up to **49% of FDI** (automatic



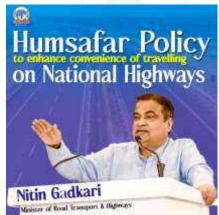
route).

stakeholders, including the Department of Space,
 IN-SPACe, ISRO, NSIL, and various industrial entities.

#### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment from a party in one country into a business or corporation in another country (intention of establishing a lasting interest).
- With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country.
- FDI enters in India through two routes:
- Automatic route
  - The non-resident or Indian company does not require prior nod of the RBI or government of India for FDI.
- Government-approval route
  - The government's approval is mandatory and the company will have to file an application through Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari Unveils 'Humsafar Policy' in New Delhi



The policy aims to provide a comprehensive framework to ensure that the commuters have access to standardized, well-maintained, and hygienic facilities by onboarding both existing and upcoming service providers along National Highways and Expressways.

- petrol pump owners alongside NHs to ensure basic amenities at the petrol pump as per norms - Food court, cafeteria, Fuel station, Electric Vehicle Charging Station, parking facilities, Toilet facility, Baby Care room, ATM, Vehicle repair shop, Pharmacy services
- Registered service providers will benefit from waiver of fees for renewal for existing access permission and will be provided space on National Highways to put up signages of their establishment to increase visibility
- the service providers will be featured on NHAI
   (Rajmarg Yatra', mobile app to boost their online
   visibility.
- Commuters will be able to find details of relevant service providers near their location instantly on the 'Rajmarg Yatra' app.

# Union Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates National Time Protocol (NTP) For Dissemination of IST In Mumbai



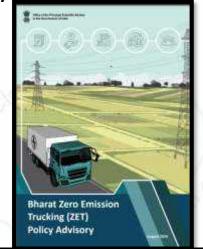
- This will provide Uniform and precise time information with milliseconds accuracy and will also increase the cyber security.
- Earlier time was sourced from the Global
   Positioning System (GPS) but now onwards we will
   have our own system with the help of Navigation
   with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
- All the mobile operators across the country will have to sync the time using this system.
- India is the first country to implement time distribution system.
- By the end of year, atomic clock will be installed in the Regional Reference Standards Laboratory (RRSL) at Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Delhi.
- An atomic clock is a highly accurate time-keeping device that uses the vibrations of atoms to measure time. It is used in many applications that require precise timing, such as GPS systems and scientific research.

### New Guidelines for Coaching Centres in India



- Ministry of Education in India has announced new guidelines for coaching centres.
- It comes following complaints received by the government about rising cases of student suicides, fire incidents, lack of facilities in coaching incidents as well as methodologies of teaching adopted by them
- The guidelines have been framed to address the need for a legal framework and manage the unregulated growth of private coaching centres
- Only those with a minimum qualification of graduation are eligible to teach.
- Guidelines prohibit coaching centers from making misleading promises or advertisements guaranteeing ranks or good marks
- Students below 16 years old cannot be enrolled,
   Student enrollment is allowed only after completing the secondary school examination.
- Coaching centers are mandated to have a counseling system as per the guidelines.
- the **tuition fees shall be fair and reasonable** and receipts must be made available.
- Centres must meet a minimum space requirement per student to be registered.
- Considering that regulation of +2 level education is the responsibility of State/Union Territory Governments, these institutions are best regulated by the State / UT governments

Launch of "Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy <u>Advisory</u>" document



- The Government of India, launched the advisory document titled "Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy Advisory" at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.
  - The "Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy Advisory" aims to guide India towards adopting zero-emission trucks powered by electricity and hydrogen.
  - The goal is to reduce pollution, improve air quality, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
  - The recommendations target achieving 100% ZET sales by 2050, aligning with India's Net Zero 2070 goal.
  - The document was created by a Policy Advisory Panel chaired by **Dr. Preeti Banzal** with support from IIT Madras' Centre of Excellence for Zero Emission Trucking (CoEZET).

# Government issues guidelines for operation of seaplanes in country

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu has launched the guidelines for seaplane operation under RCS-UDAN.
- The guidelines prioritise the safety and security of seaplane operations and clearly outline the responsibilities of each stakeholder, from the operators to the regulatory bodies.
- India's 7517 km long coastline and extensive network of rivers and lakes which present a unique opportunity for the development of seaplane operations in the country.

| Overview    | -84.                             |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| UDAN Full   | Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik          |
| Form        |                                  |
| UDAN        | 2017                             |
| Scheme      |                                  |
| Launch Year |                                  |
| Nodal       | Ministry of Civil Aviation       |
| Ministry    | 1 25                             |
| UDAN        | Air Connectivity to unserved and |
| Scheme      | under-served airports of the     |
| Objective   | country.                         |

## FSSAI finds no ethylene oxide traces in MDH and Everest spices

- Samples of spices of two major brands MDH and Everest were tested in 28 accredited laboratories by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Last month, the started taking samples of spices in powder form of all brands, including MDH and

Everest, from across the country in view of quality concerns flagged by Hong Kong and Singapore.



### ICMR Warns Against Misuse of Non-Stick Teflon Cookware



- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has cautioned that overheating in cracked and scratched teflon-coated nonstick pans can emit large volumes of poisonous fumes and dangerous chemicals into meals (when cooked at a high temperature of over 170 degrees Celsius), potentially causing lung ailments and cancer.
- Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which functions under ICMR has instead asked people to use eco-friendly cookware, such as earthen pots and coating-free granite stone utensils.
- Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), commonly known as Teflon, is a synthetic chemical comprising carbon and fluorine atoms.
- It was first created in the 1930s and provides a nonreactive, nonstick, and almost frictionless surface to utensils.

## FSSAI Warns Against Using Calcium Carbide For Fruit Ripening



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked traders and food business operators not to use 'calcium carbide' the banned product (under the Regulation of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011) for ripening of fruits.

- Calcium carbide, commonly used for ripening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas, which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus.
- There are chances that calcium carbide may come in direct contact with fruits during application and leave residues of arsenic and phosphorus on fruits
- Can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers, etc
- Ethylene, a naturally occurring hormone in fruits, regulates the ripening process by initiating and controlling a series of chemical and biochemical activities.

# FSSAI orders removal of A1 and A2 claims from all packaging of milk and dairy products



- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) asked food business operators (FBOs) and ecommerce players to remove all claims of A1 and A2 types of milk and milk products from all packaging.
- FSSAI stated that the A1 and A2 differentiation of milk is essentially linked to a difference in the structure of protein (beta casein).
- The key difference lies in the amino acid structure.
   A1 beta-casein has a histidine amino acid at position 67, while A2 beta-casein has proline at the same position.
- A2 beta-casein is believed to be easier to digest and may cause fewer issues for people with dairy sensitivities.
- But as per FSSAI the current rules do not recognise any such differentiation of milk on the basis of A1 and A2 types.
- Hence, the use of any A2 claims on milk fat products is misleading and not in conformance with the provisions laid down under the Food Safety Standards Act, 2006, and its regulations.

### **Govt Makes ISI Mark Mandatory For Stainless Steel And Aluminum Utensils**

 The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under Ministry of Commerce

- and Industry, issued a Quality Control Order on March 14, making the ISI mark compulsory for these kitchen utensils.
- Indian Standards Institution (ISI) mark is developed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), assuring of product quality and safety.

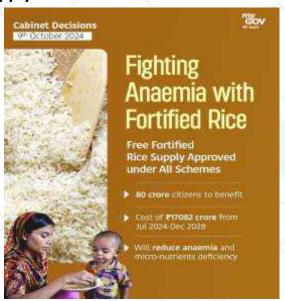


# ICMR proposes new guidelines to limit sugar in processed foods



- India's National Institute of Nutrition (Hyderabad), falling under the purview of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has proposed revised dietary guidelines to tackle high sugar content in packaged foods and beverages.
- This marks a first for the country and replaces the previous focus on calorie thresholds, which have been in place for 13 years.
- The new guidelines, set specific limits on sugar content.
- For solid foods, the proposed threshold is around 5% of total energy intake from added sugar, with a maximum of 10% from all sugars (including naturally occurring ones).
- For **beverages**, the limit is stricter, with a proposed threshold of **10% of energy intake from added sugar** and a maximum of **30% from total sugars** (including natural sugars in fruit juices and milk).
- Increased sugar intake has been connected to heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and dental issues.

## Govt approves continuation of fortified rice supply to reduce anaemia



 under various government schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other welfare programs, from July 2024 to December 2028.

#### **About Rice Fortification:**

- Fortification is the process of adding Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK), containing FSSAI prescribed micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12) to normal Rice in the ratio of 1:100 (Mixing 1 Kg of FRK with 100 Kg custom milled rice).
- This process is done in rice mills at the time of milling of rice.

# Advocacy groups challenge FSSAI's draft notification on removing warning labels from iron-fortified food products



- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) draft notification on an amendment to remove crucial warning labels on iron-fortified food products for individuals with thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia has raised concerns.
- Currently, iron-fortified products come with a label stating "People with Thalassemia may take under medical supervision and persons with Sickle Cell Anaemia are advised not to consume iron fortified food products."

- The amendment to remove this warning label can put vulnerable populations with diseases where iron is contraindicated and who are on reduced iron diets at risk.
- The mandatory advisory was included into the statutory FSSAI regulations of 2018 after scientific discussions in statutory bodies of FSSAI Act 2006.

FSSAI Approves A Proposal To Display Nutritional Information Regarding Total Sugar, Salt And Saturated Fat In Bold Letters



- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
  has approved the amendment in the Food Safety
  and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations,
  2020 regarding nutritional information labelling
- Apurva Chandra, Chairperson, FSSAI.
- Along with empowering consumers make healthier choices, the amendment would also contribute towards efforts to combat the rise of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

# Paracetamol, Shelcal, Pan D fail quality test, raise safety concerns



- The Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) raised significant safety concerns by declaring over 50 drugs as "not of standard quality.
- including vitamin C and D3 tablets, Shelcal, vitamin B complex, vitamin C softgels, anti-acid Pan-D, paracetamol tablets, the anti-diabetic drug Glimepiride, and the high blood pressure medication Telmisartan.
- Prolonged use of such low-quality medications can lead to liver damage and kidney complications

## CBSE launches SAFAL test cycle 2024 with a plan to reduce exam stress



- It aims to develop a first-of-its-kind "census" on learning gaps to help plan timely remedial action.
- It is a Competency-based Assessment for Grades 3,
   5 and 8 that assesses core concepts, application of knowledge and higher order thinking skills.

#### **Key Features:**

- Test core concepts and move away from rote learning in all schools.
- Diagnostic information will be shared for development of learning outcomes.
- It will test proficiency of students at 4 levels of skills and knowledge – Below Basic (2 years below Grade), Basic (1 year below Grade), Proficient and Advanced (Current Grade).
- No additional classes or special preparations are required for students to take SAFAL
- It is in line with promoting skill development and employability in the country's workforce.

## NCERT Proposes 10 Bagless Days for School Students 6 – 8

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) released guidelines for the implementation of bagless days for classes 6 to 8 in

- an effort to make learning in schools more experiential and stress-free.
- Developed by Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education, the vocational education unit of the NCERT, the guidelines come

after the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020

The guidelines state that in these ten days, children will be given periodic exposure to activities outside school through visits to places such as



monuments of historical, cultural, and tourist importance, meetings with local artists and craftsmen, and visits to higher educational institutions in their village, tehsil

# A poem on 'National War Memorial' and a chapter on 'Veer Abdul Hameed' included in curriculum of Class VI



- The objective of this initiative, jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education
- The chapter titled 'Veer Abdul Hameed' honours the Braveheart Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid Idrishi PVC who made supreme sacrifice fighting for the Country during the India-Pakistan war of 1965 and was awarded the Country's highest gallantry award Param Veer Chakra (posthumously).

# Universities will be allowed to offer admissions twice a year on lines of foreign

varsities: UGC

 The two admission cycles of Indian universities and higher education institutions will be July-August and January-February from the 2024-25 academic session.



- The biannual admissions will also enable the higher education institutes (HEIs) to plan their resource distribution, such as faculty, labs, classrooms and support services, more efficiently, resulting in a better functional flow within the university.
- Universities worldwide already follow a biannual admission system.
- Offering biannual admissions will not be mandatory for the HEIs, it is the flexibility that UGC provides to the HEIs which want to increase their student intake and offer new programmes in emerging areas.
- It can enhance their international collaborations and student exchanges.

## IIMC gets deemed university status, can now offer degrees



- The Union Education Ministry has awarded 'deemed to be university' status to the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in New Delhi.
- IIMC can now offer degrees, including doctoral degrees to students. At present, it offers postgraduate diplomas in various streams of mass communication and journalism to students.

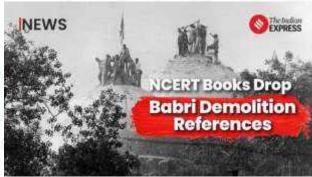
### 1st foreign university in India under UGC



- the Centre granted permission to the UK-based
   University of Southampton to establish a campus in Gurugram, Delhi-NCR.
- The University of Southampton, which is among the top 100 universities in the QS World University Rankings

- the first academic session is likely to begin in July 2025, and the campus will hire faculty from both India and abroad.
- the University of Southampton will become the first international university to set up a campus in India under the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023, notified in November last year.
- The regulations, which allow top 500 foreign universities to set up campuses in India, were prepared in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

## In Revised NCERT Textbook: A rewrite of Ayodhya dispute — and some deletions



- The revised NCERT Class 12 Political Science textbook, does not mention the Babri Masjid, but refers to it as "three-domed structure,". It has also cut the Ayodhya section from four to two pages and deleted telling details from the earlier version.
- These include: the BJP rath yatra from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya; the role of kar sevaks; communal violence in the wake of the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992; President's rule in BJP-ruled states; and the BJP's expression of "regret over the happenings at Ayodhya".
- The old textbook introduces Babri Masjid as a 16th century mosque built by Mughal emperor Babur's General Mir Baqi.
- Now, the chapter refers to it as "a three-dome structure (that) was built at the site of Shri Ram's birthplace in 1528, but the structure had visible displays of Hindu symbols and relics in its interior as well as its exterior portions".
- A subsection on the Supreme Court's decision on the Ayodhya dispute (titled 'From Legal Proceedings to Amicable Acceptance') has been added in the new version of the textbook.
- It then mentions the 5-0 verdict of the Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court on November 9, 2019 on the Ayodhya dispute.

- This is the fourth round of revisions of NCERT textbooks since 2014.
- NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani

## Govt sets up panel under ISRO ex-chief to plan exam reforms

NTA chief moved out, Govt sets up panel under ISRO exchief to plan exam reforms



- An expert committee to recommend a roadmap for examination reforms and review the structure and functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- The CBI, which is already looking into the UGC-NET paper leak, will also investigate the irregularities alleged in the conduct of NEET-UG.
- The expert committee comprises seven members and will be chaired by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan.

Govt asks UPSC to cancel advertisement related to lateral entry in bureaucracy GOVT TO UPSC:



- The Union Service Public Commission (UPSC) issued an advertisement to recruit for multiple roles in certain Central Ministries through lateral entry, either on contract basis or through deputation.
- The advertisement is for 45 posts across 24 ministries
- to fill joint secretary, director and deputy secretary posts in several departments/ministries.
- The application was open to "talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation-building"

#### What is lateral entry?

 In a lateral entry to the civil services, persons are recruited from outside the usual bureaucratic setup for certain posts in government departments.

- In India, this may include mid or senior-level positions in services such as the Indian Administrative Service.
- Lateral entry envisages the inclusion of domain experts or those with experience in policy-making and implementation from outside the civil services.
- In India, lateral entry into certain posts in the Central government was implemented by the Modi government in 2018.
- The concept, however, was reportedly spearheaded by the Congress-led UPA government and recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission formed in 2005 under the chairmanship of former Union Law Minister and Congress leader M. Veerappa Moily.
- CRITICISM Lateral entry has invited criticism and controversy since its inception in India. In 2019, Dalit and other civil servants objected to the scheme, saying that candidates hired by lateral entry were not subject to reservation requirements.
- Notably, other countries have regularised lateral entry into administrative posts— including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Belgium.

# "One Nation One Election" Committee Submitted its Report "



- The high-level committee on "one nation one election", headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, submitted its report on simultaneous polls to President Droupadi Murmu.
- The report comprises of 18,626 pages, and has been prepared after extensive consultations with stakeholders, experts and research work of 191 days.
- The panel recommended simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.
- Established on 2nd September 2023, the committee was tasked with examining the concept of 'one nation, one election' for holding simultaneous elections to the House of the People

(Lok Sabha), State Legislative Assemblies (राज्य विधानसभा), Municipalities, and Panchayats.

- The committee was to propose specific amendments to the Constitution of India, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and other related laws.
- The Committee has proposed the insertion of Article 82A to the Constitution to synchronise the terms of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- All the State Assemblies which are constituted in general elections held after this Article is brought into effect ("Appointed Date") will come to end along with the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha.
- Thereafter, all General elections to the House of the People and all State Legislative Assemblies shall be held together simultaneously
- Further, in the event of a hung house and a noconfidence motion, fresh elections may take place.
   Notably, the tenure will only be for the unexpired term in such cases. In other words, it will be the remainder of the full term, ie. for five years:
  - Where fresh elections are held for the House of the People (Lok Sabha) the tenure of the House will be "only for the unexpired (remaining) term of the immediately preceding full term of the House"
  - When fresh elections are held for state legislative assemblies, then such new assemblies — unless sooner dissolved — shall continue up to the end of the full term of the Lok Sabha.
- In this regard, Amendments are proposed to Article
   83 (duration of Houses of Parliament) and Article
   172 (duration of state legislatures)

**Ratification by the states is not required** to hold simultaneous elections in the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies.

#### The Kovind panel includes:

- Home Minister Amit Shah
- Former leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad
- Former Finance Commission chairman N.K. Singh
- Former Lok Sabha Secretary General Subhash Kashyap
- Senior advocate Harish Salve
- Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal is a special invitee to the panel.

The **22nd Law Commissio**n (under the Chairmanship of Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi), that has examined the issue in detail, had also suggested holding simultaneous polls from the general election of **2029**.

### Union Government to Form Committee for Ensuring Safety of Healthcare Professionals





Dr R V Asokan National President

- The government made the decision after considering the concerns expressed by various healthcare stakeholders, including FORDA (Federation of Resident Doctors Association) and IMA (Indian Medical Association).
- It has also invited the state governments to present their suggestion to the committee on the matter.
- The central government directed government hospitals to register an FIR within six hours against any verbal abuse or physical violence meted out to healthcare staff.
- The head of institution shall be responsible for filing an FIR within the stipulated time period.

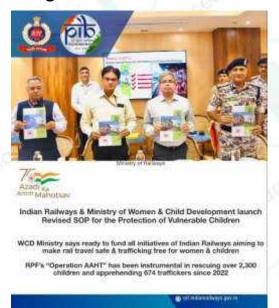
# Health Ministry announces series of measures to provide additional security to healthcare employees at workplace

An advisory issued by the Union government for its health institutes notes :

- women health professionals should preferably not be deployed for night duty alone,
- they should be escorted in premises while on duty and proper arrangement of secured transport should be made for them for any movement at night.
- It has also recommended an adequate number of well-secured duty rooms with basic amenities for female health professionals.
- including strict monitoring of the entry and exit, limiting the number of people allowed in for the patients, mock drills for emergency situations.
- mandatory display of identity card by all hospital staff while on duty and mapping of dark spots in the campus to enhance the security.
- Article 39(e): The State shall ensure that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused, and citizens

are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

## Indian Railways Launches Revised SOP for Protecting Vulnerable Children



- Railway Protection Force (RPF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, has launched an updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi
- Operation Nanhe Farishte and Operation AAHT are both initiatives by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to help children in need
- Operation Nanhe Farishte to rescue children who are lost or separated from their families.
- Operation AAHT A nationwide effort to combat human trafficking.
- The Railways is running, "Operation Meri Saheli" for protection of single lady travelling in trains.
- The Government of India had set up a dedicated fund called 'Nirbhaya Fund' for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.

# TRAI mandates all Service Providers to immediately stop promotional calls from unregistered telemarketers to curb

### increasing spam calls

In a major step to curb the increasing number of spam calls, regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has mandated all service providers to stop voice promotional calls, be pre-recorded or computer



- generated or otherwise, from all unregistered senders or telemarketers.
- all promotional voice calls from the unregistered senders/unregistered telemarketers using telecom resources (SIP/PRI/other telecom resources) shall be stopped immediately.
- If any unregistered sender/unregistered telemarketer is found to be misusing its telecom resources, all the telecom resources of such sender shall be disconnected by the the access provider for a period up to two years.
- such a sender shall be blacklisted for a period of up to two years.
- No new telecom resources shall be allocated to such Sender by any access provider during the period of blacklisting.

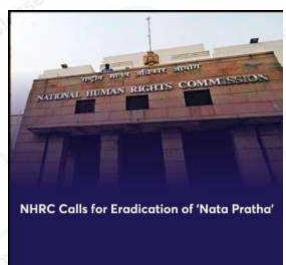
# Union Health Ministry issues first-ever SOPs for transporting human organs through various modes of travel



- The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) aimed at ensuring maximum utilisation.
- Airlines carrying human cadaveric organs can request the Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing of the aircraft and arrange front-row seats.
- They can also request **priority reservation** and a provision for **late check-i**n for medical personnel transporting organs.
  - The source airport will inform and communicate to the destination airport to facilitate the arrival process
  - define a "green corridor" -- free from obstruction -- and a trolley for the organ box from ambulance to the aircraft at the airport of origin and vice versa.

- The "One Trigger System" i.e. a request from the organ allocation authority (NOTTO/ROTTO/SOTTO) to initiate the process of organ transport by creation of green corridors", may be considered for this purpose.
- A nodal officer from the police department can be appointed to handle issues related to the creation of "green corridor" for organ transport in each state/city
- To facilitate the transfer of organs by metro, the Metro Traffic Control should accord priority transit for the metro carrying live human organs for transplant.
- The metro security staff should escort the clinical team carrying the organ box till their boarding at the metro station.
- Organ box should be kept in correct position and orientation i.e. upright straight vertical at 90 degrees to the surface during transport, and label of "handle with care" can be put on the organ box
- Organ transport has been identified as a challenge under the National Organ Transplant Program

## NHRC seeks report on 'sale of underage girls' as part of 'Nata Pratha'



- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notices on to the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat over a practice known as 'Nata Pratha'.
- States have been directed to submit a report on measures taken or proposed within eight weeks.

The 'Nata Pratha' is comparable to modern forms of prostitution. Given the immoral consequences of 'Nata Pratha' on women and minor girls, the NHRC has called for its eradication and abolition.



- Nata Pratha is a traditional practice prevalent in certain communities in states like Rajasthan,
   Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- This practice involves the selling of girls, often on stamp paper, under the guise of marriage. Often involves child marriage.
- Transactions are usually conducted by the girl's own family.
- The practice has severe moral and legal implications, particularly for women and minor girls.

### **Legal and Human Rights Violations**

- Human Trafficking: The practice can be classified as human trafficking, which is illegal under Indian law -Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
- Child Marriage: Violates the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- POCSO Act: The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, can be invoked if minors are involved.
- NHRC suggested besides enacting a law, individuals involved in forcing women into 'Nata Pratha' must be prosecuted under laws relating to human trafficking.
- The sale of minor girls should be prosecuted under the POCSO Act.
- Setting up a group at the village level to register cases of 'Nata Pratha' in addition to building awareness and providing education and employment to improve the economic and social status of girls and women.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### Farmer Protest 2.0

**International Energy Efficiency Hub** 

**Kaushal Bhavan** 

**India's biggest Climate Clock** 

Katchatheevu island

Shaksgam valley

**Rwanda Genocide of 1994** 

**Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra** 

Indo-Myanmar border

**Prerna Sthal** 

AI Krish and AI Bhoomi

25th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

Sahityotsav

Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas

Gaslighting

Miyawaki Plantations

**Punganur Cows** 

RT-PCR testing kit for Mpox

21st Livestock Census

**Digital Bharat Nidhi** 

**Gramoday Sankalp** 

Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan

Five Eyes' Intelligence Alliance

Shyamji Krishna Varma

#### **Farmer Protest 2.0**



- After inconclusive talks with Union ministers, farmers from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh are marching towards
   Delhi in the 'Delhi Chalo' protest, demanding legal guarantees for the minimum support price (MSP).
- In 2020, farmers protested against three laws at Delhi borders, leading to their repeal in 2021:
  - ➤ The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act,
  - ➤ The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act,
  - The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.

#### Leaders:

Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) – the two umbrella bodies of around 200 farmers' and farm labourer unions

#### Main Cause:

- The Indian government sets the minimum support price (MSP) for 24 commodities twice a year in Kharif and Rabi crop seasons after the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- > But state agencies buy only rice and wheat at the support level, benefiting around just 7% of farmers who raise those crops.

#### • The Committee on MSP:

- In 2021, while repealing the farm laws, the government said it would set up a panel of growers and government officials to find ways to ensure support prices for all produce.
- On July 12, 2022, the Centre established a 29 member expert committee, the Committee on MSP, with former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal as its Chairman.
- Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh found no representation in the committee. The absence of any economists or experts who opposed the farm laws in the committee has also raised some concerns.
- Farmers accuse the government of going slow in fulfilling that promise.

#### Demands of Farmers

- Law guaranteeing minimum support price (MSP) for crops- based on the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations
- Withdrawal from the World Trade Organization
- Compensation for families of deceased farmers from the previous protest (in Lakhimpur Kheri), including a job for one family member.
- Withdrawal of the amendments made in 2015 to the Land Acquisition Act of 2013 -Farmers contend that the current compensation rates are inadequate and leave them landless.

# Quality Council of India (QCI) approves National Test House (NTH), Ghaziabad as a Certification Body for type certification of drones

- This is as part of the certification scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).
- The Certification Scheme for UAS is to ensure compliance with applicable national and international standards.



- This initiative is aligned with the government's vision to position India as a global hub for drone technology and to support sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, logistics, and infrastructure with safe and certified drone solutions.
- National Test House is a premier testing and quality assurance institution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

### Cabinet approves India to Join 'International Energy Efficiency Hub' by signing Letter of Intent

- International Energy Efficiency Hub a global platform under International Agency (IEA), dedicated to fostering collaboration and promoting energy efficiency worldwide.
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the statutory agency, has been designated as the implementing agency for the Hub on behalf of India.
- Established in 2020 as the successor to the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), in which India was a member
- As of July, 2024, 16 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the United Kingdom) have joined the Hub

## Government to Establish Cotton Test Labs in 6 States for Kasturi Cotton



- The union government is planning to set up dedicated labs for testing high-grade cotton in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka as part of a push to establish the Indian Kasturi cotton as a global brand
- The labs would be set up in convergence with the Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) testing facilities
- India aims to compete with global cotton brands such as Supima and Giza, which are known for their exceptional softness, strength and durability
- While India has only recently branded its cotton despite being a major producer with the largest area under the crop

## President of India inaugurates Kaushal Bhavan



 Kaushal Bhawan – a new building of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in New Delhi.

# India's biggest Climate Clock activated at CSIR Headquarter, New Delhi



 Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), as a part of the Earth Day Celebrations, installed

- and activated India's biggest Climate Clock on its headquarters in Rafi Marg, New Delhi.
- The event signifies CSIR's aim to spread
   awareness about climate change and its ill effects
   and to make people energy literate.
- It is a graphic to demonstrate how quickly the planet is approaching 1.5°C of global warming, given current emissions trends. It also shows the amount of CO2 already emitted, and the global warming to date.
- CSIR is an R&D organisation in India to promote scientific, industrial and economic growth.
- It was established in 1942 under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Director General: Dr. (Mrs.) N Kalaiselvi

### Katchatheevu island issue gained prominence

- Ahead of the Lok Sabha election, a political row
  has broken out over the barren and uninhabited
   1.6 km-long Katchatheevu island, which India
  recognised as Sri Lankan territory in 1974.
- PM Modi and External Affairs Minister S.
   Jaishankar blamed the Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) for callously giving away the island.



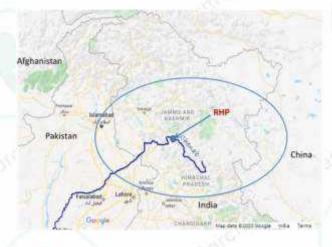


- Katchatheevu in the Palk Strait, b/w India and Sri Lanka
- An area historically used by fisherfolk from both nations is located about 14 nautical miles off Rameswaram, India.

- Discussions on restricting overfishing started between the governments of British India and British Ceylon in 1921.
- The Government of India claimed possession of the island, arguing it was part of the Zamindari of the Raja of Ramnad (Ramanathapuram); Ceylon responded that it was owned by the Diocese of Jaffna.
- In 1974, Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi of India and Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka signed an agreement that recognized Katchatheevu as part of Sri Lanka's territory
- Supplemental pact in March 1976 made it clear that fishing vessels and fishermen of the two countries "shall not engage" in fishing in the historic waters, territorial sea and exclusive zone or exclusive economic zone of either of the countries "without the express permission of Sri Lanka or India."
- After remaining low nearly for over 15 years, the Katchatheevu issue got revived in August 1991 with the then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa demanding retrieval

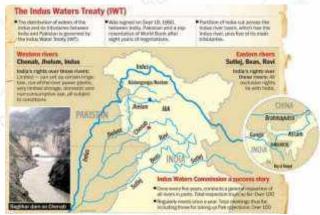
## World Bank expert, Pakistan delegates to visit in J&K to examine hydro projects

- A five-member delegation from Pakistan, along with neutral delegates of the World Bank, is scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir from June 17 to 28.
- in the wake of Pakistan's objection under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) of 1960 to at least 10 hydroelectric power projects underway in the Union Territory.
- The neutral expert will examine the Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Chenab Valley, and the Kishanganga Power House in Bandipore's Gurez.
- Under the IWT, India was given full rights over the three eastern rivers of Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej,



- while Pakistan was granted rights over the three western rivers of Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab.
- However, India is allowed limited use of the western rivers for domestic, non-consumptive, and agricultural purposes.

## India lodges protest with China over its infra development in Shaksgam valley



- India has lodged a strong protest with China for carrying out construction activities in the Shaksgam valley
- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the Shaksgam valley is a part of India and New Delhi never accepted the so-called China-Pakistan boundary pact of 1963 through which Islamabad "unlawfully" attempted to cede the area to Beijing.



- The Shaksgam Valley, or Trans Karakoram Tract, is part of the Hunza-Gilgit region of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and is a disputed territory claimed by India but controlled by Pakistan.
- It borders Xinjiang Province of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the north, the Northern Areas of POK to the south and west, and the Siachen Glacier region to the east.
- It was ceded to China by Pakistan in 1963, when both countries signed a boundary agreement to settle their border differences.

- However, Article 6 of the Pak-China agreement clearly stated that "the two parties have agreed that after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People's Republic of China, on the boundary as described in Article Two of the present agreement.
- The agreement laid the foundation of Karakoram highway, which was built jointly by Chinese and Pakistani engineers in the 1970s.

### **Qutub Minar illuminates in remembrance** of Rwanda Genocide of 1994



- UN International Day of Reflection on the 1994
   Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda (7th April)
- The Qutub Minar was lit up with the colours of the Rwandan national flag on April 7 in solidarity in remembrance of the 100-day massacre that claimed the lives of 8,00,000 people in 1994 in the Rwanda capital, Kigali.
- On this day in 1994, extremists from the Hutu ethnic group launched a 100-day killing spree, in which members of the Tutsi minority and Hutu moderates were slaughtered.
- 1994 Rwanda Genocide (Kwibuka 30) is considered one of the bloodiest massacres of the 20th century.

#### Why did the genocide happen?

- The Tutsis, who made up 8.4 % of the population, were favoured under Belgian colonialism
- The Hutus made up 85 % of the population, but they could not in practice access education and economic opportunities that the ruling Tutsis could.
- In 1959, as independence movements swept across Africa, the Hutus violently revolted against the Belgian colonists and the Tutsi elite.
- A Hutu government came to power after independence in 1962, but faced threats from Tutsi refugees

- One group, the Uganda-based Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), aimed to seize power and return exiled refugees by launching attacks on civilian and military targets in Rwanda.
- By late 1990, a civil war had broken out between the RPF and the Rwandan government.

#### **Rwanda**

Capital: Kigali

President: Paul Kagame

Currency: Rwandan franc (RWF)



### Centre Launches Alternate Auto Fuel Ethanol 100



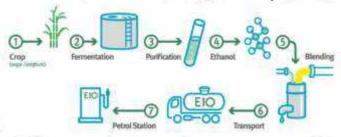
- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri launched Ethanol100, an alternate auto fuel in New Delhi.
- Ethanol100, a cleaner and greener alternative to gasoline, is a blend of 92 to 94 percent ethanol, 4 to 5 percent motor spirit to provide colour to flame and 1.5 percent Co-solvent higher saturated alcohol.
- IndianOil is rolling out Ethanol100 at 183 retail outlets across ethanol-rich states of Uttar
   Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Delhi.
- Government eyeing a 20% ethanol-petrol blend by 2025-26.

#### **Ethanol**

Principal biofuels, which is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.

- Blending Target: The Government of India has advanced the target for 20% ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030.
- The most common biofuels now are –
- Bioalcohols such as ethanol, propanol, and butanol (a substitute for petrol/gasoline);
- Biodiesel (a substitute for diesel);
- Bio-oils (substitutes for kerosene).

# Govt To Conduct 'Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Assessment Test' (FLNAT) As Part Of Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram



- Approximately **37 lakh learners will appear** for this important nationwide assessment.
- The assessment comprises three subjects –
   Reading, Writing, and Numeracy
- The test will be conducted in the regional language of the learners, in line with National Education Policy 2020's focus on promoting multilingualism.
- The test is crucial in assessing the impact of teaching-learning sessions conducted as part of the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.
- As per the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020, the Government of India launched a centrally sponsored scheme called New India Literacy Program, popularly known as ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) for a period of five years, from 2022- 2027.
- to empower all adults aged 15 years and above. It
  not only allows the learners to acquire reading,
  writing and numeracy skills, but also to enrich
  them with an understanding of critical life skills
  while encouraging lifelong learning.

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### Sangeet Natak Akademi to set up Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra in Hyderabad



- The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture and an apex body in the field of performing arts in the country
- First of its kind Regional Centre of Sangeet Nataka Akademi to be set-up in Hyderabad
- The akademi has no presence in South India so far.

#### India to fence 1643-kilometre Indo-Myanmar border



- India is in process of constructing an impenetrable fence along the entire 1643-kilometre-long Indo-Myanmar border.
- The project aims to fortify national security and curb illicit activities in the region
- Four northeastern states share a 1,643 km border with Myanmar:, viz. Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km).
- Myanmar is the only <u>ASEAN</u> country adjoining India and, therefore, is a gateway to <u>SouthEast</u> <u>Asia</u>.
- Fencing of the border will effectively end the Free Movement Regime (FMR).
- Under FMR, every member of the hill tribes, who is either a citizen of India or a citizen of Myanmar,

who resides within 16 kilometres of the border can cross the border on production of a border pass, usually valid for a year, and can stay up to two weeks per visit.



### PM Addresses Bharathidasan University's 38th Convocation in Tamil Nadu



- PM also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several other projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Tamil Nadu.
- Modi inaugurated the new terminal building at the Tiruchirapalli International airport.
- Paying tributes to deceased actor and founderleader of DMDK Captain Vijayakanth
- He also paid tribute to **Dr M S Swaminthan** who
  played an important role in ensuring food security
  in the country (Father of Green Revolution)

#### Government Distributes Over 1.64 Crore Ayushman Cards Nationwide During Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

- Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th November 2023 from Khunti, Jharkhand.
- It aims to raise awareness of various welfare schemes launched by the government through outreach activities.
- By January 25, 2024, the Yatra aims to cover over 2.60 lakh Gram Panchayats and 4000+ Urban Local Bodies across the country.

### Centre extends ban imposed on Students Islamic Movement of India for 5 years



The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the ban against **the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)** for another five years.

The organisation was declared an "unlawful association," under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for the first time in 2001 (Atal Bihar Vajpayee Government).

As per MHA, "SIMI has been found involved in fomenting terrorism, disturbing peace and communal harmony to threaten the sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat."

#### Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurated Newly Constructed 'Prerna Sthal' In Parliament House Complex



#### **About Prerna Sthal**

- The statues of great leaders and freedom fighters are installed inside the Parliament House Complex.
- These statues were located at different places in the complex, which made it difficult for visitors to properly see them.

#### PM Modi holds a bilateral meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron at Jaipur in Rajasthan



French President and PM Modi visited Amer Fort, Jantar Mantar, and Jaipur City



- Jaipur's Jantar Mantar is a collection of 19
   astrological instruments established by Rajput
   king Sawai Jai Singh II, the city's founder.
- In 1734, the monument was completed.
- UNESCO World Heritage site with largest stone sundial in 2010.



#### Amer Fort:

- It is located in Amer, Rajasthan.
- It was built in 1592 by Raja Man Singh.
- It is known for its large ramparts and series of gates and cobbled paths.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the Group Hill Forts of Rajasthan in 2013.

#### **Humayun Tomb Museum**

- The "country's first" sunken museum at the magnificent Humayun's Tomb complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Delhi
- To be naugurated by Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on July 29.
- Showcases the legacy of Mughal emperor
   Humayun, including lesser-known facets of his
   life, and the heritage of the Nizamuddin area over
   the last seven centuries.

- The tomb of Humayun was built by his widow, Biga Begum (Hajji Begum), in 1569-70, 14 years after his death, according to a portal of the ministry of culture.
- The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has built the museum on behalf of the ASI as part of the urban renewal initiative.
- The museum's collection of 700 exquisite artefacts and is managed by Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and is apart of 300-acre Humayun's Tomb-Sunder Nursery-Nizamuddin Basti area.
- Underground Design: The museum is designed like a baoli (stepwell) and includes a 100-seat auditorium, temporary galleries, cafés, meeting rooms, and a library.



### DD News adpots new saffron logo before polls

 Doordarshan News has launched its new saffroncoloured logo from ruby red





## DD Kisan to launch two AI anchors AI Krish and AI Bhoomi on 26th May 2024



- Doordarshan Kisan is going to become the first government TV channel of India, with AI anchor.
   These anchors is that they can speak in fifty languages of the country and abroad.
- Doordarshan Kisan, established on May 26, 2015, by the Government of India, is the only TV

channel in the country dedicated solely to farmers.

### Doordarshan to complete 65 glorious years



- Established on 15th September 1959,
   Doordarshan marked the beginning of India's broadcasting era.
- The then President, Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated the first broadcast on that day.
- Until 1975, it was a part of All India Radio.
- On 1st April 1976, it transformed into a separate department in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and later came under Prasar Bharati.
- As an autonomous public service broadcaster under the Government, it is one of the two divisions of Prasar Bharati.
- Doordarshan remains India's largest broadcasting entity
- Doordarshan has grown into a network operating
   35 satellite channels
- In addition to these stations, Doordarshan operates the DD DTH service "DD Free Dish" from the Earth Station, Todapur, Delhi.

## Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) Adopts a New Logo and Motto



- The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) serves as an apex advisory body on archival matters, advising the Government of India on record management and historical research.
- Established in 1919 and is led by the Union Minister of Culture
- IHRC recently launched an online competition to design its logo and motto.
- Shri Shaurya Pratap Singh's design was selected.

- The logo features lotus petals symbolizing resilience and a Sarnath pillar representing India's rich past. Brown color theme underscores the organization's mission of preserving historical records.
- The motto, "Where history is preserved for the future," encapsulates IHRC's commitment to identifying, collecting, and maintaining historical documents.

# Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releases centenary commemorative coin honoring M. Karunanidhi



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released ₹100 coin to commemorate the birth centenary of late DMK President M Karunanidhi.
- Singh released the coin in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin, son of Karunanidhi, who received it
- He has been elected for MLA the record 12 times and served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for Five times.
- Karunanidhi also became the first chief minister of Tamil Nadu to hoist the flag on August 15, 1974

# India Post to release picture postcards featuring Paris Paralympics medal winners



- The set, that consists of 28 postcards featuring gold, silver, and bronze medallists, is set to be released on September 25 by India Post at the General Post Office in Bengaluru
- The set is an initiative of the Postcrossing Society of India

## **Commemorative Postage Stamp Released** for 25th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas



- The has released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas, at Dras, Kargil, in Ladakh.
- The special issue celebrates the 25th anniversary of India's resounding victory in the Kargil War, paying homage to the unmatched bravery, determination, and sacrifice of our armed forces.

## On Kargil Vijay Diwas, several BJP-led states announce job quotas for Agniveers

- Gujarat, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan announced the reservations in police forces, government jobs, etc.
- Haryana's Nayab Singh Saini government announced 10% horizontal reservation in government jobs to Agniveers on 17th July
- The Centre introduced the Agnipath scheme in 2022 for short-term induction of personnel in the Army, Navy and Air Force, with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services.
- The scheme provides for recruiting Agniveers youngsters between the age group of 17-and-ahalf and 21 for a block period of four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for another 15 years.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs had announced that 10 per cent of vacancies for recruitment in the Central Armed Police Forces or the paramilitary forces would be reserved for ex-Agniveers.

### Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India launches Sustainability Garage



- Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) has launched the 'Sustainability Garage'.
- An initiative to promote innovation in sustainable mobility, in association with Prayoga Institute of Education Research.
- The Sustainability Garage, MBRDI's CSR initiative, is expected to serve as a hub for multidisciplinary research focusing on developing eco-friendly materials with diverse applications.

#### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

- It is a business model by which companies make a concerted effort to operate in ways that enhance rather than degrade society and the environment.
- It helps both improve various aspects of society as well as promote a positive brand image of companies.

### Prasar Bharati and Sansad TV Sign MoU for Enhanced Collaboration and Content Sharing

- in the presence of Sansad TV CEO Rajit Punhani and Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi
- the MoU will facilitate content and program sharing, telecast of Sansad TV on Prasar Bharati's OTT platforms, and the use of training facilities

## Sahitya Akademi organises 'Sahityotsav' to commemorate its 70-year journey



- Sahitya Akademi, the National Academy of Letters in India has organised the World's largest literature festival 'Sahityotsav' to commemorate its 70-year journey.
- The event will be held from 11-16 March, 2024
- The festival was inaugurated by Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi
- Over 1100 renowned writers and scholars are participating

### PM Modi hails Garba's global popularity, shares UNESCO certificate



- Garba was added to the Intangible Cultural Heritage list of UNESCO in December 2023.
- The Garba dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list.
- The Certificate of Inscription was presented a few days back in Paris.



### Iconic Indian Brand Amul Launches Fresh Milk in the US



- Amul fresh milk will be available outside India for the first time as the Gujarat Cooperative Milk
   Marketing Federation (GCMMF) is set to launch four variants of milk in the US market.
- The GCMMF has tied up with 108-year old cooperative organisation Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA)
- Amul will be available in New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Washington, Dallas and Texas among others.

### Indian Oil Produces Formula 1 Fuel In



- India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation
  Ltd (IOC), unveiled 'Storm' petrol that it will
  supply for the Asian region motorcycle road
  racing championship.
- The first company in India to manufacture fuel of specifications used in Formula One or F1 motor racing
- IOC's Chairman : Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- F1 fuel is essentially high-octane petrol and the standards are heavily regulated by global motor sport governing body
- However, from 2026, F1 plans to shift to 100 percent sustainable fuel.

# Reliance Foundation launches animal rescue and rehabilitation initiative 'Vantara'



- Reliance Foundation announced an innovative animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation initiative, in Gujarat's Jamnagar.
- Named Vantara, the program is dedicated to the rescue, treatment, and rehabilitation of injured, abused, and endangered animals, both in India and abroad.
- Equipped with cutting-edge technology, the veterinary hospital boasts MRI and CT scan machines, robotic endoscopic surgery facilities, and six surgical centers.

# Prime Minister Narendra Modi becomes first PM after Indira Gandhi to feature on Newsweek cover



- Former prime minister Indira Gandhi featured on the cover of Newsweek's April 1966 issue.
- Newsweek is the New York-based magazine

### Manmohan Singh ends 33-year-long innings in the Rajya Sabha



- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ends his 33-year-long parliamentary innings in the Rajya Sabha on April 3.
- He became a member of the Rajya Sabha for the first time in October 1991 and was re-elected for five more terms.
- He was the Finance Minister in the Narasimha Rac government from 1991 to 1996 and is hailed for putting India on the road to liberalisation in the early 1990s
- He served as the Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014.

#### **About Rajya Sabha**

- The Rajya Sabha should consist of not more than
   250 members 238 members representing the
   States and Union Territories, and 12 members
   nominated by the President.
- Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution.
- However, one third of the members retire every second year, and are replaced by newly elected members.
- Each member is elected for a term of 6 years.

 The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

#### Government to observe June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to commemorate Emergency





#### What is Workplace Gaslighting?

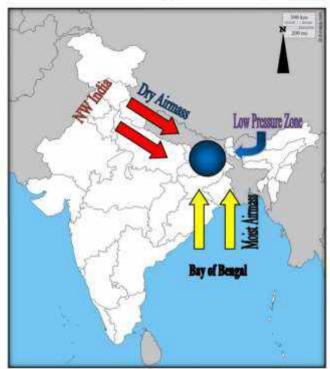
- The phrase comes from the 1938 play "Gas Light,"
  which is about a husband who manipulates his
  wife by changing how she sees the world.
- Gaslighting is now a common problem in workplaces around the world, and it's known for having a big effect on workers' mental health and ability to do their jobs.
- Undermining a person's reality to the point where they question their memory, perception, and reasoning is this type of psychological manipulation.
- That behaviour usually comes from people in charge, like bosses or experienced coworkers, and makes the workplace less healthy.

#### **Characteristics of Workplace Gaslighting**

- 1. Denying or distorting facts
- 2. Trivializing concerns
- 3. Shifting blame
- 4. Withholding information
- 5. Isolation tactics
- 6. Using intimidation

## India's first research testbed to be deployed to study Nor'westers

- Meteorologists will soon deploy drones, mobile vans and high-end instruments to track the Nor'westers that affect the east & northeast regions of India every summer (April-June).
- In the early summer months (March and April), the daytime landmass heating over these regions triggers convection over some areas of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and sub-Himalayan West Bengal.
- These thunderstorm events usually prevail between two to four hours during late afternoon hours., before sunset with thick black clouds, torrential rain & hail for short period.
- Helpful for Kharif/monsoon crops (jute & paddy).
- Known as "Kalbaisakhi" (Bengal), "Barodoli Cheerha" (Assam)

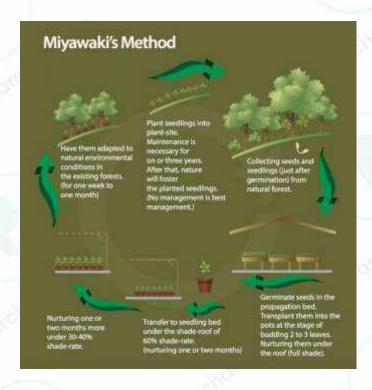


- India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Delhi, will jointly develop (by 2026) and use this facility.
- The proposed multi-crore rupees research testbed facility will cover a large area adjoining West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand.
   The control centre will be at Chandbali in the Bhadrak district of Odisha
- The large volumes of data generated from the facility are expected to help forecasters make timely thunderstorm predictions, issue nowcast warnings (an event in less than three hours), and ultimately save lives.

 IMD, Pune, will collate all the data generated from the testbed facility for further research and analysis.

# NHAI to Enhance Green Cover Along the National Highways with Miyawaki Plantations

- NHAI will undertake a unique initiative to plant Miyawaki plantation on land parcels adjacent to National Highways in and around Delhi-NCR.
- Miyawaki plantations, also known as Miyawaki method is a unique Japanese approach to ecological restoration and afforestation development.
- This method aims to create dense, native, and biodiverse forests in a short period of time.
- These forests retain ground water and helps to recharge the ground water table. With this method, trees grow ten times faster and the plantations act as a sound and dust barrier.
- Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki endowed the Miyawaki technique to create dense forests with native plants.



## DoT Takes Action Against Electricity KYC Update Scam



- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has initiated targeted actions to protect citizens in response to reports of fraudulent activities involving mobile numbers in electricity KYC update scams.
- Vigilant and alert citizens have been proactive in reporting of suspected fraud communications via the 'Chakshu-Report Suspected Fraud Communications' facility on the Sanchar Saathi portal of DoT

#### About Chakshu facility on Sanchar Saathi portal

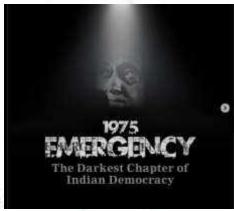
 'Chakshu' facilitates citizens report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS, or WhatsApp with the intention of defrauding like KYC expiry or update of bank account/payment wallet/SIM/gas,connection/electricity connection, sextortion, impersonation as government official/relative for sending money, etc.

## India to start e-medical visa facility for Bangladesh nationals



- PM Sheikh Hasina is India's first state guest during the third tenure of the NDA government.
- 8 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed or renewed, apart from the 2 new vision documents on digital and green partnerships during the current visit.
- India will start an e-medical visa facility for Bangladesh nationals coming to India for medical treatment
- India will also open a new consulate in Rangpur,
   Bangladesh to facilitate services for people in the north-west region of the country.

#### 49th anniversary of the imposition of Emergency



- June 25, 2024 marks the 49th anniversary of the imposition of Emergency by the country's first woman Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi.
- Issued by then President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the Emergency lasted 21 months and has come to be known as one of the darkest periods in modern Indian history.
- The Emergency, spanning from 1975 to 1977, was a period marked by the suspension of civil liberties, censorship of the press, and widespread persecution of political opponents
- Gandhi, who had won decisively in 1971 and led the liberation of Bangladesh, faced growing instability with protests and legal challenges when in 1971, Indira Gandhi's election victory was challenged in court by socialist leader Raj Narain, who alleged electoral malpractices.
- Allahabad High Court found Indira Gandhi guilty
  of electoral malpractices, effectively invalidating
  her 1971 election victory and barring her from
  holding office for six years.
- She gave three reasons to justify her decision:
- Firstly, Gandhi claimed that the movement launched by Jayaprakash Narayan was a threat to the stability of the Indian democracy.

- Second, there was a possibility of unspecified foreign forces invading the country which would be an attack on its security and sovereignty
- Lastly, she stressed the immediate need for economic growth and upliftment of the poor.

#### **Emergency & Constitution**

- The emergency provisions are contained in Part XVIII of the Constitution of India, from Article 352 to 360.
- The Constitution stipulates three types of emergencies-
- National Emergency Article 352
- Constitutional Emergency state emergency or President's Rule - Article 356
- Financial Emergency Article 360
- To prevent any attempt to throttle democracy on the grounds of internal disturbance, the
   44th Amendment in 1978 had been carried out.
- As a result, the President can declare Emergency only due to external aggression and the condition of "internal disturbance" was replaced with armed rebellion.

### India among a select few countries that have not conducted the Census



- India's last census was conducted in 2011, and the scheduled Census 2021 has been indefinitely postponed, citing the COVID-19 pandemic.
- India is among a minority of countries (44 out of 233) that have not conducted the latest census, despite most nations managing to proceed with their census rounds after March 2020, amidst the pandemic.
- Among BRICS nations, India is the only country yet to conduct its latest census.
- The absence of updated census figures hampers the effective implementation of welfare schemes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), National Family Health Survey, and National Family Security Act
- Delimitation of constituencies is also based on census

#### **Significance of Census Calculation**

- Foundation for Policy Planning and Governance: across various sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure development, and social welfare
- Allocation of Resources and Welfare Benefits: welfare benefits like food subsidies, housing schemes, healthcare facilities, and educational resources.
- Monitoring Socio-Economic Development: monitoring of socio-economic development indicators over time, such as literacy rates, employment patterns, poverty levels, and household incomes.

#### **Extra Facts on Census**

- First Non-synchronous Census was conducted in India in 1872 during Governor-General Lord Mayo
- The first synchronous census was taken in 1881, under Lord Rippon, by W.C. Plowden (Census Commissioner of India).
- The first census of independent India was in 1951 (which was the seventh census in its continuous series).
- Census 2011 15th census since 1872 and 7th census since independence

#### **Punganur Cows**



#### In News: PM Modi Welcomes Newborn Calf 'Deepjyoti'

- Native to Punganur village in the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Standing at just around 70-90 cm tall and weighing less than 200 kg, it is among the world's most dwarf cattle breeds.
- It has high resilience to drought and can adapt to low-quality feed.
- A Punganur cow can give around 1 to 3 litres a day, and the milk fat content is 8 percent as compared to 3 to 4 percent in other native breeds.
- The milk is also rich in nutrients such as Omega fatty acids, calcium, potassium, and magnesium.

### IITGN, IIT Indore join hands to set up cNARMADA to assess river ecosystem

- Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) has set up the Centre for Narmada River Basin Management (cNARMADA) at its campus to conduct the Condition Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) of the Narmada river basin.
- IITGN has joined hands with Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IITI) for the assessment undertaken by the Ministry of Jalshakti.
- It will also prepare a road map for comprehensive rejuvenation and conservation of the riverine ecosystems.

High-yielding safflower variety developed by IIOR released by PM Modi







- A high-yielding safflower variety developed by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, based in Hyderabad, was one of the 109 high-yielding, climate resilient and bio-fortified varieties of 61 crops released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- The safflower variety developed by IIOR, ISF 300, is suitable for all safflower-growing regions in the country including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh - both for rain-fed and irrigated cultivation.
- Both the varieties were found resistant to the wilt disease
- According to the statistics of Telangana Agriculture
  Department, safflower was cultivated in 10,464
  acres in 2023-24, 21,234 acres in 2022-23, 18,544
  acres in 2021-22 and 7,551 acres in 2020-21.

#### PM to unveil new crop varieties







#### developed by ICAR-CPCRI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release two new coconut and two cocoa varieties developed by the ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod.
- The unveiling will take place at the Bharat Ratna
   C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex.
- Two coconut varieties Kalpa Suvarna and Kalpa Shatabdi — and two cocoa varieties — VTL CH1 and VTL CH2.

# CCPA Imposes Rs 3 Lakh Fine on Sriram's IAS for Misleading Claims Over UPSC 2022 Exam Result

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on Sriram's IAS for advertising misleading claims regarding the result of UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022: the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- Instead of the 200 selections as claimed by the institute, there were only 171 selected candidates.
- Out of these 171 candidates, 102 were from Free Interview Guidance Programme (IGP), 55 were from Free Test Series
- Nidhi Khare Chief Commissioner of CCPA

#### **About Central Consumer Protection Authority**

- As provided in the Consumer Protection Act,
   2019, the Central Consumer Protection Authority
   (CCPA) has been established w.e.f. 24th July,
   2020.
- Objective: To promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- Composition: It will have a Chief Commissioner as head, and only two other commissioners as members — one of whom will deal with matters relating to goods while the other will look into cases relating to services
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

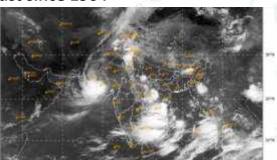
## India develops indigenous RT-PCR testing kit for Mpox



The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for detection of Mpox

- The kits will be manufactured by the company's manufacturing unit in Vadodara, which has a production capacity of one million tests per annum
- the test results will be available in 40 minutes
- The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay is a molecular diagnostic test that targets two distinct regions in the viral genome, spanning both clade I and clade II variants of the virus.
- India has 32 laboratories equipped for testing Mpox.
- On August 14, the World Health Organization classified the outbreak of Mpox as a global health emergency.
- A new strain of the disease has spread beyond the Democratic Republic of Congo for the first time to at least 12 other African countries

## Cyclone to develop in Arabian Sea, first in August since 1964



- Upon intensifying into a cyclone, it will acquire the name Asna, given by Pakistan.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that a cyclone is likely to develop over the north Arabian Sea, off Gujarat coast.
- The cyclone is most unlikely to affect Indian coasts, as the prevailing deep depression over Saurashtra-Kutch would have moved away to north Arabian Sea.

# **I&B Ministry Seeks Explanation from Netflix Over web series IC-814 Content Row**



The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has sought an explanation from content head of OTT platform Netflix over the series **'IC-814 - The** 

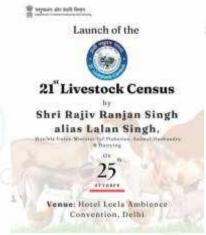
- **Kandahar Hijack'**, which has triggered a controversy over depiction of hijackers.
- accused the makers of the web series of deliberately changing the names of the hijackers to "Bhola" and "Shankar".
- A Union Home Ministry statement dated January 6, 2000, said the names of the hijackers were Ibrahim Athar, Shahid Akhtar Sayed, Sunny Ahmed Qazi, Mistri Zahoor Ibrahim and Shakir.

### Amit Shah releases documentary on Mumbai Samachar's 200-year journey



- documentary film "Mumbai Samachar- 200 Not Out".
- Mumbai Samachar is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Asia. Established in 1822 by Fardunjee Marzban, it is published in Gujarati and English
- Hormusji N Cama, the managing director of the Mumbai Samachar
- The trailer for "Mumbai Samachar- 200 Not Out" was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the newspaper's bicentenary event in June 2022

## India to Launch 21st Livestock Census with Key New Features



 Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurated the 21st Livestock Census on 25th October 2024, focusing on detailed data collection of 15 livestock species and poultry birds.

- scheduled to be conducted during October 2024 -February 2025, in collaboration with State/UT Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The Livestock Census (LC) is a crucial exercise that has been conducted every five years since 1919
- 20 Livestock censuses had been conducted and the last census was held in the year 2019.
- Data on 15 species of Livestock viz. Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun, Yak, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Camel, Horse, Ponies, Mule, Donkey, Dog, Rabbit and Elephant are covered in this census
- Other than Livestock, headcount of Poultry Birds viz. Fowl, Duck, Turkey, Geese, Quail, Gini Fowl, Ostrich and Emu will also be taken
- Notably, it will be the first LC in the country in which data on livestock holding by pastoralists will be available independently.
- This LC will also make available information on "Gender of the person majorly involved in livestock rearing".

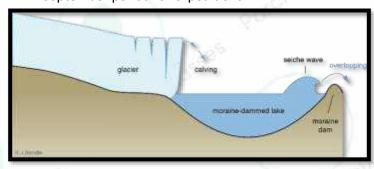
#### 20th Livestock Census report

- It covered all domesticated animals and its headcounts for total 16 species of animals
- The total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.8% over Livestock Census-2012.
- The total number of Cattle in the country is 193.46 million in 2019 showing an increase of 1.3 % over previous Census.
- A decline of 6% in the total indigenous cattle population has been observed.

### NDMA to monitor 189 high-risk glacial lakes to prevent disasters

- Following disasters inflicted by overflowing glacial lakes in the Himalayas, the National Disaster
   Management Authority (NDMA) has finalised a list of 189 "high-risk" glacial lakes for mitigation measures to reduce the risk emanating from them
- The National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP) was approved by the Centre on July 25.
- Glacial lakes are water bodies formed from melting glaciers.
- Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) are sudden releases of water and sediment from lakes blocked by natural barriers like moraines or glacier ice.
- India has around 7,500 glacial lakes in the Himalayas, with some monitored by remote sensing, but full impact assessments are challenging due to their remote, inhospitable

locations, accessible only during the brief July to September period for expeditions.



# Government issues notification for 1<sup>st</sup> set of rules under Telecom Act 2023, known as 'Digital Bharat Nidhi'

- The first set of rules under the Telecom Act 2023, known as 'Digital Bharat Nidhi,' has come into effect.
- The Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)will replace the erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- The notification further mentions that the Digital Bharat Nidhi will fund schemes and projects aimed at providing targeted access to telecommunication services for underserved groups in society.
- Payments received for DBN will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.
- They will then be credited to the DBN by the central government
- The central government will appoint an "administrator" of the DBN through a gazette notification.
- This person will select "DBN implementers" for executing schemes and projects.
- The DBN administrator must create a digital portal to enable DBN implementers and other stakeholders to provide services, report and monitor schemes and projects.

# Cabinet approves setting up of National Centre of Excellence for Animation on lines of IITs, IIMs

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to set up the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) on lines of the IITs and IIMs to anchor the animation ecosystem in the country.
- Aimed at positioning India as a content hub for providing state-of-the-art content thereby enhancing India's soft power globally and

- attracting foreign investments into the media and entertainment sector, the centre will be set up in Mumbai under the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) representing the industry bodies will be partners with the government in setting up the proposed Institute of Immersive Creators (IIIC).

#### White Revolution 2.0



- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah announced plans for "White Revolution 2.0".
- Operation Flood, launched in 1970, ushered in the White Revolution and transformed the dairy sector in India
- The idea of White Revolution 2.0 revolves around cooperative societies
- Dairy cooperatives procured 660 lakh kg of milk per day in 2023-24; the government wants to increase this to 1,007 lakh kg/ day by 2028-29.
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the regulator of the dairy industry in India.
- NDDB has drawn up an action plan to establish about 56,000 new multipurpose dairy cooperative societies (DCSs) over the next five years.
- Most of the new DCSs will be established in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.
- The bulk of the funding for White Revolution 2.0
   will come through the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) 2.0
- NPDD is a new central sector scheme under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairving.
- Under the scheme, financial assistance will be provided to set up village-level milk procurement systems, chilling facilities, and training and capacity-building.

#### Where India stands on milk production?

 India is the world's top milk producer, with production having reached 230.58 million tonnes during 2022-23.

- In 1951-52, the country produced just 17 million tonnes of milk.
- As per the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2023, the top five milk producing states are:
  - 1. UP (15.72%),
  - 2. Rajasthan (14.44%),
  - 3. Madhya Pradesh (8.73%),
  - 4. Gujarat (7.49%),
  - 5. Andhra Pradesh (6.70%),

together contribute 53.08% of the country's total milk production.

### IB Ministry institutes new section for young filmmakers in IFFI 2024



- 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
   2024 is to be held in Goa from 20th to 28th
   November 2024.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has instituted a new section - "Best Debut Indian Film Section 2024".

# NABARD announces ₹750 crore 'Agri SURE' fund to promote innovation in agriculture

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced an agrifund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (Agri-SURE),
- with initial corpus of ₹750 crore to be managed by its wholly owned subsidiary Nabventures.
- While NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture are contributing ₹250 crore each, the rest ₹250 crore is from other institutions.
- The fund is structured to support about 85 agri start-ups with investment sizes of up to ₹25 crore each by the end of its term.

#### India Becomes the First Country to Prepare Full List of Fauna

 India recently launched the "Fauna of India Checklist Portal," which is a major step toward protecting wildlife.

- This complete collection lists 1,04,561 species, making India the first country in the world to record all of its wildlife.
- The launch took place in Kolkata on the 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav led the event.

# Govt Held Discussion On Draft Rules For Moisture Meters In Cereal Grains And Oilseeds

- The Government held discussion on draft rules for moisture meters used for measuring moisture level in cereal grains and oilseeds with all stakeholders.
- A moisture meter is a specialized device used to measure the moisture content in various substances, particularly cereal grains and oilseeds in agriculture.
- It provides accurate readings that are crucial for determining the quality and storage suitability of these commodities.
- By measuring moisture levels, farmers and traders can ensure better preservation, reduce risks of spoilage, and maintain optimal conditions for storage and transportation.



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risks of spoilage, and maintain optimal conditions for storage and transportation.

# Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) Inaugurates 'One DAE One Subscription' (ODOS)



- ODOS is a unique idea enabling Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & all its units/subunits (about 60) together under one umbrella for read and publish access to national and international research papers as well as scientific journals.
- With this initiative it is now possible to share the resources digitally and evolve collectively. The first ODOS agreement with M/s. Wiley India Private Limited
- The ODOS will later get merged with a bigger national initiative, called One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)
- "One Nation, One Subscription" (ONOS) is a scheme of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.
- It is an initiative proposed by the Government of India (GoI), aims to provide countrywide access to national and international scientific and academic content.
- ONOS is expected to sign national licenses with most of the prominent STEM publishers and database producers across the world in order to encourage easy access to highquality academic information, thus stimulating scientific research and innovation in the country.

## **Government Revises Composition Of NITI Aayog**

- The Narendra Modi-led NDA government reconstituted the NITI Aayog, with 4 full-time members and 15 union ministers (as either exofficio members or special invitees).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the chairperson and economist Suman K Bery will continue to be the vice-chairperson of NITI Aayog
- 4 Full-time members Scientist V K Saraswat, agricultural economist Ramesh
   Chand, paediatrician V K Paul and macroeconomist Arvind Virmani

- 4 ex-officio members Union Ministers Rajnath Singh (Defence), Amit Shah (Home), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Agriculture) and Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance).
- National Institution for Transforming India, better known as 'NITI Aayog', was constituted on 1st January, 2015 when the Modi government chose to scrap the 65-year-old Planning Commission (formed in 1950).
- NITI Aayog is neither a Constitutional Body (i.e. not created by the Constitution) nor a Statutory
  Body (i.e. not created by an Act of Parliament). It
  was established by an Executive Resolution of the
  Government of India.

### Ministry of Panchayati Raj set to launch 'Gramoday Sankalp' Magazine

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) had issued a call for articles and success stories for its upcoming issue of "Gramoday Sankalp" magazine, focusing on the theme "Viksit Bharat and Role of Panchayats."
- The Economic Adviser of MoPR emphasized the magazine's role in disseminating information about various government schemes.
- The ministry was reaching out to different departments and organizations for contributions that highlighted the impact of Panchayats in India's development journey.

#### InterGlobe to bring air taxis in 2026



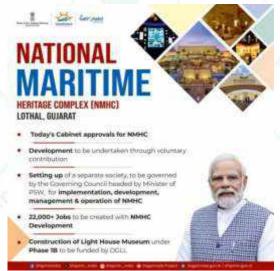
- InterGlobe Enterprises, which owns India's
  largest airline IndiGo, will launch an all-electric air
  taxi service in India from Delhi's Connaught Place
  to Haryana's Gurugram by 2026.
- In November 2023, InterGlobe Enterprises entered into a deal with Archer Aviation to supply 200 eVTOL aircraft
- The electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft can carry the pilot in addition to four passengers.

## Cabinet approves ₹1000 crore VC fund to boost space sector



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved setting up of Rs.1000 crore Venture Capital Fund dedicated to space sector, under aegis of IN-SPACe.
- The deployment period of the proposed Rs.1,000 crore VC fund is planned to be up to five years

# Cabinet approves development of National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat



- To showcase 4,500 years old maritime heritage of India, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterway is setting up a world-class National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal.
- It will be the **world's greatest Maritime complex** once it is fully developed.

## SECL Becomes First Coal Company to Open Four AMRIT Pharmacies

Southeastern Coalfields Limited (SECL),
 Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India,
 inaugurated the country's 216th AMRIT

- (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy.
- a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015
- offer a broad selection of generic and life-saving branded drugs, implants, and surgical supplies at heavily discounted prices.

# Government Launches Kanda Express from Nashik to Delhi to Meet Onion Demand Ahead of Diwali

- In a significant move to control spiralling onion prices ahead of the festive season, the government will transport 1,600 tonnes of buffer stock via railways from Maharashtra to Delhi the first such initiative using rail transport for the kitchen staple
- The special rake, dubbed 'Kanda Express', will depart from Maharashtra's Lasalgaon Railway Station and reach Delhi's Kishanganj Railway Station on October 20.

#### PM Modi launches Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan of BJP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan in the presence of BJP National President J P Nadda.
- The rules state that only active members can take part in the party's organisational elections
- This is a movement which will further strengthen the BJP at the grassroots and ensure the effective contribution of Party Karyakartas for national progress.

## India expels six Canadian diplomats, withdraws its High Commissioner



India has slammed Canada for claiming that its High Commissioner and other officials were "persons of interest" in the investigation of the 2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar (Canadian Citizen since 2007).

- India then proceeded to withdraw its High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and other senior diplomats stationed in Canada
- This was followed by the expulsion of six Canadian diplomats, including the acting High Commissioner (chargé d'affaires) Stewart Ross Wheeler.
- Canada accused India of making a "fundamental error,"
- Canadian PM Justin Trudeau
- Foreign Minister Melanie Joly



- Hardeep Singh Nijjar, on 18 June, was shot dead outside a gurudwara in Vancouver.
- The Indian government had repeatedly designated Nijjar a terrorist. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) notes that Nijjar was initially associated with the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), a Sikh separatist group that is listed as a "terrorist organisation".
- In 2020, the government of India then announced that Nijjar had become the chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) group and was "actively involved in operationalising, networking, training and financing" its members.



- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) alleged that "agents" of the Indian government were collaborating with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang to spread terror on Canadian soil
- Bishnoi, 31 is a gangster from Punjab, and is currently lodged in the Sabarmati Central jail in Ahmedabad. He is suspected by the Mumbai police to be behind the killing of Baba Siddiqui, a three-time MLA from Maharashtra
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada has shared with its Five Eyes partners, all information they have related to the allegations of the involvement of Indian officials in the killing of a Canadian national last year.

**About Five Eyes' Intelligence Alliance** 



- It is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network shared by over 20 different agencies of five English-speaking countries — Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Intelligence documents shared between the member countries are classified as 'Secret— AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,' which gave the group its title 'Five Eyes.'
- Canada Capital: Ottawa
- · Currency: Canadian dollar
- bounded by the Arctic Ocean to the north
- Greenland (a self-governing part of the Danish kingdom) to the northeast,
- the Atlantic Ocean to the east
- 12 states of the United States to the south
- and the Pacific Ocean and the U.S. state of Alaska to the west





## PM Modi announces Jamaica Marg in Delhi, Strengthening Diplomatic Ties



Prime Minister Modi announced the renaming of the road in front of the Jamaican High Commission in New Delhi as 'Jamaica Road'.

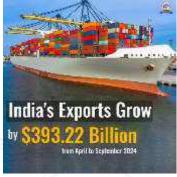
#### Jamaica

Capital: Kingston

Currency: Jamaican dollar

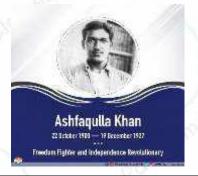


## India's Exports Rise 4.86% to \$393.22 Billion from April to September



- India's overall exports, including merchandise and services, witnessed a 4.86% year-on-year increase in the first half of FY25,
- · India's trade deficit surged a.
- The overall import in the first half of FY25 an increase of 6.89%.

## Nation pays tribute to freedom fighter Ashfagulla Khan on his birth anniversary



- Ashfaqulla Khan was born in 1900 at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- He was a freedom fighter who actively fought against the British forces.
- Ashfaqulla Khan along with his friends had decided to form an organization named 'Hindustan Republican Association' in 1924 to organize an armed revolution to achieve the country's freedom.
- He was hanged on 19th December, 1927 at the Faizabad Jail.

#### PM Modi pays tributes to Jayaprakash Narayan, Nanaji Deshmukh on their Birth anniversaries



#### **Jayaprakash Narayan (11 Oct 1902 – 8 Oct 1979)**

- Popularly referred to as JP or Lok Nayak, was an Indian independence activist, social reformer and political leader
- Known as the "Hero of Quit India Movement" and Jayaprakash Narayan is remembered for leading the mid-1970s opposition against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for whose overthrow he had called for a "total revolution"
- Bharat Ratna, 1999 (Posthumous) for Public Affairs.
- Ramon Magsaysay Award, 1965 for Public Service.

#### Nanaji Deshmukh (11 October 1916 – 27 Feb 2010)



 was a Sangh Parivar veteran, founder member of the Janata Party and a member of the Rajya Sabha.

- A Bharat Ratna Awardee: 2019
- Nanaji Deshmukh established India's first
   Saraswati Sishu Mandir there at Gorakhpur in
   1950
- He was the founder of Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) situated at Chitrakoot.
- active participation in the Bhoodan Movement started by Vinoba Bhave.

#### Shyamji Krishna Varma Birth Anniversary



- The revolutionary freedom fighter was born on 4th October, 1857 in Gujarat
- He was inspired by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Swami
   Dayanand Saraswati and Herbert Spencer.
- He founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London
- His publication journal called The "Indian Sociologist"
- Varma became the first President of Bombay Arya Samaj.
- He died on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1930.

## PM Modi congratulates RSS on its 100th year



- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has entered its centenary year.
- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation founded in 1925 in Nagpur by Dr. K.B. Hedgewar in response to perceived threats to Hindu culture and society, particularly during British colonial rule.
- It aims to promote the idea of Hindutva, which emphasises Hindu cultural and national identity.

### The First Ever Documentary Film Bazaar inaugurated at MIFF 2024

- At the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival, noted film producer Apoorva Bakshi inaugurated the Documentary Film bazaar.
- This dedicated space caters specifically to documentaries, animation, and short films, fostering collaboration and growth within these vibrant mediums.
- The Film Bazaar has been organized for the first time, to help boost the film production by providing a platform to filmmakers to find buyers, sponsors and collaborators for their projects.

#### **Short News**

- 6th NABARD Crafts Mela Commences in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- A band, comprising 45 girls from the North East, is participating in the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2024 for the first time.
- WR to celebrate completion of 125 years of Western Railway's Headquarters building at Churchgate
- Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma announced that the state government will provide domestic LPG cylinders at a subsidised rate of Rs 450 from January 1 for BPL, Ujjwala Yojana
- Centre declares 'Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, J&K (TeH) as an 'Unlawful Association' under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-UAPA
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates NCC Republic Day Camp 2024 at Delhi Cantt.
- Notification Released for elections to 3 Rajya Sabha Seats from Delhi's and One Seat from Sikkim
- PM Modi Inaugurates Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2024 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- FitRise-75 programme concludes at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVP NPA) in Hyderabad
- Rajnath Singh approved a proposal to raise four more National Cadet Corps (NCC) Units in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- Gujarat has set target to become \$500 billion economy by 2026-27: CM Patel
- IIT Madras to open new campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Centre to organize Bharat Tex 2024, a global textile mega event from February 26-29, 2024 in New Delhi

- Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries announced to set up India's first carbon fiber facility at Hajira in Gujarat
- Government is working to make India the hub of green hydrogen by 2030
- First 'Made In India' Memory Chip Expected in Gujarat by Year-End
- Govt reduces time limit for advance ticket booking from 120 to 60 days from November 1



## Confederation of Indian Industry Launches New Strategy Cell

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII),
   Coimbatore, has launched a strategy cell that will handhold industries to scale up their business.
- the six-member cell will work with select industries for six to 12 months.
- CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industryled and industry-managed organization.
- It works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.
- Founded in 1895, it is headquartered in New delhi.

## Beti Bachao Beti Padhao improved sex ratio and Gross Enrollment ratio of girls

- The Government has said that the Sex Ratio at Birth of girl child in the country has improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 as per the provisional data of Health Management Information System (HMIS) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- As per the data of the Unified District Information System for Education, the National Gross

Enrollment ratio of girls in school at the secondary level has increased from 75 per cent in 2014-15 to 79.4 per cent in 2021-22.

#### About Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme

- Was launched on January 22, 2015 as a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Women & Child Development with the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- It focuses on preventing gender-biased sexselective practices, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and promoting her education.
- BBBP is a centrally sponsored scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government in all the districts of the country under Sambal vertical of Mission Shakti.
- The government of West Bengal is not implementing BBBP.

### SheSTEM 2024 Celebrated Youth-Led Innovation for a Sustainable Future

- Young innovators from across the country presented their solutions for energy storage and sustainability at SheSTEM 2024, an annual event organized by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Office of Science and Innovation at the Embassy of Sweden in New Delhi
- It celebrates the contributions of women in STEM and encourage young minds to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- SheSTEM 2024 challenge invited students from grades 6–12 across India to submit innovative ideas focused on Battery Technology and Energy Storage (BEST) systems.

### NITI Aayog Launched "Trade Watch Quarterly" Publication

- Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog, Suman Bery released NITI Aayog's latest publication analysing India's trade statistics for the first quarter of the financial year 2024 (April to June), in New Delhi
- The trade watch publication offers a holistic snapshot of India's trade position, combining global demand-supply perspectives, sectoral performance, and insights into emerging trade opportunities.
- Total trade stood at \$576 billion, registering a
   5.45% year-on-year increase.

# Indian Post Unveils Special set of postcards featuring Penguins of Antarctica



- Indian Post released a special set of postcards featuring the Penguins of Antarctica.
- The postcards will be carried by the 44th
   Antarctica Expedition from the Bharati Branch
   Post Office and Maitri Post Office to Mumbai in the hands of Vandita Kaul, Secretary (Posts),
   Ministry of Communications.
- Also released a permanent pictorial cancellation of Strawberry at Mahabaleshwar Post Office, Pune to commemorate Mahabaleshwar Strawberry's Geographical Indication (GI) status.
- Released a special slogan cancellation featuring the mascot and tagline "Collect, Connect, Celebrate-The Festival of Stamps" for Mahapex 2025, scheduled for January 22-25, 2025, at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai.
- This cancellation will be affixed to deliverable articles at head post offices across Maharashtra and Goa.

## Google Partners with NCERT to Launch YouTube Channels in 29 Indian Languages



 Google has announced a strategic partnership with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to make quality education more accessible across India.

- As part of the partnership, NCERT will roll out YouTube channels tailored to students from grades 1 to 12.
- Google is also partnering with the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) to offer credentialed courses on YouTube.
- Learners who complete these courses on NPTEL's YouTube channels can obtain certifications through the NPTEL-SWAYAM portal

#### **India Achieves Total Fertility Rate of 2.0**



- India has achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.0, according to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019–21).
- This meets the targets set under the National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2017, which aimed for a TFR of 2.1.
- The government has implemented multiple schemes under its Family Planning Programme to reach this milestone.
- Contraceptive options provided include condoms, oral contraceptive pills, emergency contraceptives, intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCDs), and sterilization, Antara injectable contraceptive
- Post-pregnancy contraceptive measures, including Post-Partum IUCDs, Post-Abortion IUCDs, and Post-Partum Sterilization, are also part of the program.
- Awareness campaigns, such as World Population Day and Vasectomy (male sterilization) Fortnight, are held annually.

#### Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy unveils 'Green Steel Taxonomy for India'

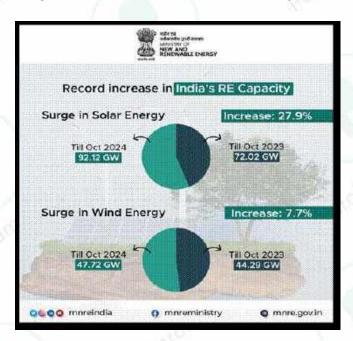


- India is committed to decarbonise the steel sector in alignment with net-zero emission intensity target by 2070
- H D Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Steel & Heavy Industries, unveiled the Taxonomy of Green Steel for India during an event held at Vigyan Bhavan.
- Globally, there is no commonly accepted definition of green steel; India is the first nation to release the Taxonomy of Green Steel.
- "Green Steel" shall be defined in terms of percentage greenness of the steel
- The greenness of the steel shall be expressed as a percentage, based on how much the steel plant's emission intensity is lower compared to the threshold.
- Threshold: 2.2 tonnes of CO2e per tonne of finished steel (tfs).
- This threshold limit shall be reviewed every three years.
- The National Institute of Secondary Steel
  Technology (NISST) shall serve as the nodal
  agency for measurement, reporting, and
  verification (MRV) as well as for issuing the
  greenness certificates and star ratings for the
  steel.
- Based on the greenness, the Green steel shall be rated as follows:
  - Five-star green-rated steel: Steel with emission intensity lower than 1.6 t-CO2e/tfs.
  - Four-star green-rated steel: Steel with emission intensity between 1.6 and 2.0 t-CO2e/tfs.
  - Three-star green-rated steel: Steel with emission intensity between 2.0 and 2.2 t-CO2e/tfs.

India's Renewable Energy Capacity surges by 13.5 % to 203 Gigawatts since October 2023



- India's total renewable energy capacity increased by 13.5% or 24.2 GW in a year to reach at 203.18 GW in October 2024 (more than 46.3 % of the country's total installed capacity)
- Including nuclear energy, the total non-fossil fuel capacity rose to 211.36 GW in 2024
- Solar power leads the way with 92.12 GW
- Wind power follows closely with 47.72 GW
- large hydro projects generating 46.93 GW and small hydro power adding 5.07 GW
- Biopower, including biomass and biogas energy, adds another 11.32 GW
- The proactive initiatives such as the National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, and the PLI schemes for solar PV modules
- goal of 500 GW from non-fossil sources by 2030



#### India Achieves WOAH Reference Laboratory Status

- ICAR-NRC Equine in Hisar Haryana, Earns
   Prestigious WOAH Reference Laboratory Status
- Laboratory to play a Key Role in Global Fight
   Against Equine Piroplasmosis; a blood-borne
   disease affecting horses, donkeys, mules, etc.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has facilitated the designation
- of Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar (ICAR-NRC Equine)
- as a World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Reference Laboratory for Equine Piroplasmosis.

- The official designation will be formally announced at the 92nd WOAH General Session and World Assembly of Delegates in May 2025
- NRC Equine will now play a key role in international collaborations, providing advanced diagnostic services, sharing technical expertise, and leading research initiatives on equine piroplasmosis.
- ICAR-NRC Equine the fourth laboratory in India's
   Animal Husbandry sector to receive WOAH
   Reference Laboratory status, joining ICAR National Institute of High Security Animal Disease,
   Bhopal (Avian Influenza); Veterinary College,
   Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries
   Sciences University, Bangalore (Rabies); and ICAR National Institute for Veterinary Epidemiology and
   Disease Informatics, Bangalore (PPR and
   Leptospirosis).

#### **About Equine Piroplasmosis disease**

- Equine piroplasmosis, caused by the tick-borne protozoan parasites Babesia caballi and Theileria equi
- affects horses, donkeys, mules, and zebras and poses a serious threat to the health of these animals.

Visit of the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Denis Manturov to India





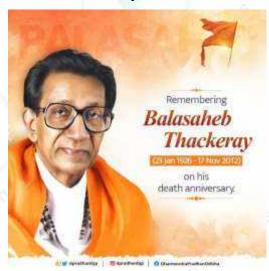
- The First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Denis Manturov visited India.
- Manturov co-chaired 25th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) with Dr. S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on 12th November, 2024.
- The IRIGC-TEC mechanism, set up under an Inter-Governmental Agreement, signed in 1992
- It is the major coordinating mechanism for bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, economic ties, science and technology, and culture.

# National Consumer Helpline partners with over 1000 companies to resolve consumer grievances



- National Consumer Helpline (NCH) is set to introduce artificial intelligence-based features including speech recognition and multilingual chatbots as part of a major upgrade to its consumer grievance system.
- The new AI capabilities, dubbed NCH 2.0, will allow consumers to file complaints through voice input in their local languages, the platform that currently operates in 17 languages.

#### **Balasaheb Thackeray death anniversary**



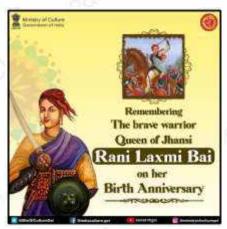
- Bal Keshav Thackeray born January 23, 1926, Pune, Maharashtra
- Died November 17, 2012, Mumbai
- He was an Indian journalist, cartoonist and politician, founder of the Shiv Sena political party,
- He developed a strong regional following through his work for a weekly Marathi-language journal called Marmik

#### Nation pays homage to great martyr Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha on his martyrdom day



- Kartar Singh was born on 24 May 1896 in village
   Sarabha of district Ludhiana.
- A great revolutionary, he was just 19 years old when hanged to death by the British government on 16th November, 1915 for participating in the freedom struggle.
- A member of the Ghadar Party, which was founded in Oregon in 1913.
- his martyrdom inspired many youngsters including Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh to participate in the Indian Freedom Struggle.

### Prime Minister pays tribute to Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi on her birth anniversary



- She was born on 19th November 1828 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- She was originally named Manikarnika.
- Married to the Maharaja of Jhansi (princely state of Maratha Empire), Gangadhar Rao Newalkar known as Jhansi Ki Rani.
- She was one of the leading figures of the Indian Revolt of 1857.
- In 1853, when the Maharaja of Jhansi died, Lord
   Dalhousie refused to acknowledge the (adopted)

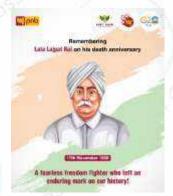
- child and applied the Doctrine of Lapse, and annexed the state.
- She died fighting on the battlefield on 17th June 1858.

## Prime Minister pays tribute to Smt. Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary



- Born on November 19, 1917
- Indira Gandhi, also known as the Iron Lady of India, was the third and the only female Prime Minister of India, who served from 1966 to 1977 and from 1980 to 1984.
- She led India to victory in the 1971 war against Pakistan, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.
- She imposed a state of emergency in 1975, suspending civil liberties and democratic rights.
- She was assassinated in retaliation for the Operation Blue Star, a military action against the Sikh militants in the Golden Temple.
- She was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1971.**

## Nation remembers Lala Lajpat Rai on his 96<sup>th</sup> death anniversary



- Lala Lajpat Rai, also known as the "Lion of Punjab,"
- was born on January 28, 1865, in Dhudike, Punjab
- He was a member of the Indian National Congress, and was one of the leaders of the "Lal-Bal-Pal" trio

#### Key Achievements of Lala Lajpat Rai

- His works include "The Story of My Deportation" and "Unhappy India".
- He founded the Arya Gazette in Lahore.
- He played a vital role in mobilising Indians against the first Partition of Bengal in 1905.
- All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC): He was actively involved in the labour movement and played a pivotal role in the establishment of AITUC, India's first national trade union, in 1920.
- First President of AITUC: Lala Lajpat Rai
- In 1928, Lajpat Rai was leading a peaceful protest against the <u>Simon Commission</u>, a British government commission that was tasked with reviewing the political situation in India.
- The protest turned violent, and Lajpat Rai was severely beaten by British police. He died from his injuries on November 17, 1928.

#### **Operation Dronagiri**



- Launched by Professor Abhay Karandikar Secretary, Department of Science and
  Technology, at Foundation for Innovation and
  Technology Transfer (FITT), Indian Institute of
  Technology Delhi, New Delhi.
- It is a pilot project under National Geospatial Policy 2022
- To demonstrate the potential applications of geospatial technologies and innovations in improving the quality of life of citizens and ease of doing business
- In the first phase, Operation Dronagiri will be implemented in the states of Uttar Pradesh,
   Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra, where pilot projects will be run.
- The cases will be demonstrated to showcase the potential applications of integration of geospatial data and technology in 3 sectors -- Agriculture, Livelihoods, Logistics and Transport.
- The Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI) enables seamless data sharing, access, and analysis for urban planning, environmental monitoring, disaster management, and more.

 The activities under Operation Dranagiri will be overseen by IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation (IITTNiF).



# Jal Shakti Ministry launches 3-week-long campaign 'Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman' on World Toilet Day

- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** launched the nationwide campaign
  "Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman" (HSHS)
  (हमारा शौचालयः हमारा सम्मान) on November 19, World
  Toilet Day
- The campaign will culminate on Human Rights
   Day, December 10, 2024, emphasizing the critical link between sanitation, human rights and dignity.



- The 'Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman' campaign is designed to empower communities, with responsibilities allocated across every level, Gram Panchayats, blocks, districts, and states.
- This ensures that every stakeholder contributes to sustaining sanitation practices, building pride, and driving long-term impact.

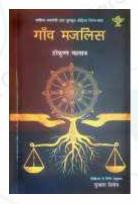
• The campaign tagline "शौचालय संवारें, जीवन निखारें"

#### Prez Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Utkal Keshari, Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab



- The Ministry of Culture, on the 125th birth anniversary of Utkal Keshari Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, organized a special commemoration program, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The event will witnesed the release of a special commemorative stamp and coin.
- Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, also known as "Utkal Keshari," was born on 21 November 1899, in Agarpara, Odisha.
- In addition, the following books were released:
  - Harekrushna Mahtab:

     A Monograph in Odia
     by Baishnaba Charan
     Samal, published by
     Sahitya Akademi.
  - Gaon Majlis: English translation by Tarun Kumar Sahu of Dr. Mahtab's Sahitya







Akademi Award-winning Odia essays.

- 3. **Gaon Majlis:** Hindi translation by **Sujata Shiven** of the same work.
- He was a multifaceted leader in Indian history, known as a freedom fighter, politician, historian, writer, social reformer, and journalist.
- He was deeply influenced by figures like Swami Vivekananda, Ramkrishna Paramhansa and Mahatma Gandhi.
- participating actively in events such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, Salt Satyagraha etc.

 He was arrested multiple times for his activism and was instrumental in the integration of Odisha into the Union of India.



- Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab was the last Prime
   Minister of the princely state.
- Served as Chief Minister of Odisha
- Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab was also a significant literary figure, writing extensively in both Odia and English
- Won accolades for his work, including the historical account 'History of Orissa' and won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 for 'Gaon Majlis'.
- He also served as the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and was elected to the Lok Sabha unopposed in 1962.

# India sends first consignment of food grains, others to Suriname for Social Welfare Programme

- India sent the first consignment of about 425 MT of foodgrains and other edible items to Suriname for its Social Welfare Programme.
- establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Suriname in 1976 with Indian Embassy opened in Paramaribo in 1977 and Surinamese Embassy in New Delhi in 2000

#### **Suriname**



- Capital: Paramaribo
- Currency: Surinamese dollar (SRD)
- Suriname, country located on the northern coast of South America.
- Formerly known as Dutch Guiana, Suriname was a plantation colony of <u>the Netherlands</u> that gained its independence on November 25, 1975.
- bordered by the <u>Atlantic Ocean</u> to the north, by <u>French Guiana</u> to the east, by <u>Brazil</u> to the south, and by Guyana to the west.

## PM Modi pays tribute to legendary actor Raj Kapoor on his 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary

- Born on 14<sup>th</sup> December in 1924 in Peshawar, what was then undivided India and is now part of Pakistan, Kapoor was the son of Prithviraj Kapoor and grew to become not
- 100 YEARS OF RAJKAPOOR
- only a successful actor but also one of the greatest filmmakers of the Hindi film cinema.
- The actor-director was honoured with the Padma Bhushan (1971) and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1988).

#### Govt to launch Digital India Common Service Center (DICSC) Project to Bridge Digital Divide in Rural India

- DICSC project is being launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), starting with Pilibhit and Gorakhpur.
- This initiative will establish one model DICSC center in nearly all gram panchayats across 10 districts, totaling 4,740 centers nationwide.
- Additional locations include Chhatrapati
  Sambhajinagar (old Aurangabad, Maharashtra),
  Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), Khammam
  (Telangana), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Mamit
  (Mizoram), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Leh (Ladakh)
  with 95, and Puducherry
- The project is set to run initially for six months, with the possibility of extending it to nine months.
- Each CSC will be equipped with high-speed broadband connectivity and modern infrastructure to function as a multi-functional service center.
- will offer a variety of services including Aadhaar registration, banking, financial planning, tele-law, telemedicine, education, and e-commerce support.

#### India Launches First AI Data Bank



- The Ministry of Science and Technology launched India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) data bank that is aimed at propelling innovation and boosting the country's national security.
- The initiative will provide researchers, startups, and developers access to high-quality, diverse datasets essential for creating scalable and inclusive AI solutions.
- It was launched by Minister of Science and Technology Minister (Independent Charge) Dr.
   Jitendra Singh at the 7th Edition of the ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024.
- The event, themed "AI for India: Advancing India's AI Development – Innovation, Ethics, and Governance".

CONSTITUTION

75" ANNIVERSARY

## India's First Constitution Museum Inaugurated at O.P. Jindal University

- O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana
- inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution.
- Collaboration with IIT

  Madras for cutting-edge technology Al driven interactive displays, 3D installations, and multimedia formats
- The Constitution of India was adopted on November 26, 1949, and came into force on January 26, 1950.

### PM Modi pays tribute to social reformer Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya on his birth anniversary

Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya was born on
 December 25, 1861, in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.



- Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya was given the title of 'Mahamana' or great soul by Mahatma Gandhi, who considered him as an elder brother.
- In 2014, Pandit Malviya was posthumously conferred with Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.
- In 2016, the Indian Railways started the Varanasi-New Delhi Mahamana Express in the leader's honour.

#### **Major contributions:**

- Banaras Hindu University: He played a key role in the Indian independence struggle against British rule and founded the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916. At the BHU, he served as Vice-Chancellor from 1919 to 1938.
- Hindu Mahasabha: Malaviya was one of the early leaders of the Hindu Mahasabha, and helped found it in 1906.
- Scout and Guide: He was also one of the founders of Scout and Guide in India.
- 'Satyamev Jayate': One of the most famous slogans, 'Satyamev Jayate' was said by Pandit Malviya in the session of 1918 when he was the President of the Indian National Congress.
- President of INC: Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya
  was the President of Indian National Congress for
  four sessions (1909, 1913, 1919 and 1932). Pandit
  Malviya played a big role in the Civil Disobedience
  and Non-cooperation movement which were led
  by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Role in media: He was the chairman of Hindustan Times from 1924 to 1946 and he also founded many Hindi and English newspapers, namely: The Leader, Hindustan Dainik, Maryada etc.

## Centre Sets June 2026 Deadline for Mandatory Use of India-Made Solar Cells

- In a step towards discouraging foreign imports of components used in solar panel manufacturing,
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a deadline of June 2026, after which solar companies must use only India-made solar photovoltaic cells in their panels to participate in government procurement programmes.



 So far 92 gigawatt of solar capacity has been installed in India.

# UNESCO, IGNCA joint initiative to preserve 700 disappearing languages in India: expert

- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts has taken an initiative along with United National Educational Scientific, Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to preserve around 700 vanishing languages in India.
- special training programme was being organised for enthusiastic youngsters in understanding manuscripts and books written by authors of "vanishing languages" such as Brahmi, Modi, Koraga, Irula, Sholaga, Sarada, Kaithi, Takri and others.
- released a book titled Low-Hanging Fruits, authored by Prof. Sachchidanand Joshi

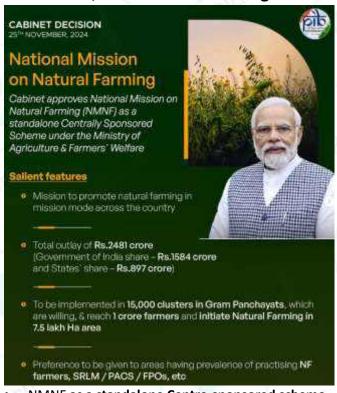
## **India Launches UG Minor in Quantum Technologies**



- The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), in collaboration with the National Quantum Mission (NQM) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched India's first Undergraduate (UG) Minor Programme in Quantum Technologies.
- AICTE, in collaboration with leading institutions like the IITs, will implement Faculty Development Programs (FDPs).
- To support the programme, advanced quantum laboratories will be established

### MISSION, PORTALS AND INITIATIVES

Govt gives nod to National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) to revive sustainable, chemical free farming



 NMNF as a standalone Centre-sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

- To promote natural farming among one-crore farmers
- Budget outlay of Rs 2,481 crore central government will contribute Rs.1584 crore and the states Rs.897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).
- Aims to create an ecosystem for sustainable farming.
- It also aims to establish "scientifically supported common standards and easy farmer friendly certification procedures for naturally grown chemical free produce."
- It also envisions a single national brand for naturally grown chemical-free produce.
- Under NMNF, around 2000 NF Model
   Demonstration Farms shall be established at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Agricultural Universities (AUs) and farmers' fields.
- 30,000 Krishi Sakhis/ CRPs will be deployed for awareness generation, mobilisation and handholding of willing farmers in the clusters
- The Agriculture Ministry defines natural farming as a "chemical-free" farming system that only uses inputs produced using livestock and plant resources.
- The ministry plans to implement this first across the districts with high fertiliser consumption.

 The proposed NMNF is an improvement of the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhti (BPKP) launched by the NDA government in its second term (2019-24). The initiative was launched under an umbrella scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY).

# Union Cabinet approves continuation of Atal Innovation Mission with ₹2,750 crore budget till 2028



- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is under the aegis of NITI Aayog
- Allocated budget of Rs.2,750 crore till March 31, 2028.
- The continuation of AIM will directly contribute to creating better jobs, innovative products, and high-impact services across sectors.

#### **About Atal Innovation Mission:**

- Set up in 2016 by Govt. of India
- Objective: To create and promote an ecosystem
   of innovation and entrepreneurship across the
   country at school, university, research institutions,
   MSME and industry levels.
- Implementing Agency: NITI Aayog
- AIM has multiple programs to encourage and support innovation in the country.
- Some of the components of AIM: Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenge, Mentor of Change Program, Atal Community Innovation Center and Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)

### HMJS launches "Bhu-Neer" Portal for ground water withdrawal permits

 Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Paatil digitally launched the newly developed "Bhu-Neer" portal during the concluding ceremony of India Water Week 2024.



- The "Bhu-Neer" is an advanced portal developed by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), for improved groundwater regulation across the country.
- "Bhu-Neer" is designed to provide comprehensive details regarding the legal framework governing groundwater extraction, regulations at the state and national levels.
- aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater usage.

#### **Amrit Gyaan Kosh Portal**

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched launched "Amrit Gyaan Kosh" Portal to strengthen governance training under Mission Karmayogi.
- The Amrit Gyan Kosh Portal, on the Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) platform, has been jointly developed by the Capacity Building Commission and Karmayogi Bharat.
- The portal aims to promote self-reliance in government training and empower educators.
- It serves as a comprehensive repository, curating best practices across the India and aligning with the 15 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It covers diverse policy themes such as health, education, agriculture and digital governance.
- The curated resources on the platform enable faculty to align their teaching with global standards while addressing India's unique administrative challenges, maximizing learning opportunities.

### Government Launched eMaap Portal for Fair Trade & Consumer Protection

 Department of Consumer Affairs is integrating all the state portals into one as the National Legal Metrology Portal 'eMaap' which will include all functions of Legal Metrology including enforcement and help to get a unified database.

- It provides a transparent legal metrology system, allowing easy access to certificates and promoting awareness of rights and responsibilities.
- eMaap simplifies critical procedures such as issuing, renewing, and amending licenses, as well as handling verification and stamping of weighing & measuring instruments, registration certificates, and appeals, etc.
- By creating a centralized database, eMaap eliminates the need for stakeholders to register on multiple State Portals, fostering ease of doing business and transparency in trade practices.
- For consumers, eMaap ensures that trade instruments are verified for accuracy, enhancing confidence in market transactions.

#### Sanraksha App launched by Indian Railways for Enhancing Rail Passenger Safety



- It integrates advanced technology, including data analytics and potential AI applications, aiming to improve capacity building of the Indian Railway's frontline safety category staff.
- The application integrates the domain knowledge of Indian Railways with information technology, Data Analytics and potential leveraging of AI in future, to provide an intelligent, effective and scalable system to cater to the training and capacity building needs of railway employees.

# Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches PM e-VIDYA DTH Channel for Indian Sign Language

- PM e-VIDYA DTH Channel No. 31 for Indian Sign Language (ISL) to promote ISL as a language as well as a school subject.
- The Channel will disseminate learning content for school children (Central & State Curriculum), teachers, teacher educators and other stakeholders in the area of career guidance, skill

training, mental health, class-wise curricular



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan content, communication skills

- According to the Census 2011, a total of 2.68
   crore persons in India were reported as having
   disabilities out of which 19% have hearing
   disabilities. In 2023, WHO estimates that in India,
   approximately 63 million people suffer from
   significant auditory impairment
- PM e-Vidya was launched as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the Ministry of Education on 17th May 2020.
- The initiative aims to provide multi-mode access to education through digital, online, and on-air platforms to minimise learning losses, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 'Anna Chakra' PDS Supply chain optimisation tool, SCAN portal launched



- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi launched 'Anna Chakra', the Public Distribution System (PDS) Supply chain optimisation tool and SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) portal a significant step towards modernizing the Public Distribution System and subsidy claim mechanisms of the
- Developed in partnership with the World Food Programme and IIT-Delhi, the Anna Chakra system leverages advanced algorithms to optimize foodgrain movement across the country's logistics network.
- The tool integrates with the Railways' Freight
   Operations Information System and the PM Gati

- **Shakti platform**, marking a significant technological upgrade.
- Simultaneously, Joshi launched the SCAN portal, a single-window system for states to submit and process food subsidy claims, promising streamlined workflow automation.

### Nationwide 100-day TB eradication campaign launched

- In a step to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) in the country, Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched a 100-day intensified nationwide campaign from Panchkula district of Haryana.
- The campaign, focused on enhancing detection, reducing diagnostic delays and improving treatment outcomes, will be implemented in 347 districts of 33 states/UT where the prevalence of the disease is higher.
- The rate of decline of tuberculosis incidence in India has doubled since 2015 and is ahead of the global average.
- The government is working on 4Ts Test, Track,
   Treat and Technology to treat TB.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions making India TB-free before achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- World TB Day 24<sup>th</sup> March
- The theme of World TB Day 2024 'Yes! We can end TB!'

#### Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment hosted 'SAMAGAM' – a month-long Initiatives for Senior Citizens

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
   (MoSJE) hosted the Grand Finale of its month long initiative for senior citizens, 'SAMAGAM', on
   October 25, 2024 at Rang Bhawan Auditorium in
   New Delhi. The event was presided over by Dr.
   Virendra Kumar, the Union Minister for Social
   Justice and Empowerment
- The month-long initiative, which began on October 1, coincided with the International Day for Older Persons. The event aimed to promote the dignity, respect, and security of senior citizens across the country.

#### National Public Broadcaster Prasar Bharati launches its OTT platform -



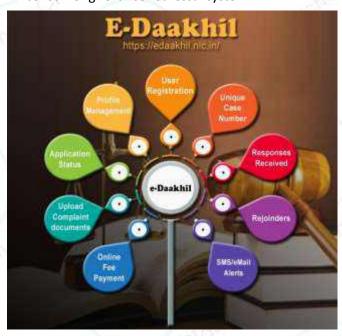
#### **WAVES**

- Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant launched 'WAVES' the OTT platform of the national public broadcaster, Prasar Bharati at the opening ceremony of 55<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.
- 'WAVES' makes its entry as a large aggregator
   OTT with Inclusive India stories embracing Indian
   culture with an international outlook, in 12+
   Languages Hindi, English, Bengali, Marathi,
   Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati,
   Punjabi, Assamese.
- It will be spread across 10+ Genres of Infotainment.

## Centre launches E-Daakhil across all states and union territories of India

- The Department of Consumer Affairs is proud to announce the successful nationwide implementation of the E-Daakhil portal, now operational in every state and union territory of India
- This milestone is marked by the recent launch of the E-Daakhil portal in Ladakh on 22nd November 2024, making E-Daakhil a truly pan-India initiative.
- To address the new and emerging concerns affecting consumers, the Consumer Protection Act 2019, was notified and enforced on 20th July, 2020.
- The e-Daakhil portal was first launched on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission.
- By the end of 2023, it was launched in 35 States/UTs except Ladakh.
- This comprehensive coverage underscores the government's commitment to empowering

consumers and enhancing the efficiency of the consumer grievance redressal system.



## Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Unveils The TeacherApp



### A platform for teachers to learn,

engage and explore new skills, ideas, content and more!



- Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched TheTeacherApp, an innovative digital platform by Bharti Airtel Foundation, designed to empower teachers with future-ready skills.
- The app offers over 260 hours of high-quality, interactive digital resources, including courses, videos, podcasts, and expert sessions to support diverse teaching methods.
- Aligned with India's National Education Policy (NEP 2020),
- TheTeacherApp is aimed at enhancing pedagogical practices, student engagement, and overall teacher development.
- The platform also provides teaching kits, live expert sessions, and tools to help educators thrive in dynamic classrooms.

# Science & Tech

#### **SATELLITE & SPACE PROJECTS**

#### **ISRO**

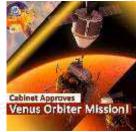
- 1. Chandrayaan-4 Mission
- 2. Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)
- 3. Bharatiya Anatriksh Station
- 4. XPoSat Mission
- 5. Aditya-L1
- 6. INSAT-3DS
- 7. Vyommitra
- 8. Gaganyaan mission
- 9. POEM-3 Mission
- 10. Statio Shiv Shakti
- 11. TSAT-1A
- 12. world's first rocket with fully 3D-printed engine
- 13. PraVaHa software
- 14. Pushpak
- 15. Axiom-4 Mission
- 16. Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex)

#### **Chandrayaan-4 Mission gets approval from Centre**



- The upcoming mission aimed to collect rocks and soil from the lunar surface and ensure their safe return to Earth
- The government has earmarked **Rs 2,104 crore** for the same.
- A schedule of 36 months has been set for the mission completion.
- The Government of India has outlined an expanded vision for the Indian space programme during the Amrit Kaal that envisages an Indian Space Station (Bharatiya Antriksh Station) by 2035 and Indian Landing on the Moon by 2040.

#### **Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)**



- ISRO will develop the spacecraft, launch it and accomplish it in March 2028.
- The government has earmarked Rs 1236 crore for this mission out of which Rs 824.00 crore will be spent on the spacecraft.
- Venus, the closest planet to Earth and believed to have formed in conditions similar to Earth, offers a unique opportunity to understand how planetary environments can evolve very differently.
- The mission is aimed at achieving better understanding of the Venusian surface and subsurface, atmospheric processes and influence of Sun on Venusian atmosphere.

#### Bharatiya Anatriksh Station & PSLV gets Cabinet nod

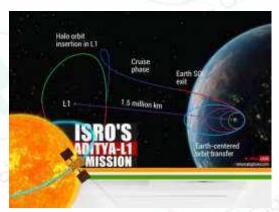
- The Indian government has approved the construction of the first unit of the Bharatiya Anatriksh Station (BAS-1) by December 2028
- Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) will have three times the payload capability of ISRO's workhorse Launch Vehicle Mark III.
- The government has set a target of 96 months (8 years) for the completion of the development phase.
- It will be a significant step towards India's aim of establishing and operating the Bharatiya Antariksh
   Station and developing capability for Indian crewed landing on the moon by 2040

### ISRO's PSLV-C58 Launches XPoSat Mission Successfully



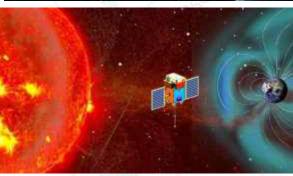
- PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) successfully launched on January 1, 2024 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- इसरो ंडन्ट
- It was the 60th mission of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- XPoSat in placed the desired orbit of 650 km with six-degree inclination
- XPoSat is India's first scientific satellite to measure the polarization of X-rays from celestial sources. The satellite will study X-ray emissions from celestial objects, including black holes
- India has become the second country in the world after the United States to send a specialized astronomy observatory to study black holes and neutron stars in our galaxy.
- It carries two payloads, namely:
  - POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays)
  - > XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing)
- POLIX has been developed by Raman Research Institute (RRI) Bengaluru
- XSPECT by Space Astronomy Group of URSC, Bengaluru.
- The mission life of XPoSat is about five years.
- PSLV-C58 rocket also carried 10 other payloads to be deployed in low Earth orbits.

# ISRO's first Sun mission successfully injected into final orbit



- Aditya L1, Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first space-based solar observatory, is injected into its final orbit Lagrange Point-1.
- Now the spacecraft will be able to view the sun without any eclipses.





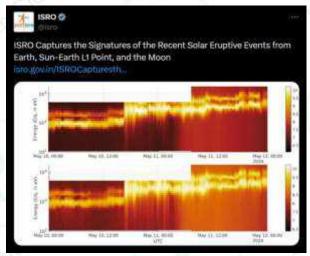
- Aditya L-1 was launched on September 2, 2023
- The spacecraft has undergone four earth-bound manoeuvres and a Trans-Lagrangean Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) manoeuvres, all successfully.
- The mission aims to observe the Sun's corona and understand its extreme heat from a halo orbit around the first Sun-Earth Lagrangian point (L1),
   1.5 million km from the Earth.
- Aditya-L1 is expected to remain operational for the next five years.

# Aditya-L1 have successfully detected the impact of coronal mass ejections



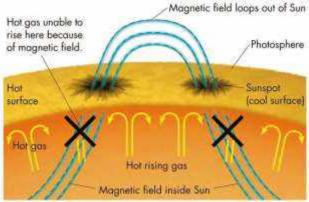
- Advanced sensors of a payload on board India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 have successfully detected the impact of coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- The payload— Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)— is an energy and mass analyser designed for in-situ measurements of solar wind electrons and ions in the low energy range.
- It has two sensors:
  - 1. the Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe
  - 2. the Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser
- The sensors are also equipped to measure the direction of arrival of solar wind particles.
- The launch of Aditya-L1 by PSLV-C57 rocket was successfully accomplished by ISRO on September 2.
- Aditya-L1 spacecraft carried seven payloads to study the Sun— four to observe the light from the Sun
- and the remaining three to measure in situ parameters of the plasma and magnetic fields.
- Aditya-L1 was placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian Point 1 (L1), which is 1.5 million km from the Earth in the direction of the Sun.

#### Aditya L1 and Chandrayaan 2 capture intense solar storm that hit Earth



- The ASPEX payload on-board Aditya-L1 is showing high speed solar wind, high temperature solar wind plasma and energetic ion flux till now
- At least five solar storms, known as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), slammed into our planet's protective field one after the other from May 10 to May 13.
- These CMEs were launched into space by solar flares from a single, massive sunspot, named AR3664, which is more than 15 times wider than Farth.
- Solar flares are intense bursts of radiation coming from the release of magnetic energy associated

- with **sunspots**. They are the largest explosive events in our solar system.
- Sunspots are areas of strong magnetic fields on the sun's surface. These magnetic fields are so strong that they inhibit convection, forming areas of reduced surface temperature.
- When these magnetic fields suddenly realign, they can release a huge amount of energy in the form of radiation, which is a solar flare.





- Scientists believe we have entered solar maximum

   the most active phase of the sun's roughly 11-year solar cycle.
- A majority of these flares that hit Earth recently were X-class — the most powerful type of surface explosions the sun is capable of producing.
- Scientists expected the storm would be a "severe"
   G4 disturbance the second-highest class of geomagnetic storms. However, it briefly reached "extreme" G5 status at least twice
- The CME bombardment temporarily weakened Earth's protective field, which enabled charged particles from the sun to penetrate deep into the atmosphere and excite molecules of gas. These in turn triggered vibrant, multicolored auroras at latitudes much farther from Earth's polar regions than normal.
- It also resulted in some minor "power grid irregularities" and temporary disruptions to GPS and other satellite services
- As per ISRO "This is the biggest geomagnetic storm since 2003 in terms of its strength, as the flaring region on the Sun was as big as the historically important Carrington event that took place in 1859".

- The October 2003 solar storm called 'Halloween Storms' caused blackouts in Sweden and damaged power infrastructure in South Africa.
- The most powerful geomagnetic storm in recorded history, known as the Carrington Event, occurred in September 1859
- Given the rate at which the current solar cycle is progressing, there is a decent chance that we might experience more G4 or G5 disturbances over the next few years.

#### ISRO successfully tests Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell on PSLV-C58's orbital platform POEM3

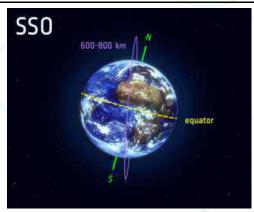
- the objective of the experiment was to assess
   Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel cell operation in space and to collect data to facilitate the design of systems for future missions.
- XPoSAT, a satellite intended to study black holes and neutron stars, was launched by ISRO on 1st Jan 2024.
- atop a PSLV, as part of the PSLV-C58 mission.
- The fourth stage of PSLV, called PS4, is also called POEM-3, (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3)

# ISRO's high-resolution imaging satellite Cartosat-2 bids adieu

- ISRO's high-resolution imaging satellite Cartosat-2 has descended into Earth's atmosphere on February 14, 2024.
- ISRO had lowered its orbit from 635 km to 380 km by early 2020.
- Cartosat-2 was launched on January 10, 2007.
- It operated in a sun-synchronous polar orbit at an altitude of 635 km.
- Until 2019, it provided high-resolution imagery for urban planning.

### ISRO's New Weather Satellite, INSAT-3DS, Launched from Sriharikota





- Launch Vehicle GSLV-F14 deployed the INSAT-3DS into the intended geosynchronous transfer orbit.
- Subsequent orbit-raising maneuvers will be performed to position the satellite in a geostationary orbit.
- The INSAT-3DS satellite will augment meteorological services along with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR in-orbit satellites.
- The satellite is an exclusive mission designed for enhanced meteorological observations, monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting, and disaster warning.
- The GSLV or geosynchronous launch vehicle was termed the "naughty boy" of Indian space due to its repeated failures in the past.

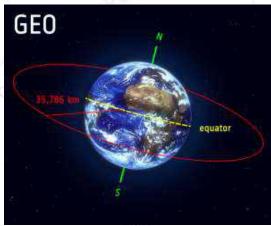
# CE20 cryogenic engine is now human rated for Gaganyaan missions

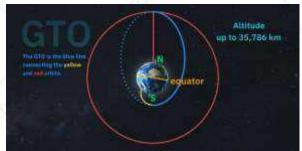




- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has accomplished a major milestone in the human rating of its CE20 cryogenic engine
- that powers the cryogenic stage of the humanrated LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions
- Human-rating refers to rating a system that is capable of safely transporting humans.

#### **Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO)**





 Spacecraft in geostationary Earth orbit are positioned 35,786 kms above Earth's surface, precisely over the equator.

#### ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru;

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai;

Founded: 15 August 1969;

· Chairman: S. Somanath

# Woman Robot Astronaut "Vyommitra" will fly into Space ahead "Gaganyaan" mission



- The uncrewed "Vyommitra" Mission is scheduled for the third quarter of this year.
- Manned mission 'Gaganyaan' is scheduled in 2025.
- Vyommitra" is a name derived from two Sanskrit words namely, "Vyoma" (meaning Space) and "Mitra" (meaning Friend).
- This Female Robot Astronaut, is equipped with the capability to monitor Module Parameters, issue Alerts and execute Life Support operations.
- it can also perform tasks such as operating six panels and responding to queries.

# Gaganyaan astronaut designates announced by PM Modi





- The four Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots:
  - Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair,
  - Group Captain Ajit Krishnan,
  - Group Captain Angad Pratap and
  - Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla
- The final crew for the mission will be picked from among the four.
- The manned mission will fly a three-membered crew into a low earth orbit at an altitude of 400 km for a period of three days
- ISRO has also announced plans to send astronauts to the moon by 2040.

#### Gaganyaan

- The Gaganyaan Mission is India's ongoing project to send a 3-day manned mission to the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) of 400 km with a crew of 3 members and bring them safely back to Earth.
- Before the run-up to the launch of Gaganyaan, the first Test Vehicle Flight TV D1 was accomplished on 21st October 2023

 This was meant to qualify the crew escape system and parachute system. The human rating of the launch vehicle is complete; all the propulsion stages are qualified.

#### AstroSat detects polarised high energy Xrays for first time from a black hole



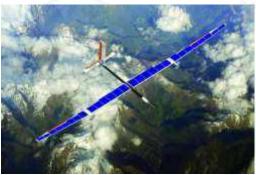
- India's space telescope AstroSat has measured Xray polarisation from the Cygnus X-1 black hole, the first time that such a feat has been accomplished.
- Cygnus X-1 is one of the first confirmed black hole systems in our galaxy
- It is **20 times heavier than the Sun** & is located at a distance that is about 400 times more than the distance between Earth and Sun.
- Normal X-ray measurements only reveal the energy or intensity of the radiations.
- Polarisation characteristics of X-rays, which tells about the orientation of the oscillating electric field, holds clues on the geometry and other properties of the black hole.

#### **About AstroSat:**

- It is India's first dedicated Space Astronomy
   Observatory launched into a 650-km, 6° inclination
   orbit on September 28, 2015 on by PSLV-C30 (XL)
   rocket
- The unique feature of this observatory is its capability for carrying out broad band simultaneous multi-wavelength observation going from far ultra violet to gamma rays
- AstroSat is operated as an observatory class telescope and has five telescopes on board.

# CSIR NAL successfully tested UAV 'High Altitude Pseudo Satellite' (HAPS)

- Scientists at the CSIR-National Aerospace
   Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru have successfully tested an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), called High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS)
- HAPS are like drones, except that they are expected to be in the stratosphere – well above where commercial planes fly
- can be powered enough by solar cells and a battery-system - can fly 20 km high and float for months



- A fully working HAPS can be used for a variety of applications, from surveillance to beaming 5G waves.
- They can double up as "towers in the sky" and "pseudo satellite" have more flexibility than satellites, in being able to map a piece of land from above.

# ISRO's EOS-6 satellite enables precise air quality monitoring

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed and validated an Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM-3) Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) product.
- It utilizes EOS-6 satellite data.
- The satellite EOS-6, launched in November 2022, is equipped with a state-of-the-art OCM sensor to monitor atmospheric aerosols.
- Its high-resolution data reveals the dynamics of particulate matter (PM2.5/PM10), offering insights into their distribution and transport over metropolitan areas.
- Beyond the Indian skies, the OCM-3 AOD product serves as a global resource for monitoring aerosols worldwide, offering insights into aerosol blankets from diverse sources such as South Asian fires and Canadian wildfires.

# POEM-3 Mission concludes: ISRO marks significant achievement leaving virtually no debris in orbit



- PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3), successfully concluded its mission, by re-entering the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrating.
- This event, part of the PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission, is notable for leaving virtually no debris in orbit, demonstrating a commitment to minimizing space clutter.
- XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) is the first dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources
- The PSLV-C58 Mission, which was successfully completed on January 1, 2024, involved deploying all satellites into their predetermined orbits.
- Following this main objective, the final stage of the PSLV-C58 rocket (PS4) was converted into a stabilized platform, known as POEM-3, by employing a 3-axis stabilization technique.
- POEM is designed to safely re-enter Earth's atmosphere after completing its experiments, leaving no debris behind
- The PSLV is a four-stage rocket where the first three spent stages fall back into the ocean, and the final stage (PS4) — after launching the satellite into orbit — ends up as space junk.

#### **POEM vs. Satellites**

- POEM is different, it's a temporary orbital lab created by repurposing the final stage of a rocket.
   It carries scientific experiments into space for a short period, using basic controls for stability.
- Instead of staying in orbit long-term, POEM is designed to safely re-enter Earth's atmosphere after completing its experiments, leaving no debris behind

- Satellites are like specialized spaceships built for long-term missions in space, such as weather monitoring, communication, or navigation.
- They have their own power, communication systems, and advanced controls to stay in orbit for years.

# Skyroot successfully test fires Stage-2 of Vikram 1 space launch vehicle



#### Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace successfully test fires engine of

#### VIKRAM-1 ROCKET

Hyderabad-based space tech startup Skyroot Aerospace announced the successful completion of a full duration test-firing of its Vikram-1 rocket engine, the country's first privately designed and developed rocket.

Vikram-1 has three solid fuel-powered stages,

- Skyroot Aerospace, space-tech company, has successfully test-fired the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle, called Kalam-250
- at the propulsion testbed of ISRO, at its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Vikram-1 is a three-stage, solid-fuel based rocket.
   Testing of the "second stage" is significant because this stage propels satellites from the dense atmosphere of Earth to the deep vacuum of outer space
- Skyroot had previously tested Kalam-100, the third stage of Vikram-1, which was test-fired successfully in June 2021.
- Vikram-1 launch is a landmark event for the Indian space sector as it is the first private orbital rocket launch, and it follows the suborbital space launch of India's first private rocket- Vikram-S by Skyroot in November 2022.
- India's first private orbital rocket launch is expected in mid-2024.
- Pawan Chandana, Skyroot Co-Founder and CEO

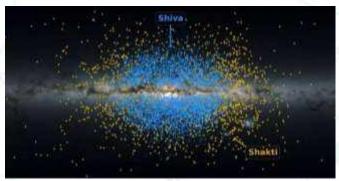
# IAU approves 'Statio Shiv Shakti' as name for Chandrayaan-3 landing site

- International Astronomical Union (IAU) working group for Planetary System Nomenclature has approved the name Statio Shiv Shakti for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.
- The approval was given on March 19, 2024.

- "Compound word from Indian mythology that depicts the masculine ("Shiva") and feminine ("Shakti") duality of nature; Landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander"
- On August 26, 2023 PM Modi announced that the point where the Moon lander of Chandrayaan-3 touched down on 23 August will now be known as Shiv Shakti.



# Scientists uncover Milky Way's ancient building blocks, Shakti and Shiva



- The Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (Germany)
  have identified two ancient streams of stars named after the Hindu deities Shakti and Shiva that appear to be among the Milky Way's earliest
  building blocks, offering new insight into how our
  galaxy came together long ago.
- These seem to be the remnants of the two galaxies that merged between 12 and 13 billion years ago with an earlier version of the Milky Way, contributing to its growth.
- These structures were found using observations from the European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope
- Gaia, launched in 2013, is assembling the largest and most precise three-dimensional map of the Milky Way.
- The stars that make up Shiva and Shakti differ in composition from most of the galaxy's other stars.

 They are called "metal poor" because they possess lesser amounts of heavier elements - iron, carbon, oxygen and others.

### ISRO preparing for Next Lunar Mission Chandrayaan-4



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief S
   Somnath announced that the upcoming phase of the Chandrayaan project is in progress.
- India's aspiration of landing an astronaut on the moon by 2040.
- Chandrayaan-4 is the first step in the direction-to step a craft on the moon and collect sample and bring it back to Earth. It demonstrates the full cycle of going to the moon and coming back to Earth,

# ISRO aims to make space missions debris free by 2030



- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
   Chairman S Somanath announced that India aims to achieve debris-free space by 2030.
- while addressing the 42<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Agency Space
   Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) annual meeting in Bengaluru.
- ISRO Chairman S Somanath is also the Secretary of the Department of Space.
- India's plan to set up its own space station
   'Bharatiya Antriksh Station' by 2035.

#### TSAT-1A India's first private earth observation satellite



- Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), Tata Sons' whollyowned subsidiary, has launched India's first private sector-built Sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, TSAT-1A, in collaboration with Satellogic company of USA
- TSAT-1A will provide high-resolution satellite images with low-latency delivery.
- Sub-metre resolution means the image produced by the satellite sensor will be able to capture an area whose size is less than 1x1 meter.
- The satellite was launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket
- TSAT-1A, assembled at TASL's Vemagal facility in Karnataka
- The Indian armed forces are expected to be one of its major users.

#### ISRO completes key test for India's first semi-cryogenic engine



- ISRO conducted the first ignition trial for SCE-200 (semi-cryogenic engine-200) at the semi-cryo integrated engine test facility (SIET) located in the ISRO propulsion complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri,
- The space agency is developing a **semi-cryogenic** engine which works on a propellant combination of liquid oxygen and kerosene and is aimed at enhancing the payload capability of launch vehicle Mk III (LVM3) and future launch vehicles.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai **DIRECTOR:** S. Somanath

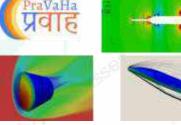
#### T.N.-based Agnikul launches world's first rocket with fully 3D-printed engine

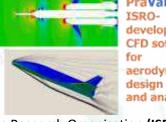




- The Chennai headquartered space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited on finally launched its first rocket Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology **Demonstrator (SOrTeD)** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- The launch was previously postponed several
- Agnibaan SOrTeD is India's first launch from a private launchpad, called 'Dhanush', established by Agnikul.
- It is also India's first semi-cryogenic enginepowered rocket launch and the world's first single piece 3D-printed engine designed and built indigenously.
- Founded in 2017 by Srinath Ravichandran, Moin SPM, and Satya Chakravarthy, Agnikul Cosmos became the first company in the country to sign an agreement with ISRO under the IN-SPACe initiative to have access to the space agency's expertise and its facilities to build Agnibaan in December 2020.

#### ISRO develops PraVaHa software for aerodynamic design and analysis



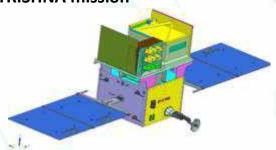


PraVaHa: developed CFD software aerodynamic and analysis

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa).

- This software was developed in ISRO's Vikram
   Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- It can simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged and non winged re-entry vehicles.
- PraVaHa has been used extensively in the Gaganyaan program for aerodynamic analysis of human-rated launch vehicles, viz, HLVM3, Crew Escape System (CES), and CM.
- This software is expected to help academia and other institutions, engaged in the design of missiles, aircraft and rockets, to find solutions to complex aerodynamic problems.

### ISRO gives details on Indo-French TRISHNA mission



- ISRO has announced a joint Indo-French infrared earth observation satellite mission, TRISHNA (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-Resolution Natural Resource Assessment), to monitor surface temperature and water management around the world.
- Will provide data points for climate impacts on earth through evapotranspiration monitoring, which measures the evaporation of water from land as well as release from plants.
- The mission will study water presence and concentrations, as well as dynamics including melting glaciers, in various parts of the biosphere, quantifying water being used on land and how.
- for heat, the satellite will monitor thermal
   anomalies and spikes, emission of heat from land,
   surface energy, urban heat islands, and other
   global parametres.
- In the process, the satellite will also study aerosols, water vapour, and clouds in the atmosphere around the world. It is currently tentatively set to launch in 2025 with an expected lifespan of 5 years.
- The satellite will carry two primary payloads. The Thermal Infra-Red (TIR) payload will be provided by the French space agency CNES that will study high-resolution surface temperature.
- The Visible Near Infrared-Red Short Wave Infrared-Red (VNIR-SWIR) payload is being

- developed **by ISRO**, and will map over seven bands the reflectivity or albedo of earth's surface.
- the mission would address critical water and food security issues by providing essential data that can in turn be used for newer sustainable policies in water, among watershed managers, agroindustries, and the farming community in India.

#### ISRO successfully conducts third and final 'Pushpak' Reusable Launch Vehicle landing experiment



- ISRO achieved its third and final consecutive success in the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX).
- The third demonstration of Pushpak reused the winged body and flight systems from the second experiment without any modifications.
- The reusable launch vehicle is designed to take satellites up to space and return and land on a runway like an aeroplane.

# Indian Space Agency Will Conduct Study Of Apophis Asteroid

- ISRO Chairman S. Somnath has said that the Indian space agency will conduct a study of Apophis asteroid, when it will be closest to Earth in 2029.
- Apophis asteroid will be studied by Japan, NASA and European space agencies and ISRO will partner with them.
- Apophis is a near-Earth asteroid with a relatively large size (about 335 meters wide).
- Named after the ancient Egyptian god of chaos and darkness, it was discovered in 2004
- Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets.

### 2 Gaganyaan Astronauts to Go to ISS Aboard the Axiom-4 Mission

 The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts for the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in

- **collaboration with** the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- Only one of the shortlisted astronauts will go on the mission.



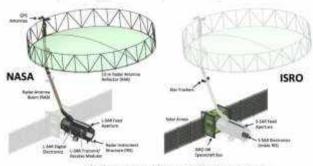
#### What is the Axiom-4 Mission?

- NASA and Axiom Space, an american privately funded space infrastructure developer signed an order for the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS, aiming to launch in October 2024 from Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- The mission aims to dock with the ISS for a fourteen-day duration.
- Indian astronauts will receive training from NASA, international partners, and SpaceX, focusing on spacecraft systems and emergency preparedness, as part of India-US space cooperation goals.

# NISAR missing from ISRO's plan, mission unlikely this year



- The keenly-awaited NISAR space mission, a first of its kind collaborative exercise between the space agencies of India and the United States, it seems, will not happen this year.
- NISAR did not figure in the list of missions the Indian Space Research Organisation submitted to the Lok Sabha in response to a question on space missions to be launched this year.
- NISAR, which stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, is designed to make extremely granular observations of the Earth at regular intervals.
- The satellite is powerful enough to capture changes as small as one centimetre in size during its repeated observations over the same terrain.



NISAR observatory, with NASA and ISBO contributions highlighted

- The satellite will operate for a minimum of three years.
- It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory.
- NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days.
- It will therefore be able to study the dynamic processes happening on Earth's surface, like retreat of glaciers, changes in vegetation and forest cover, and even the movements during earthquakes and volcanoes.
- Scientists expect this satellite to provide new insights into our understandings of processes like climate change or natural hazards.

### ISRO launched earth observation satellite EOS-08



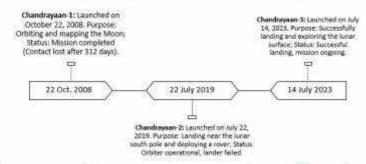
- Onboard the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- The spacecraft mission configuration is set to operate in a Circular Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 475 km with an inclination of 37.4° and has a mission life of 1 year.

- EOS-08 is a first-of-its-kind mission built on a standard ISRO's Microsat/IMS-1 bus with a suite of advanced payloads for observation in the IR range, novel GNSS-R Payload and SiC UV dosimeter.
- ISRO's EOS-08 is a 175-kg experimental satellite, carrying on board three new technologies:
  - Electro-Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR) is designed to capture images in mid-wave and long-wave infra-red during the day and night.
    - The data can be used for surveillance, disaster monitoring, environmental monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activity observation, and industrial and power plant disaster monitoring.
  - 2. Global Navigation Satellite SystemReflectometry payload (GNSS-R) designed to demonstrate that reflected signals from satellite-based navigation systems like GPS can be used for applications such as ocean surface wind analysis, soil moisture assessment, cryosphere studies over the Himalayan region, flood detection, and inland waterbody detection.
  - SiC UV Dosimeter Payload to monitor the UV irradiance at the View Port of the Crew Module in Gaganyaan Mission and to be used as a high-dose alarm sensor for UV Radiation.

# Chandrayaan-3 rover findings suggest layered crust formation on Moon

- Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) on Chandrayaan-3 rover analyzed topsoil composition in Moon's southern latitudes.
- Discovery: Evidence suggests the lunar surface was once covered by molten magma in its early history.
- The soil composition in this unexplored region is a mix of two types of rocks: one from magma and the other from deeper lunar layers.
- The Moon formed from a collision between a large asteroid and Earth around 4.2 to 4.3 billion years ago.
- In its early stages, the Moon was an ocean of magma.
- As it cooled, heavier minerals like Olivine and Pyroxene sank to form the Moon's inner layers. Lighter minerals containing Calcium and Sodium formed the outer layer.
- The Lander Module of Chandrayaan-3 carrying the Lander, Vikram and Rover, Pragyan, made the historic soft landing on the surface of the Lunar South Pole on August 23, 2023

#### **Timeline of India's Moon Mission**



# India's National Space Commission has approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex)



- The joint moon mission between ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) will land at the exact lunar south pole (90-degree latitude)
- is aimed at investigating the Moon for water and other valuable resources - the quantity, and distribution of water on the lunar surface and below ground
- the mission could live for up to 100 days on the lunar surface
- The LUPEX project is currently scheduled for launch in 2025.
- explore the permanently shadowed regions or the dark side of the moon and gain expertise on its surface through drilling and in-situ experiments.
- very useful for future sampling missions and landing of humans on the surface of the moon by 2040
- the launch vehicle for the mission will be a Japanese rocket,
- the lander system will be developed by ISRO while the rover by JAXA.
- The Lupex rover, which could weigh a significant 350 kg,
- will be much larger than Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover which weighed 26 kg.
- the ISRO-designed lander will include advanced scientific instruments, such as a groundpenetrating radar, mid-infrared spectrometer, and Raman Spectrometer, along with the Permittivity and Thermophysical Investigation for Moon's Aquatic Scout (PRATHIMA) payload.

# ISRO successfully launches satellite GSAT 20 (GSAT-N2) on board SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket in US



- This is India's first collaboration with Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- GSAT-N2, with a lift-off mass of 4,700 kg, has a mission life of 14 years.
- It is a Ka-band high-throughput communication satellite of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), which is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The satellite will enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region.
- The satellite offers Ka-Ka band HTS capacity with 32 beams having pan-India coverage, including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

# DRDO successfully conducts flight test of India's first long range hypersonic missile off the coast of Odisha

- The achievement puts India in the group of select nations with hypersonic capabilities
- The missile can carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 km for the Armed Forces.
- It has been indigenously developed by laboratories of the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, Hyderabad, along with various other DRDO labs and industry partners.

#### What is a hypersonic missile?

- The term "Hypersonic" refers to a speed at least five times the speed of sound (also called Mach-5).
- This comes down to around a mile per second.
- Another key feature of such missiles is manoeuvrability, setting them apart from a ballistic missile that follows a set course or trajectory.
- The two types of hypersonic weapons systems are Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCM).

The HGVs are launched from a rocket before gliding to the intended target while HCMs are powered by air-breathing high-speed engines or 'scramjets' after acquiring their target.

### India's First Space AI Lab: TM2Space's MOI-TD Revolution

- India's space technology sector, Hyderabad-based company TakeMe2Space (TM2Space) has unveiled plans to launch MOI-TD (My Orbital Infrastructure

   Technology Demonstrator), India's first artificial intelligence (AI) laboratory in space.
- The mission, set to launch aboard the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV C60 rocket.
- The launch of MOI-TD will provide a unique platform for scientists, researchers, and businesses to explore the vast potential of space technology
- The MOI-TD will also serve as a technology demonstrator for TM2Space's broader vision of building scalable, cost-effective orbital infrastructure.

# ISRO signs Implementation Agreement with Australian Space Agency for Gaganyaan mission

 It enables the Australian authorities to work with Indian authorities to ensure support for search and rescue of crew and recovery of crew module as part of contingency planning for ascent phase aborts near Australian waters

Under the Gaganyaan schedule:

- Three flights will be sent into orbit.
- There will be two unmanned flights and one human spaceflight.
- The Gaganyaan system module, called the Orbital Module will have three Indian astronauts, including a woman.
- It will circle Earth at a low-earth-orbit at an altitude of 300-400 km from earth for 5-7 days.

# IT Madras, ISRO join forces to establish research centre for studying spacecraft & launch vehicle thermal management

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is collaborating with Indian Space Research
   Organisation (ISRO) to establish a Centre of
   Excellence for research in 'Fluid and Thermal
   Sciences'.
- The ISRO would be providing a seed funding of Rs
   1.84 Crore towards establishing this centre.

 This Centre will act as a nodal centre for spacecraft and launch vehicle-related thermal management research activities of ISRO

# India's PSLV to launch world's first parallel satellite pair for Sun's outer secrets on Dec-4



- The European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3
  mission will be launched on ISRO's Polar Satellite
  Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan
  Space Centre on December 4.
- Proba-3 is the world's first precision formation flying mission.
- It is the innovative mission which will demonstrate precision formation flying between two satellites to create an artificial eclipse, revealing new views of the Sun's faint corona.
- It consists of two small satellites a Coronagraph spacecraft and a solar-disc-shaped Occulter spacecraft.

#### India's first analogue space mission kicked off in Leh



 A collaborative effort by Human Spaceflight Centre, ISRO, AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

- Analog space missions are field tests in locations on Earth that have physical similarities to the extreme space environments and play a significant role in problem solving for spaceflight research
- Aaka Space Studio, a private company specialising in space architecture and analogue research, is set to lead a 21-day Mars and Moon mission in the rugged terrain of Ladakh.
- The expedition will study the impact of isolation and extreme environmental conditions on human health and performance, providing crucial insights into the psychological and physiological challenges faced during long-duration space missions.
- will collect daily biometric data, including heart rate, blood oxygen, body temperature and other vital signs to understand how human biology adapts to isolation and extreme environments.
- The findings from the expedition will directly support India's Gaganyaan mission, slated to send Indian astronauts into space by 2026.

Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space launches 'AstraView' commercial satellite imagery service



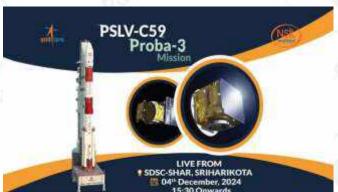
- 'AstraView' a new commercial satellite imagery service designed to provide continuous insights into Earth
- AstraView provides high resolution, real time satellite imagery and data to support critical operations and help take informed decision making

Ananth Technologies Limited becomes first private Indian satellite operator to provide GSO communication satellite services



- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has announced Ananth Technologies Limited (ATL) as the beneficiary of the Announcement of Opportunity (AO) enabling access to Indian Orbital Resources for non-government entities (NGEs).
- Ananth Technologies Limited will undertake the end-to-end management of the project, which includes the development, launch, and operation of a multi-beam high-throughput Ka band communication satellite.
- The project aims to bridge the communication gap in underserved regions of India, particularly in rural areas, where access to reliable internet and telecommunications services is often limited.
- Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri, founder of Ananth **Technologies Limited**
- Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACe

#### PSLV XL Proba-3 Launch: ISRO successfully launches ESA's mission to study sun's corona



- ISRO successfully launched European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C59 rocket
- The four-stage PSLV-XL rocket (PSLV C59) lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in the second attempt
- The Proba-3 (Project for Onboard Anatomy) consists of two satellites — Coronagraph (310kgs) and Occulter (240kgs) — in which two spacecraft would fly together as one, maintaining precise formation down to a single millimetre to study the Corona, the Sun's outer atmosphere.
- Proba-3 is the world's first precision formation flying mission. 'Probas' is a Latin word, meaning
- PSLV-C59 is a 44.5 metre tall rocket and is on its 61st flight and the 26th with the PSLV-XL variant which is normally used to place heavy satellites.
- ISRO Chairman S. Somanath
- Director General of the ESA Josef Aschbacher

#### ISRO's PSLV-C60/SPADEX Mission



- with SpaDeX mission
- India is set to take a major leap in its space programme with the launch of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDEX) on December 30, 2024 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- ISRO will deploy this mission using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C60)
- SpaDEX will involve the launch of two identical satellites, the Chaser (SDX01) and the Target (SDX02), each weighing approximately 220 kg.
- These satellites will be placed in a 470 km low-Earth circular orbit with a 55° inclination.

#### The mission's objectives are:

- **Demonstrating precision manoeuvres** to rendezvous and dock the satellites.
- Validating the transfer of electrical power between docked spacecraft.
- Operating payloads post-undocking, with a mission life of up to two years.
- It positions India to become the fourth country globally to achieve advanced docking technology, after US, Russia, China
- Launch vehicle: PSLV-C60.
- Orbit: 470 km circular orbit at a 55-degree inclination.
- Separation dynamics:
- Target and Chaser spacecraft will separate with an initial velocity difference to achieve 10-20 km inter-satellite separation.
- Propulsion systems will be used to align both spacecraft into the same orbit, achieving Far Rendezvous.
- Docking and demonstration: After docking, the mission will demonstrate electrical power transfer before undocking for payload operations.

#### **NASA**

- 1. Viper' rover mission
- 2. XRISM Mission
- 3. Peregrine-1 Lander
- 4. Artemis Moon Missions
- 5. Super-Earth
- 6. Europa Clipper spacecraft
- 7. PREFIRE to Study Earth's Poles

## NASA cancels its moon 'Viper' rover mission, citing cost overruns and launch delays



- VIPER actually stands for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, an exploration device that aimed to search for water on the Moon's South Pole
- It was supposed to launch in late 2023 aboard a lander provided by Astrobotic Technology
- The rover had aimed to explore the moon's south pole.
- Astrobotic still plans to fly its **Griffin moon lander** minus a rover by the **end of next year.**

### Missy Elliott's "The Rain" Sent to Venus by NASA



- NASA beamed 'The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)' to our planetary neighbour Venus, marking a unique blend of music and space technology.
- The transmission was made possible by NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN), which supports the Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) programme.
- The DSN's array of giant radio antennas enables missions to track, send commands, and receive scientific data from spacecraft exploring the moon and beyond.
- This system has previously transmitted only one other song into space—The Beatles' 'Across the Universe'—making Missy Elliott's track a significant milestone for both hip-hop and NASA.

### XRISM Mission Unveils Debut X-Ray Image of the Cosmos

XRISM (X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission)

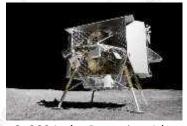
 The mission team revealed an image of hundreds of galaxies and a spectrum of stellar wreckage in a nearby galaxy

#### **About XRISM**

launched on September 7, 2023.

- a joint mission of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- to investigate celestial X-ray objects in the Universe with high-throughput imaging and highresolution spectroscopy.

### U.S. Launches Peregrine-1 Lander to Moon in Historic Lunar Mission



- On January 8, 2024, the Peregrine-1 lunar lander launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force
   Station in Florida.
- The launch was the **first private lunar mission** and the **first American lunar launch in over 50 years.**
- The lander is operated by the private company Astrobotic.
- Scheduled to land on February 23, the mission aims to study the Moon's surface environment in preparation for upcoming human missions.

#### **NASA Postpones Artemis Moon Missions**



- The agency has announced the Artemis III mission to land four astronauts near the lunar south pole will be delayed a year until September 2026.
- Artemis II, a 10-day expedition to send a crew around the moon and back to test life support systems, will also be pushed back to September 2025.
- With the Artemis mission, NASA will land the first woman and first person of colour on the Moon.
- Artemis I: An uncrewed test flight of the Orion spacecraft, launched on the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket on November 16, 2022.

#### NASA climate satellite - 'PACE'



- PACE short for Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem — is the most advanced mission ever launched to study ocean biology.
- SpaceX launched the Pace satellite on its \$948 million mission, with the Falcon rocket.
- The satellite will spend at least three years studying the oceans from 420 miles (676 kilometers) up, as well as the atmosphere.
- The observations will help scientists improve hurricane and other severe weather forecasts, detail Earth's changes as temperatures rise and better predict when harmful algae blooms will happen.
- Current Earth-observing satellites can see in 7 or 8 colors.
- Pace will see in 200 colors that will allow scientists to identify the types of algae in the sea and types of particles in the air.
- NASA is collaborating with India on another advanced Earth-observing satellite due to launch this year - NISAR
- It will use radar to measure the effect of rising temperatures on glaciers and other melting icy surfaces.

# NASA discovers 'super-Earth' with habitable zone

- NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has spotted a "super-Earth"
- 137 light years away from Earth, has been **orbiting** a small, reddish star within a 'habitable zone'.

- The exoplanet dubbed TOI-715b is around 1.5 times the Earth's width
- A "year" for the exoplanet is equal to 19 Earth days.
- Scientists also refer to habitable zone as the 'Goldilocks zone,' because it is neither 'too hot' nor 'too cold' to support liquid water.

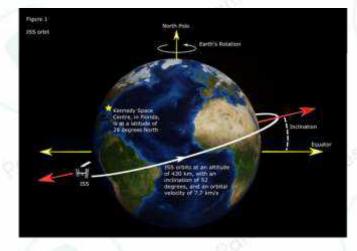


# SpaceX launches 8<sup>th</sup> long-duration crew for International Space Station orbit



- A SpaceX rocket safely lifted off from Florida carrying a crew of 3 U.S. astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut on their way to the International Space Station (ISS) to begin a six-month science mission in Earth orbit.
- Crew 8 is expected to remain aboard the space station until the end of August
- the mission marks the eighth long-duration ISS team that NASA has flown aboard since the private rocket venture founded in 2002 by billionaire Elon Musk

#### The International Space Station



- It is the largest man-made object in space launched on November 20, 1998.
- It serves as a habitat for astronauts in space.
- Participating States: The United States (NASA), Russia's (Roscosmos), Europe's (ESA), Japan's (JAXA), and Canada's (CSA) space agencies.
- Orbit: orbit about 400 kilometres above Earth.
- Speed: It travels around Earth at a speed of about 28,000 kilometres per hour, it orbits Earth about every 90 minutes (16 orbits in 24 hours).

# NASA launches Europa Clipper to examine Jupiter's moon

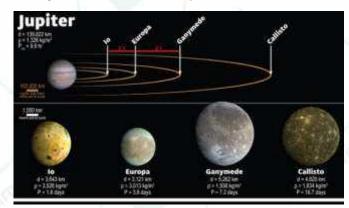


- NASA successfully launched the Europa Clipper spacecraft from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.
- to assess whether Jupiter's moon Europa has conditions suitable for life. The focus is on a vast subsurface ocean believed to exist beneath its thick icy shell.
- The launch, scheduled for last week, was postponed due to Hurricane Milton.
- It will travel nearly 1.8 billion miles (2.9 billion kilometres) to reach Jupiter's orbit after five and a half years (expected to reach Jupiter in 2030).
- With its large solar panels, the Europa Clipper is NASA's largest spacecraft designed for planetary exploration. The total cost of the mission is \$5.2 billion.
- While orbiting Jupiter, Clipper will fly by Europa 49 times.
- The mission will conclude in 2034 with a planned crash into Ganymede, Jupiter's largest moon and the biggest in the solar system.
- Europa, one of Jupiter's 95 known moons, is nearly the size of Earth's moon.
- Discovered by Galileo in 1610, Europa is part of the four Galilean moons of Jupiter, which also include Ganymede, Io, and Callisto.
- It is covered by an ice sheet that is estimated to be between 10 and 15 miles (15 to 24 kilometres) thick.

- Beneath this frozen crust, scientists believe there may be an ocean that is 80 miles (120 kilometres) deep or more.
- The Hubble Space Telescope has observed what seem to be geysers erupting from Europa's surface.

#### **Jupiter**

- Fifth in line from the Sun, Jupiter is, the largest planet in the solar system
- Jupiter has 95 moons (Saturn max. 146)
- Jupiter's four largest moons were the first moons discovered beyond Earth: named Ganymede,
   Callisto, Io, and Europa
- Ganymede is Jupiter's largest moon, and the largest moon in our solar system.



#### **Previous explorations**

- In the 1970s, NASA's The Voyagers captured the first detailed images of Europa but from a considerable distance.
- During the 1990s, NASA's Galileo spacecraft conducted multiple flybys of the moon, coming as close as 124 miles (200 kilometres).
- Currently, NASA's Juno spacecraft continues to orbit Jupiter.

#### **NASA to create Lunar Time Standard**

The White House has directed NASA to create a "Coordinated Lunar Time" or or the "Lunar Standard Time" for the Moon by the end of 2026, as governments and private companies increasingly compete in space.

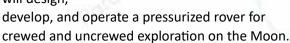


- The European Space Agency in 2023 had announced similar plans to give the Moon its own time zone.
- Issues being faced:

- ISS does not exactly have its own time zone, it runs on Coordinated Universal Time or UTC, which is a standard kept meticulously by atomic clocks.
- Gravity is weaker on moon than that on Earth. Clocks will run faster there, gaining around 56 microseconds every day
- One day on the Moon lasts about 29.5 Earth days (note: Moon's rotation and revolution are equal, the same side of the Moon always faces Earth)

#### Japanese astronaut to be first non-American to set foot on Moon

- NASA, Japan
   Advance Space
   Cooperation, Sign
   Agreement for
   Lunar Rover
- Under the agreement, Japan will design,



- NASA will provide the launch and delivery of the rover to the Moon as well as two Japanese astronaut missions to the lunar surface.
- Two Japanese astronauts will join one of NASA's upcoming Artemis missions, and one will become the first non-American ever to land on the moon,
- Between 1969 and 1972, the US Apollo program saw 12 Americans all white men walk on the Moon.
- NASA previously announced that the Artemis program would see the first woman and the first person of color land on the Moon.
- The first mission to take astronauts to the lunar surface, Artemis 3, is planned for 2026.
- China meanwhile has said it seeks to put humans on the Moon by 2030.
- This year, Japan became the fifth country to succeed in landing a spacecraft on the Moon, with its SLIM craft

### NASA Launches Satellite PREFIRE to Study Earth's Poles

 The first of a pair of climate satellites designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles for NASA is in orbit after lifting off atop Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the company's Launch Complex 1 in Māhia, New Zealand  PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission consists of two shoebox-size



cube satellites, or CubeSats

- The PREFIRE mission will gather data on how much heat the Arctic and Antarctica radiate into space and how this influences global climate.
- The data will help us understand the fundamentals of Earth's heat balance, allowing us to better predict how our ice, seas, and weather will change in the face of global warming

# NASA Captures Yin-Yang Crater On Turkey's Mount Nemrut







- NASA's International Space Station captured a rare image of an unusual crater which on the Mount Nemrut volcano in Turkey.
- The image captured showed how the entire area gets split into two halves a solidified lava region



- and a lake like a yin-yang symbol from Chinese philosophy.
- It is 9,672 feet (2,948 metres) in height and is located at the intersection between the Eurasian and the Arabian tectonic plates.
- According to NASA's Earth Observatory, in 1650, the dormant stratovolcano had majorly erupted for the last time.

#### First Woman on Moon to Wear Prada-Designed Spacesuit for NASA's 2026 Mission

 The first woman to set foot on the Moon will be dressed in a designer spacesuitcollaboration between NASA and Italian fashion house Prada - known as the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU)



- For Artemis III mission to the lunar South Pole,
   Prada has teamed up with Axiom Space to create
   a cutting-edge spacesuit for the astronauts
   heading to the Moon in 2026.
- This mission not only marks Nasa's return to the Moon but will also be the first time a woman walk on its surface.
- Artemis 3 will be the first crewed Moon landing mission since Apollo 17 in 1972.
- NASA aims to land the first female astronaut and first astronaut of colour on the lunar surface.
- They will spend a week on the Moon performing scientific studies, before returning to Earth.

# India Shortlists Astronauts For Axiom-4 ISS Mission



- India has shortlisted two astronaut-designates for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station.
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will be the main mission pilot, and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair will be the backup pilot.
- The Axiom-4 mission is the fourth private
   astronaut mission aiming for the ISS. It is part of a
   broader partnership between ISRO and NASA,
   which was planned during Prime Minister
   Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. in June 2023.

### NASA probe makes closest ever pass by the sun

NASA's



pioneering Parker Solar Probe made history, when it flew closer to the sun than any other spacecraft, with its heat shield exposed to scorching temperatures topping 930 degrees Celsius.

- Launched in August 2018, the spaceship is on a seven-year mission
- Launch Vehicle Delta IV-Heavy with Upper Stage
- Became the first spacecraft to fly through the corona – the Sun's upper atmosphere – in 2021
- The mission objectives of the Parker Solar Probe are to study the structure and dynamics of the Sun's corona, the Sun's magnetic field, and the solar wind.
- To achieve this, the probe will make a total of 24 close approaches to the Sun over the course of its mission, getting as close as 3.83 million miles from the Sun's surface, which is about 7 times closer than any previous spacecraft.
- Parker Solar Probe and its instruments
  are protected from the Sun by a 4.5-inch-thick
  carbon-composite shield, which can withstand
  temperatures reaching nearly 2,500 degrees
  Fahrenheit (1,377 Celsius).

#### Features:

- Mass: 685 kilograms at launch.
- Scientific Instruments:
- 1. Fields Experiment (FIELDS)
  - 2. Integrated Science Investigation of the Sun (ISIS )
  - 3. Wide Field Imager for Solar Probe (WISPR)
  - 4. Solar Wind Electrons Alphas and Protons (SWEAP)

#### **Other Countries Space Program**

- 1. Chang'e-6
- 2. Shenzhou-18 Mission
- 3. CHASE Project
- 4. Water Traces in Moon Soil
- 5. EarthCARE Satellite
- 6. SLIM spacecraft
- 7. World's 1st wooden satellite
- 8. MethaneSAT Satellite
- 9. Apollo lunar mission
- 10. Odysseus Spacecraft
- 11. Polaris Dawn Mission
- 12. RAMSES Mission
- 13. Chamran-1 satellite
- 14. first private spacewalk
- 15. Moonlight programme

## China set to launch lunar probe Chang'e-6 with Pakistan's satellite on board



- China is set to launch its robotic spacecraft Chang'e-6 on May 3 which will make a round trip and collect samples from the far side of the moon.
- Chang'e 6 will make an attempt to land on the northeastern side of the vast South Pole-Aitkin Basin, which is also known as the oldest impact crater in the solar system.
- On Chang'e-6, China is set to carry **payloads from Pakistan** along with countries like **France**, **Italy**, **and Sweden**.
- Pakistan's miniature/nano satellite ICUBE-QAMAR CubeSat
- It carries two optical cameras and will capture images of the Moon's surface.
- The mission will be launched from Hainan province in China

# Pakistan launches multi-mission communication satellite from China



- Pakistan launched a multi-mission communication satellite PAKSAT MM1 for faster internet connectivity with the help of its all-weather ally China, making it Islamabad's second satellite to be sent into orbit within a month.
- PAKSAT MM1 was launched from the Xichang
   Satellite Launch Center in China's southwestern province of Sichuan
- The satellite entered its planned orbit.
- Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), the satellite's launch was a part of the National Space Programme 2047.
- On May 3, Pakistan's mini satellite 'iCube-Qamar'
  was launched as part of China's Chang'e-6 lunar
  mission, and which sent images of the moon
  captured in the lunar orbit

# German company tested rocket powered by candle wax



- German company Hylmpulse successfully launched a candle wax-powered rocket capable of carrying commercial satellites on a test suborbital flight into space for the first time.
- The 12-metre, 2.5-tonne test rocket dubbed
   "SR75" lifted off in Koonibba, Australia.
- It is capable of carrying satellites weighing up to 250kg to an altitude of up to 250km while being fuelled by paraffin, or candle wax, and liquid oxygen

#### China Launches Shenzhou-18 Mission

- A team of 3 astronauts in Shenzhou-18 spacecraft (also known as Divine vessel), launched aboard Long March-2F rocket as part of China's Shenzhou-18 mission
- From the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

 Heading towards the Tiangong space station in low earth orbit.



### Chinese spacecraft successfully lands on moon's far side



- The China National Space Administration announced that Chang'e-6 successfully landed at the designated landing area on June 2.
- In a huge crater known as the South Pole-Aitken Basin.
- To collect soil and rock samples that could provide insights into differences between the less-explored region and the better-known near side.
- It is due to return to Earth in the deserts of China's Inner Mongolia region about June 25.
- Chang'e-6 will attempt to be the first to collect samples from the moon's far side and transport them back to Earth.
- The mission is China's second to the far side, following a landing by the Chang'e-4 spacecraft in 2019.
- The emerging global power aims to put a person on the moon before 2030, which would make it the second nation after the United States to do so.

### China's Chang'e-6 brings back samples from far side of Moon



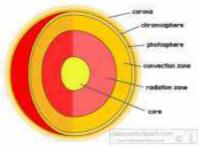
- Chang'e-6 is the first mission in human history to return samples from the far side of the moon
- The Chang'e-6 was a 53-day-long mission descended into the 2,500-kilometre-wide South Pole-Aitken basin

 China is the only country to achieve a soft-landing on the far side of the Moon. In 2019, its Chang'e-4 mission landed on the region and explored the Moon's Von Karman crater with the help of a rover.

# **Chinese Satellite Discovers New Solar Atmospheric Rotation Pattern**

- Chinese scientists have made a significant breakthrough in solar research through the use of their solar exploration satellite, the Chinese Halpha Solar Explorer (CHASE), which has led to the discovery of a new pattern of solar atmospheric rotation.
- The team successfully generated a precise threedimensional representation of solar atmospheric rotation for the first time ever

#### **CHASE**



- China's H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE) is a satellite project that was made to look at the sun.
- Its main goal is focusing on its magnetic activity and how its atmosphere behaves.
- CHASE, which is also called the Kuafu-1 satellite, was launched in 2022 to keep an eye on the solar chromosphere.

#### Chinese Lunar Probe Finds Water Traces in Moon Soil



- A Chinese lunar probe found traces of water in samples of the Moon's soil, scientists have said, as the country pushes its ambitious space programme into high gear.
- The Chang'e-5 rover completed its mission in 2020, returning to Earth with rock and soil samples from the Moon.
- The lunar samples "revealed the presence of trace water", the group of scientists from Chinese

- universities wrote in the Nature Astronomy journal published
- A NASA infrared detector already confirmed in 2020 the existence of water on the Moon.
   India's <u>Chandrayaan-1</u> mission was very important in finding water molecules on the moon's surface.
- According to new research, the <u>Chang'e-5</u> samples, which were taken from a higher latitude on the Moon, show that water can exist in the form of hydrated salts even in parts of the Moon that get a lot of sunlight.
- Chang'e-5 was the world's first mission in four decades to collect samples from the Moon. It followed the Chang'e-4's historic first landing on the far side of the Moon in January 2019.
- And last month, the Chang'e-6 lunar probe completed its mission to collect the first samples from the far side of the Moon.

#### China's next moon mission to include Egypt and Bahrain, member of US Artemis Accords

- Egypt and Bahrain have joined China as international partners to develop and deliver scientific instruments for the Chang'e-7 mission
- Chang'e-7 mission lunar mission aimed at searching for water ice at the moon's South Pole in 2026.
- They signed a cooperation agreement for the joint development of a hyperspectral camera.
- The camera will image and analyse lunar surface materials from orbit, including the Moon's polar regions.
- While Egypt is a member of the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) – an initiative proposed by China and Russia to build a base on the moon by the mid-2030s
- Bahrain has signed on to the US-led Artemis
   Accords.

#### **Artemis Accords**

- Artemis, named after the Greek Moon goddess, is a series of non-binding multilateral arrangements between the United States government and other world governments that elaborates on the norms expected to be followed in outer space
- Launched by the United States Department of State and NASA on October 13, 2020
- India became the 27th signatory to the Artemis Accords

# Sino-French satellite launched to study Gamma-Ray Bursts



- The satellite, named Space Variable Objects
   Monitor, was launched from Xichang Satellite
   Launch Center in Sichuan, China.
- Aimed at studying the farthest explosions of stars, including gamma-ray bursts.
- It is the first astronomy satellite developed by China and France
- This follows their previous joint effort with the China-France Oceanography Satellite launched in 2018.

#### EarthCARE Satellite Launch Advances Cloud and Aerosol Research

- The EarthCARE satellite a collaboration between ESA and Japanese space agency JAXA - will study how the formation of clouds and the density of aerosols in the atmosphere impact the Earth's temperature.
- This data will enhance our understanding of how clouds and aerosols—tiny particles in the air that facilitate cloud and precipitation formation affect Earth's energy budget.



# Japan's SLIM spacecraft lands on moon, a first for the country





- Japan became the fifth country in history to made a soft landing on the lunar surface
- Early on 20th January 2024, Smart Lander for Investigating Moon, or SLIM, touched down in its target area near Shioli crater, south of the lunar equator
- It is called 'Moon Snipper' in the Japanese language
- Launched Launched on September 6, 2023, aboard a H-IIA rocket from the Tanegashima Space Centre, off the south coast of Japan.
- Upon landing, SLIM will deploy two rovers LEV-1 and LEV-2, each with innovative mobility systems.
- However, the spacecraft might have survived on the lunar surface for just a few hours due to power failure

#### World's 1st wooden satellite to be launched



- NASA and Japan's LignoSat probe, a wooden satellite, is scheduled to launch into space in 2024, to make spaceflight operations sustainable.
- The satellite is made of magnolia wood, which is crack-resistant and stable, according to studies on the International Space Station (ISS).
- The tiny satellite has been built by the scientists at Kyoto University
- Currently, our stratosphere is filled with metallic particles from spacecraft, including satellites, which are majorly constructed out of aluminium.
- The LignoSat is a coffee mug-sized satellite that aims to address space debris and make spaceflight more sustainable.
- When it re-enters space, it produces only biodegradable ash, which minimizes its environmental impact.

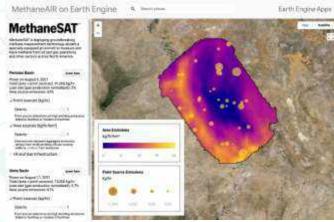
### SpaceX Launches Ax-3 Mission to ISS with First Turkish Astronaut Onboard

- Elon Musk's SpaceX launched Houston-based Axiom Space's private Ax3 (Axiom Mission 3 astronaut mission) to the International Space Station.
- The Crew Dragon capsule, named "Freedom"
- Alper Gezeravcı, Turkey's inaugural astronaut.
- Axiom highlights this mission as "the first all-European commercial astronaut mission" to the ISS.
- The driving force behind Ax-3, aims to construct its private space station as an extension of the ISS.
- The company plans to launch its first module in 2026

# SpaceX Sends MethaneSAT Satellite Into Orbit To Track Methane Gas



- MethaneSAT a satellite which will track and measure methane emissions at a global scale was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon9 rocket from California
- The entity behind MethaneSAT is the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) — a US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group.



- Essentially, MethaneSAT will orbit the Earth 15 times a day, monitoring the oil and gas sector.
- This will allow stakeholders and regulators to take action to reduce methane emissions.
- Methane is an invisible but strong greenhouse gas, and the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide

### U.S. moon lander launched 52 years after last Apollo lunar mission



- The company's Nova-C lander, dubbed Odysseus, lifted off on SpaceX Falcon 9 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral.
- a mission to conduct the first U.S. lunar touchdown in more than a half century and the first by a privately owned spacecraft.
- Built by Houston-based aerospace company
   Intuitive Machines was launched from Florida
- Odysseus is scheduled to land on February 22 at Malapert A crater near the Moon's south pole
- If Odysseus successfully soft lands on the Moon, it will be the first privately-led mission to achieve this
- Last month, Japan became the fifth country to place a lander on the moon, with its space agency JAXA
- Last year, India became the fourth nation to land on the moon

# America's Odysseus Spacecraft Makes 1st Commercial Moon Landing in History



- The US-made Odysseus lunar lander (IM-1 lander) has soft-landed on the moon
- become the first commercial spacecraft to land near the lunar south pole.
- Intuitive Machines, the Houston-based company developed the Odysseus.
- Odysseus is the first vehicle launched from the United States to land on the moon's surface since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.
- landing Location: near Malapert A, an impact crater close to the moon's south pole - an area characterized by treacherous and rocky terrain.

## SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission: First Commercial Spacewalk



- "Polaris Dawn," a ground-breaking mission, intends to send astronauts farther from Earth (initial orbital altitude of 870 miles) than any previous mission has in more than 50 years.
- The crew of the mission, which will take off on a Falcon 9 rocket from Florida, could spend up to five days in space
- The crew's main goals are to perform high-altitude activities, carry out the first commercial spacewalk, test in-orbit communications, and investigate health effects.
- To investigate the impact of space travel and space radiation on human health, 38 scientific experiments will be carried out.
- The launch date of Polaris Dawn is scheduled for July 31, 2024, at the latest, though it may occur before.

Indian-American Astronaut Sunita
Williams Becomes First Woman To Pilot
Boeing 'Starliner' On Maiden Crewed Test
Flight



- Indian-Origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, along with Butch Wilmore, have become the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner's in the first-ever crewed mission.
- Boeing launched astronauts for the first time on June 5
- The crew was launched to fly aboard the United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- The Starliner mission about a week-long mission to the orbiting space station

- The mission, dubbed the Crew Flight Test, will be a stepping stone to getting NASA clearance deeming Boeing's spacecraft ready for regular operations.
- The launch is part of NASA's "commercial crew programme", which selected Boeing and SpaceX to develop spacecraft to carry astronauts to the International Space Station after NASA retired its Space Shuttle Program in the year 2011.
- Sunita was the one who gave the name Calypso to the Starliner capsule.

#### **Boeing Starliner**

- Starliner can house up to seven astronauts.
- The Starliner has an innovative, weldless structure and is reusable up to 10 times with a six-month turnaround time.
- On September 16, 2014, NASA announced it had awarded contracts to SpaceX and Boeing to fly astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

#### Who is Sunita Williams?

- Williams has spent a total of 322 days in space over the course of her two missions.
- With 50 hours and 40 minutes, she is second on the list of total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut (top - Peggy Whitson)

The previous two missions of Sunita Williams

- Expedition 14/15 (December 9, 2006 to June 22, 2007)
- 2. Expedition 32/33 (July 14 to November 18, 2012)

# Sunita Williams-piloted Boeing Starliner test flight postponed over Atlas rocket glitch



# Two NASA astronauts, Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore to return to Earth in February 2025 with SpaceX

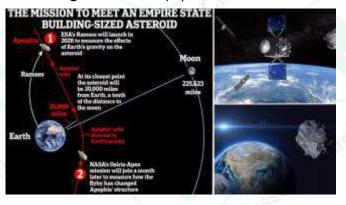
They flew to the International Space Station (ISS)
aboard a Boeing Starliner capsule in June, will only
be returning to Earth in SpaceX's Crew-9 Dragon
capsule in February 2025.

 On September 16, 2014, NASA announced it had awarded contracts to SpaceX and Boeing to fly astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

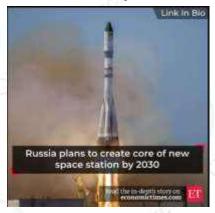


## ESA Prepares RAMSES Mission to Study Asteroid Apophis

- The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced a Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES) mission to study the Apophis asteroid when it passes by Earth at a very close distance in 2029.
- ESA is the second major space agency to commit a space mission for Apophis, after NASA announced OSIRIS-APEX mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter with Earth in April 2029.
- Apophis will come within 32,000 km of the Earth in 2029
- A few days ago ISRO expressed its intention of sending a mission to Apophis



## Russia Approves Schedule For Creation Of Russian Orbital Station By 2033



- A total of 608.9 billion rubles has been allocated to finance the project
- Russia's state space corporation ROSCOSMOS

## JAXA launched ALOS-4 satellite to revolutionize disaster management

- Japan deployed an upgraded Earth observation satellite for disaster response and security
- The Advanced Land Observation Satellite, or ALOS-4, is tasked primarily with Earth observation and data collection for disaster response and mapmaking.
- It's also capable of monitoring military activity, such as missile launches, with an infrared sensor
- It was launched on a new flagship H3 rocket

#### JUICE Mission Sets to Break Records with Lunar-Earth Flyby

- The JUICE mission of the European Space Agency is set to complete a new manoeuvre and break two records.
- This is the first time the spacecraft will use two objects to carry out a gravity assist maneuver, and for the first time, it will also attempt Lunar-Earth flyby.
- This move called a Lunar-Earth gravity assist, will use both the Moon and Earth to help change the spacecraft's speed and direction..

#### What is the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice) mission?

| Aspect               | Details                         |  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Target Moons</b>  | Io, Europa, Ganymede            |  |
| <b>Primary Focus</b> | Ganymede (largest moon in the   |  |
| 11                   | Solar System, larger than Pluto |  |
| 1 200                | and Mercury)                    |  |
| Mission              | Detailed exploration of Jupiter |  |
| Objective            | and its icy moons for potential |  |
| 000                  | habitable environments          |  |
| Planned Arrival      | 2031                            |  |

#### **Other Important Space Missions**

| Mission Name                         | Year | Objective   |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|
| Chandrayaan-3<br>(India)             | 2023 | Successfully soft-land on the Moon and study the lunar surface    |
| Mars 2020<br>(Perseverance<br>Rover) | 2020 | Search for signs of ancient life on Mars and collect rock samples |
| James Webb<br>Space                  | 2021 | Study the formation of stars, galaxies, and                       |

| Telescope            |      |                                 | provide detailed images |  |
|----------------------|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| (JWST)               |      |                                 | of distant cosmic       |  |
| · //                 |      |                                 | objects                 |  |
| Artemis I (          | USA) | 2022                            | Uncrewed mission to     |  |
|                      |      |                                 | test the Space Launch   |  |
| 1                    |      | 100                             | System (SLS) and Orion  |  |
|                      |      | - Or                            | spacecraft for future   |  |
|                      |      | 316                             | Moon missions           |  |
| Gaganyaan            | 100  | Planned                         | India's first manned    |  |
| (India)              |      | 2024                            | space mission to send   |  |
| 6.                   |      |                                 | Indian astronauts into  |  |
| 250°                 |      |                                 | space                   |  |
| Luna 25              |      | 2023                            | Conduct a soft landing  |  |
| (Russia)             |      |                                 | on the Moon and study   |  |
|                      |      |                                 | the lunar south pole    |  |
| - 1                  |      | V                               | region                  |  |
| Hope Mars            |      | 2020                            | Study the Martian       |  |
| Mission (UAE)        |      |                                 | atmosphere and          |  |
|                      |      | 199                             | climate                 |  |
| Tianwen-1<br>(China) |      | 2020                            | Orbit, land, and deploy |  |
|                      |      | 5.                              | a rover on Mars to      |  |
|                      |      |                                 | study the planet's      |  |
|                      |      |                                 | surface and geology     |  |
| DART                 | 2021 | Test the ability to redirect an |                         |  |
| (USA)                |      | asteroid by impacting it        |                         |  |

### SpaceX Aims to Launch Uncrewed Starships to Mars in Two Years



- To test the reliability of landing intact on Mars
- If those landings go well, the space company will launch its first crewed flights to Mars in four years.

#### Iran deploys Chamran-1 satellite



- The Chamran-1 satellite, weighing 60 kilograms, reached a 550-kilometer orbit in space.
- The main mission of the satellite is to test space hardware and software.
- Iran President Masoud Pezezhkian.

# SpaceX launches all-civilian crew for first private spacewalk



- A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Florida, carrying 4 civilians into orbit to attempt the world's first private spacewalk
- The five-day mission, known as Polaris Dawn, is the first of three testing and development missions under the Polaris Program, which will be jointly executed by Isaacman and Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- The first-ever spacewalk was carried out on March 18, 1965, by the Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov

#### What is the Moonlight programme?

- The European Space Agency
  (ESA) at the International
  Astronautical Congress,
  launched its Moonlight Lunar
  Communications and Navigation
  Services (LCNS) programme
- The ESA aims to offer critical support for over 400 moon missions planned by space agencies and private companies in the next 20 years.
- The programme will have a constellation of about five lunar satellites that will allow accurate autonomous landings, high-speed communication, and surface mobility.
- These satellites will reportedly enable data transfer over 4,00,000 kilometres between the Earth and the Moon.
- As part of the programme, the first step will be the launch of Lunar Pathfinder, a communications relay satellite built by Surrey Satellite Technology LTD, in 2026.
- The initial services of the programme will reportedly begin by the end of 2028, and the system is said to be fully operational by 2030.
- The prime focus of the Moonlight programme will be to offer coverage at the Moon's South Pole, a key area for many missions owing to lighting conditions and the potential presence of water ice within craters that perpetually remain in the shadows.
- The Moonlight Lunar Communications and Navigation Services (LCNS) programme is a

- partnership project between ESA and an industry consortium led by space systems developer Telespazio, with support from the UK and Italian Space Agencies.
- ESA is working with NASA and the Japanese space Agency JAXA on LunaNet, which is essentially a framework to standardise communication and navigation for the Moon.
- Moonlight will comply with LunaNet's standards
- ESA also hopes to build on the technologies and lessons learned from this mission to develop Mars Communication and Navigation Infrastructure (MARCONI) for future Mars missions.
- Europe reportedly also has plans to land its Argonaut spacecraft on the moon by 2031.

### SpaceX Launches Starship: Fifth Flight with Novel Booster 'Catch'



- SpaceX in its fifth Starship test flight, returned the rocket's towering first stage booster back to its Texas launch pad for the first time using giant mechanical arms, achieving another novel engineering feat in the company's push to build a reusable moon and Mars vehicle.
- The tower, taller than the Statue of Liberty at over 400 feet, is fitted with two large metal arms at the top.

## Copernicus Sentinel-1C satellite launched aboard Vega-C rocket



- Sentinel-1C was launched from the European Spaceport in French Guiana, onboard Vega C rocket operated by Arianespace
- Part of the European Copernicus programme, it will use advanced radar technology to provide continuous imaging over land and sea, day and night, and even through cloud cover.
- Copernicus Sentinel-1C was successfully placed into orbit at an altitude of around 700 km above the Farth
- Sentinel 1C will synchronise with Sentinel 1A, which is already in space.

#### **About Copernicus Sentinel-1C**

- The Sentinel-1 mission, the first in the family of Copernicus, is based on a constellation of two identical satellites flying in the same orbit but 180° apart, to optimise global coverage and data delivery for Copernicus – the Earth observation component of the EU's Space Programme.
- Sentinel-1A was the first satellite in the series, launched in April 2014, followed by the launch of Sentinel-1B in 2016.
- Sentinel-1B mission came to an end in August 2022

#### Japan Launches World's First Wooden Satellite, LignoSat, to Test Space-Grade Wood



- Named after the Latin word for "wood", the LignoSat is palm-sized
- aims to prove that wood is a space-grade material.
- LignoSat is scheduled to orbit the Earth for six months.
- Designed by researchers at Kyoto University in Japan, LignoSat is made of honoki, a kind of magnolia tree native in Japan that was traditionally used to make sword sheaths.
- It will be flown to the International Space Station on a SpaceX mission, and later released into orbit about 400 km (250 miles) above the Earth.

# High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS) Observatory



- NEWS: Scientists at the HESS observatory in Namibia have found the most energetic cosmic rays ever detected, reaching up to 40 teraelectronvolts.
- Since gamma rays cannot penetrate the Earth's atmosphere, H.E.S.S. detects them indirectly via their interactions with the air molecules.
- The H.E.S.S. observatory is operated by a collaboration of more than 260 scientists from about 40 scientific institutions and 13 different countries.

# **China Opens its First Atmospheric Monitoring Station in Antarctica**



First Atmospheric Monitoring Station in Antarctica

- Located in the Larsemann Hills in East Antarctica, the Zhongshan National Atmospheric Background Station began operating with the aim of supporting the global response to climate change.
- China signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983. The treaty designates the continent as a natural reserve and prohibits commercial resource extraction.
- Like the United States, China has been expanding its presence in Antarctica and in the Arctic to explore polar resources.
- China in February opened its Ross Sea scientific research station in Antarctica. It also has five other research stations in Antarctica that were built between 1985 and 2014.
- Currently, there are 70 permanent research stations scattered across Antarctica, representing 29 countries from every continent
- India has two active research stations Maitri and Bharati in Antarctica. The first research station, Dakshin Gangotri, set up in 1983, had to be abandoned

#### **MEDICINE & RESEARCH**

- 1. Junk DNA
- 2. Meningitis Vaccine
- 3. New High-Efficacy Malaria Vaccine
- 4. Euvichol-S
- 5. India's first gene therapy for cancer
- 6. First Dengue Vaccine
- 7. Indigenous drug for sickle cell disease
- 8. First repository of cancer genomics
- 9. H9N2 bird flu in India
- 10. FLiRT: New COVID-19 Variants
- 11. New COVID Variant XEC
- 12. Typhoid Vaccine ZyVac TCV
- 13. Murine typhus

#### What is 'junk' DNA?



- NEWS: Using artificial intelligence, researchers have found potential cancer drivers hidden in so-called 'junk' regions of DNA.
- In genetics, the term junk DNA refers to regions of DNA that are noncoding.
- DNA contains instructions (coding) that are used to create proteins in the cell.
- However, the amount of DNA contained inside each cell is vast, and not all of the genetic sequences present within a DNA molecule actually code for a protein.
- Some of this noncoding DNA is used to produce non-coding RNA components such as transfer RNA, regulatory RNA and ribosomal RNA.
- However, other **DNA regions are not transcribed into proteins, nor are they used to produce RNA molecules,** and their function is unknown. These are **known as junk regions** of DNA.

# Nigeria Becomes First Country to Roll Out New Meningitis Vaccine

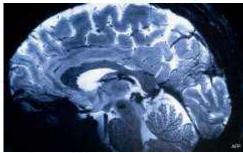


#### **About Meningitis**

- Meningitis is a serious infection of the meninges,
   the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord
- The inflammation from meningitis typically triggers symptoms such as headache, fever and a stiff neck.
- The disease can be caused by many different pathogens including bacteria, fungi or viruses, but the highest global burden is seen with bacterial meningitis.

- Meningococcal meningitis can affect anyone of any age, but mainly affects babies, preschool children and young people.
- The bacteria that cause meningitis are transmitted from person-to-person through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions from carriers.

# World's most powerful MRI scans first images of human brain



- 'Iseult', the world's most powerful Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine
- The magnetic field created by the scanner is a whopping 11.7 teslas, a unit of measurement named after inventor Nikola Tesla.
- It can scan images with 10 times more precision than the common MRIs, whose power does not normally exceed 3 teslas.

 The machine design is the result of two decades of research by a partnership between French and German engineers.

#### New High-Efficacy Malaria Vaccine Launched in Cote d'Ivoire

- A new high efficacy malaria vaccine co-developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the University of Oxford was officially rolled out
- Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa became the first country to begin administering R21/Matrix-M.
- The vaccine was granted WHO approval last year
- The vaccine leverages Novavax's adjuvant technology and has met the required safety, quality and effectiveness standard

# World's First Personalised mRNA Vaccine for Melanoma Undergoing Trials

PRESS RELEASE

Moderna and Merck Announce mRNA-4157/V940, an Investigational Personalized mRNA Cancer Vaccine, in Combination With KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab), was Granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation by the FDA

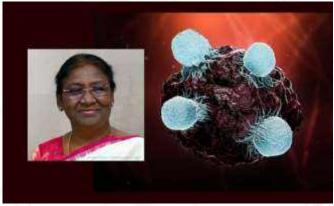
- IT IS NOT A COLLEGE OF THE PARTY OF THE PART
- to revolutionise skin cancer treatment by offering a permanent cure.
- Melanoma, the leading cause of skin cancer deaths globally, affects approximately 1,32,000 people annually.
- The new vaccines called mRNA-4157 (V940) are individually tailored for each patient, instructing their immune system to target cancer cells and prevent the disease from recurring.

# **Euvichol-S : WHO Approves New Oral Cholera Vaccine**



- Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium Vibrio cholerae.
- Euvichol-S has a similar efficacy to existing vaccines but a simplified formulation, allowing opportunities to rapidly increase production and supply which many communities battling with cholera outbreaks urgently need.
- Euvichol-S is produced by EuBiologicals Co. Ltd, Republic of Korea

# Murmu launches India's first gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay



- President Droupadi Murmu launched the country's first home-grown anti-cancer CAR-T cell therapy NexCAR19 at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.
- The NexCAR19 CAR-T therapy is developed by IIT Bombay incubated startup ImmunoACT with doctors at Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai
- Designed and developed at IIT Bombay. Clinical investigations and translational studies were conducted by teams at TMH.
- This is the world's most affordable CAR-T cell therapy.

# IIT Guwahati Transfers Pioneering Swine Fever Vaccine Technology to BioMed Pvt



 In a bid to fight swine fever virus in pigs and wild boars, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)
 Guwahati successfully transferred a 'pioneering' vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt Ltd for commercial production.

- This vaccine marks the first recombinant virusbased solution for classical swine fever developed in India, offering a swift and cost-effective method for pig vaccination.
- Although the swine fever does not affect humans, it is a highly contagious disease among pigs, and poses a severe threat with a very high mortality rate.
- North-eastern Indian states along will Punjab,
   Haryana, Bihar, Gujarat, and Kerala are among the states with frequently observed instances of swine fever

### **Bharat Biotech Starts Clinical Trials Of Tuberculosis Vaccine MTBVAC In India**



- Bharat Biotech International Ltd started clinical trials of the Tuberculosis vaccine MTBVAC on adults in India.
- This is the first vaccine against Tuberculosis derived from a human source by the Spanish biopharmaceutical company, Biofabri.
- The trials are carried out by Bharat Biotech in close collaboration with Biofabri.

# Bharat Biotech launches oral cholera vaccine developed in partnership with Hilleman Labs



- Bharat Biotech International Ltd announced the launch of Hillchol, a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine
- BBIL has established large-scale manufacturing facilities in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar with a capacity to produce up to 200 million doses of Hillchol.
- Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) gave the nod to manufacture the vaccine at the company's Hyderabad plant
- Hillchol (BBV131) was developed by Bharat
  Biotech under license from Hilleman Laboratories
  (funded by Merck USA and Wellcome Trust) to
  combat cholera.
- Global demand for Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCVs) exceeds 100 million doses annually.
- Globally, there is a shortage of 40 million doses of OCVs

#### ICMR and Panacea Biotec initiate the First



#### **Dengue Vaccine Phase 3 Clinical Trial**

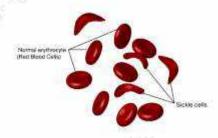
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec announced the commencement of the Phase 3 clinical trial of India's first indigenous dengue vaccine, DengiAll.
- India's first indigenous dengue vaccine marks a critical advancement in our fight against dengue.
- According to WHO report approximately 75-80% of infections in India are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes.
- Among the 20-25% of cases where symptoms are clinically apparent, children are at a significantly higher risk of hospitalization and mortality.

## U.S. FDA approves first nasal spray to treat dangerous allergic reactions



- U.S. health officials, approved a nasal spray to treat severe allergic reactions, the first needle-free alternative to shots like EpiPen.
- Anaphylaxis occurs when the body's immune system develops a sudden, unexpected reaction to a foreign substance, such as food, insect stings or medications.
- Common symptoms include hives, swelling, itching, vomiting and difficulty breathing.

# Indigenous drug for sickle cell disease developed



- Delhi-based Akmus Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited announced the development of a new drug for sickle cell disease.
- The drug would be the country's first indigenous, room temperature stable drug for sickle cell disease to be available at only 1% of the global price.
- the drug would help free India of sickle cell disease.
- India has listed sickle cell disease as one of the 10 major problems that affect the tribal people disproportionately.
- The Central government recently announced the launch of a mission to eliminate sickle cell disease by 2047.

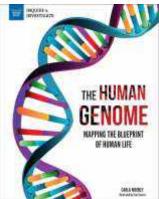
#### Sickle cell disease

- It is an inherited blood disorder.
- It affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body.

- People with this disease have atypical hemoglobin molecules called hemoglobin S, which can distort red blood cells into a sickle, or crescent shape.
- The cells die early, leaving a shortage of healthy RBC (sickle cell anemia) and can block blood flow causing pain (sickle cell crisis).
- Infections, pain and fatigue are symptoms of sickle cell disease.
- Treatments include medication, blood transfusions and rarely a bone-marrow transplant.

#### 10,000 Genomes Project

- The Department of
  Biotechnology (DBT),
  Ministry of Science &
  Technology,
  announced the
  completion of the
  '10,000 genome'
  project
- researchers completed sequencing 10,000 healthy genomes from different regions of the country, representing 99 distinct populations.



- The project is seen as a key step to being able to learn about genetic variants that are unique to India's population groups and use that to customise drugs and therapies (genetic map of India)
- About 20 institutions across India are involved in the project –
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad being the lead institutions coordinating the project.
- The entire dataset which adds up to 8 petabytes of data — will be stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) at Faridabad, Haryana.
- Inaugurated in 2022, the IBDC is the country's only databank. Prior to that Indian researchers had to host their biological datasets on American or European servers.
- India first sequenced a complete human genome in 2006

#### First repository of cancer genomics in India launched

Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) foundation
has launched a portal that expects to be a
repository of information on multiple aspects of
cancer.

- The portal will be the first in India to offer data that includes DNA, RNA, and protein profiles of breast cancer patients, integrated with clinical outcomes
- The inspiration for this is the U.S.-based The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) - launched in 2006

# IISc Bengaluru develops heat tolerant vaccine against current strains of SARS-CoV-2

- It also has the potential to be quickly adapted for future variants as well.
- The RS2 antigen can also be stored at room temperature for a month, unlike many vaccines in the market which require mandatory cold storage.

#### Artificial insemination of Gir and Kankrej cattle

- India has imported 40,000 doses of bull semen from Brazil for the first time
- to boost milk output via artificial insemination of Gir and Kankrej cattle breeds.





#### **About Kankrej:**

- It is also called as Wadad or Waged, Wadhiar.
- It is originated from Southeast Rann of Kutch of Gujarat and adjoining Rajasthan (Barmer and Jodhpur district).
- It is valued for fast, powerful, draught cattle and also useful in ploughing and carting.
- Kankrej, famously known as Guzerat in Brazil, is being maintained in large numbers as a pure breed in that country.

#### **About Gir breed**

- · It is a famous Indian-born dairy cattle breed.
- It is also known as "Bhodali", "Desan", "Gujarati", "Kathiawari", "Sorthi", and "Surati".
- Its native tract is Gir hills and forests of Kathiawar in Gujarat.
- It is a world-renowned breed known for its tolerance to stress conditions and resistant to various tropical diseases.

# H5N1 bird flu behind hundreds of dead penguins in Antarctica



- A scientific expedition discovered at least 532 dead Adelie penguins, with thousands more believed to have perished.
- While the researchers suspect the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus killed the penguins, the field tests were inconclusive.
- H5N1 bird flu has spread more aggressively in wildlife than ever before since arriving in South America in 2022
- The first case of H5N1 in Antarctica was confirmed in February.

#### **Bird Flu**

- Avian influenza, also known as 'bird flu', is a
  disease primarily affecting birds and is caused by a
  virus of the Orthomyxoviridae family.
- H5N1 virus is a subtype of influenza type A that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called avian influenza (or "bird flu").
- Human cases of H5N1 avian influenza occur occasionally, When people do become infected, the mortality rate is about 60%.
- The most common way for the virus to enter a territory is through migratory wild birds.

#### Australia's 1<sup>st</sup> Human Case Of 'Bird Flu' Reported



- Australia has announced the first confirmed case of human bird flu- avian influenza A (H5N1) - in a child who is believed to have acquired it while in India some weeks ago
- Since 1996, bird flu viruses have been circulating among wild and domestic birds, first identified in China.
- On some occasions, these viruses infect humans who are in close contact with birds, with a fatality rate of over 50 percent, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- According to the WHO, in 2022, 67 countries across
   5 continents experienced outbreaks of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)
- The only confirmed human case of bird flu was reported in India in 2021 in a 21-year-old boy from Haryana.

## WHO confirms H9N2 bird flu in India in 4-year-old



- World Health Organization (WHO) recently said that a case of human infection with bird flu caused by the H9N2 virus — was detected in a four-year-old in West Bengal.
- This is the second documented case in India; the first was found in 2019.

#### **H9N2 virus**

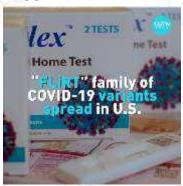
- H9N2 is a subtype of avian influenza virus, commonly found in birds.
- Transmission: Primarily via contact with contaminated environments or diseased birds.
- Common Symptoms: Like any other viral infection –
   Fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and headache.
- Other Symptoms: Muscle aches, fatigue, and conjunctivitis.

## WHO Launches Project to Develop H5N1 Vaccines Using mRNA

 The Argentinian manufacturer Sinergium Biotech will lead this effort leveraging the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) mRNA Technology Transfer Programme.

- The mRNA Technology Transfer Programme, jointly developed by WHO and MPP, was launched in July 2021
- with the aim to build capacity in low- and middleincome countries (LMICs) for the development and production of mRNA-based vaccines

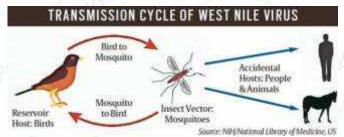
#### FLIRT: New COVID-19 Variants Increase Concern in US



- A series of COVID-19 variants within the Omicron JN.1 lineage, known as FLiRT, including the KP.2 and KP 1.1 variants, is rapidly spreading in the United States, exhibiting new mutations which increase their contagiousness.
- The symptoms are largely similar to those of other Omicron infections and hospitalisation rates remain low.

#### 3 Kerala districts on alert after detection of 'West Nile Fever'

- The Kerala Health Department has sounded an alert in the districts of Thrissur, Malappuram and Kozhikode following the detection of the vectorborne West Nile fever.
- West Nile Virus is a single-stranded RNA virus, spread by the Culex species of mosquitoes
- In India, West Nile fever was first detected in Kerala in 2011
- It is a flavivirus related to the viruses that cause St. Louis encephalitis, Japanese encephalitis, and yellow fever.
- No symptoms in most people. infected develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Few get infected with encephalitis (inflammation of the



brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the

membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord)

- No WNV-specific treatment or vaccine is available.
- So, only supportive treatments are given to patients.

# AstraZeneca admits its vaccine causes clotting

 Global pharmaceutical manufacturer AstraZeneca has admitted that its



COVID-19 vaccine, developed by researchers from the Oxford University, can cause a rare side effect of blood clotting and low platelet count after immunisation.

- In India, the same vaccine, called Covishield and manufactured by the Pune-based Serum Institute, has been administered through 175 crore doses.
- side effect Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia
   Syndrome (TTS),
- Experts say that TTS was reported early on in the pandemic by European countries but it was very rare in India
- "TTS is a very rare side effect, rarer still in Indians and South Asians as compared to Europeans. But there is enough evidence to show that vaccination saved lives — the benefits outweighed the risks."

#### **New COVID Variant XEC**



- The new variant of COVID-19: 'XEC', has spread to 27 countries, Classified as 'more contagious', this variant was first identified in Germany in June 2024.
- It is a sublineage of the omicron variant and is a hybrid of KS.1.1 and KP.3.3 sub-variants

Symptoms are thought to be the same cold or flu-like ones as before: a high temperature, aches, tiredness, cough or sore throat

#### **New Wetland Virus**



- A new virus is discovered in China, is reportedly called Wetland Virus (WELV).
- A member of the orthonairovirus genus of viruses. The name is very specific as it is related to tick-borne viruses.
- It is spreading to humans through tick bites and it has high potential to cause problems in the brain.

#### **WHO Grants First Mpox Vaccine Approval**



- The World Health Organization (WHO) prequalified the Jynneos vaccine by Bavarian Nordic A/S as the first mpox vaccine on September 13, 2024.
- This means that the vaccine can be purchased and distributed by UN agencies

#### WHO approves Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine for adolescents



- The World Health Organization had approved Bavarian Nordic's- the Jynneos vaccine for adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, an age group considered especially vulnerable to outbreaks of the disease
- the mpox virus spread from the Democratic Republic of Congo to its neighbours.

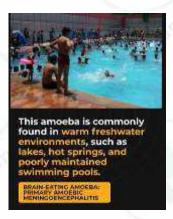
### Rare and Fatal Brain-Eating Amoeba Infection





New initiative launched to advance mRNA vaccine development against human avian influenza (H5N1)

- Primary Amoebic
  Meningoencephalitis
  (PAM) is caused by
  Naegleria fowleri, an
  amoeba that thrives in
  warm freshwater
  lakes, ponds and
  rivers.
- It can also survive in poorly maintained swimming pools in rare cases.



- Because it can infect the brain and destroy the tissues, this one-celled organism is also called 'brain-eating amoeba'.
- These infections, though rare, are fatal and 97% of the patients don't survive.
- 3 deaths have been reported in the past two months in Kerala

# Researchers found tinzaparin significantly reduced damage to human cells due to spitting cobra venom



It is a drug used to treat serious blood clots (deep venous thrombosis), and can reduce damage to cells due to spitting cobra venom.

# What is Medical Devices Information System (MeDevIS)?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has
 launched MeDevIS (Medical Devices Information

System), **an online platform** designed to be the first global open access clearing house **for** 



information on medical devices.

- It aims to support governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions about the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing, and treatment of various health conditions.
- MeDevIS includes information on 2301 types of medical devices addressing a wide range of health issues such as reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, noncommunicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and infectious diseases like COVID-19.
- MeDevIS allows users to search for required devices by type, level of healthcare system, scope, and infrastructure needs, among other categories.

## Zydus Receives WHO Nod for Typhoid Vaccine ZyVac TCV

- Zydus Lifesciences has received in-principle approval from the World Health Organization (WHO) for its Typhoid Vi conjugate vaccine (ZyVac TCV), making it eligible for UN procurement.
- The indigenously developed vaccine, manufactured at Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, targets 6-month to 65-year-olds for protection against Salmonella typhi.

# CCI approves acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited by Mankind Pharma Ltd.

 The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared Mankind Pharma's acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines in a ₹13,630-crore deal. The proposed transaction involves the acquisition of 100% shareholding of Bharat Serums and Vaccines by Mankind Pharma.



#### Unique Drug Delivery Method to Improve Treatment of Brain Tuberculosis

- Scientists at Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) used tiny particles made of a natural material called chitosan,
- To deliver TB medicines directly to the brain through the nose, bypassing the challenging blood-brain barrier (BBB)
- Tuberculosis (TB) that affects the brain, called Central Nervous System Tuberculosis (CNS-TB), is one of the most dangerous forms of TB, often leading to severe complications or death

## World Health Organization approves first mpox diagnostic test

 The test, called the Alinity m MPXV assay and manufactured by Abbott Molecular Inc., enables the detection of the mpox virus from swabs taken from human lesions



- Africa the disease has been officially detected in 16 countries
- Mpox, previously known as monkeypox, is caused by a virus transmitted to humans by infected animals
- It causes fever, muscular aches and large boil-like skin lesions, and can be deadly.

#### Murine typhus

- A 75-year-old man from Kerala was diagnosed with murine typhus after traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia
- Murine typhus is caused by the bacteria Rickettsia typhi, and is spread through contact with infected fleas.

- Fleas become infected when these insects bite infected animals such as rats or cats.
- when an infected flea bites a person or an animal, the bite breaks the skin, causing a wound. Fleas poop when they feed. This faeces, also called flea dirt.



#### **Symptoms**

- Fever and chills, body aches and muscle pain, headache, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, cough, and rashes are the symptoms.
- They begin within 3-14 days after contact with infected fleas or flea dirt.

#### **Diagnosis and treatment**

- A blood test may be required to check for the infection.
- There is no vaccine available to prevent murine typhus

### India sets up its first diabetes biobank in Chennai



- Aimed at facilitating advanced research on diabetes, the variations of the Indian type and other related disorders, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) has set up the country's first diabetes biobank.
- This repository of population-based biological samples established in Chennai will gather,



process, store and distribute biospecimens (blood samples) to assist scientific studies.

### HIV Prevention Drug Lenacapavir Could Reach Poorest Nations by 2025-26



- Lenacapavir, a preventive HIV drug, could become accessible in low-income countries by 2026.
- This injectable drug is already approved in the United States for multi-drug resistant HIV treatment

# Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches first indigenous antibiotic drug named Nafithromycin for resistant infections



- It is the country's first indigenously developed antibiotic aimed at tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- This innovation is designed to treat Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP), a severe illness caused by drug-resistant bacteria.
- The antibiotic "Nafithromycin" has been developed with the support of "Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council" (BIRAC), a unit of the Department of Biotechnology
- and has been brought to market under the trade name "Miqnaf" by pharma company "Wolkardt"
- India, which bears 23% of the world's community pneumonia burden, faces challenges with existing treatments, including widespread resistance to drugs like azithromycin.
- New Antibiotic 'Nafithromycin' Offers 10x Efficacy with Just 3 Doses to Combat Drug-Resistant Pneumonia
- World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) is celebrated annually from November 18 to 24

# The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has announced a new initiative called "First in the World Challenge"

 The scheme proposes to foster novel, out of the box, futuristic ideas, new knowledge generation, discovery / development of breakthrough health technologies
(vaccines,
drugs/
therapeutics,
diagnostics,
interventions
etc.), which
has never
been thought,
tested or
tried in the
world till
date.



#### World's First Patent for Animal Supplement "Pinfenon"

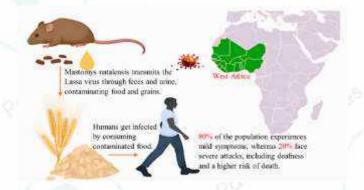
• Scarecrow
Incorporated,
based in Tokyo,
has received the
world's first
patent for
Pinfenon (S) —
an animal supplement



- found to lower levels of atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) in dogs.
- ANP is a biomarker for heart health, and high levels of it are associated with cardiac disorders

### Rising Concerns Over Lassa Fever Outbreaks

- Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic illness caused by Lassa virus, a member of the arenavirus family of viruses.
- Humans usually become infected with Lassa virus through exposure to food or household items contaminated with urine or faeces of infected Mastomys rats (rodents that are native to sub-Saharan Africa).
- The disease is **endemic** in the rodent population in **parts of West Africa.**
- fatality rate is 1%.



#### **NEW DISCOVERY**

- **New Orchid Species Discovered in** Assam
- 2. new kangaroo lizard species
- 3. Rare moth
- 4. Alaskapox virus
- 5. Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)
- 6. New Blue Ant Species
- 7. The bald ibis
- 8. India's Second Largest Butterfly **Species**
- 9. Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH)
- 10. Rare Giant Flare
- 11. Dark Oxygen
- The new species has been provisionally assessed as Threatened according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (2024)

| Assam NP                           |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Dibru-Saikhowa National Park       |     |
| Kaziranga National Park            |     |
| Manas National Park                |     |
| Nameri National Park               |     |
| Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park   |     |
| Dehing Patkai National Park (2021) | - 1 |
| Raimona National Park (2021)       |     |
|                                    |     |

#### **New Orchid Species Discovered in Assam**



- A new orchid species, Crepidium assamicum, has been discovered in Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.
- Unlike most orchids that thrive in dense forests, this species prefers open grasslands. Additionally, it has a minimal fragrance.



#### 7 NATIONAL PARKS IN ASSAM

#### **New Plant Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh Sanctuary**



**New Plant Species Found** in Arunachal Pradesh: Phlogacanthus sudhansusekharii

Researchers from the Botanical urvey of India have discovered and described a new plant species from Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary. The named Phlogacanthus sudhansusekharii, belongs to the family Acanthaceae

Phlogacanthus genus.

- Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new plant species
- Phlogacanthus Sudhansusekharii, the plant species recently discovered from the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Papum Pare district
- The species is named to honour Dr Sudhansu Sekhar Dash, a scientist at the BSI

#### **New Orchid Species Discovered in Sikkim**

- A newly discovered orchid species, Gastrodia indica, was found in Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim, India, by botanist Madhusudan Khanal.
- This orchid is notable because it does not open its flowers, a rare trait among orchids, making it the first known cleistogamous orchid in India.
- Cleistogamous orchids are orchids that produce flowers that do not open, and reproduce through self-pollination, or autogamy

### A new plant species has been discovered in Tamil Nadu



- discovered in Theni district of Tamil Nadu in the Western Ghats by a research student.
- The plant was named 'Andrographis theniensis' after the location (Theni).
- Andrographis is a tropical Asian genus native to Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the West Himalaya.
- There are nearly 25 Andrographis species in India.
- This genus is traditionally used to treat various ailments such as cold, cough, fever, jaundice, diarrhoea, cardiovascular and hepatic diseases

### Hairy earth tongues, also known as Trichoglossum hirsutum, are a type of?

- Answer: Fungus
- New species of fungus, commonly known as "hairy earth tongues", discovered in Kerala
- Trichoglossum species play a critical role in the decomposition of organic matter, aiding in increasing soil fertility and forest survival
- They are black, dark, or brown in colour.

# Scientists discover new kangaroo lizard species (*Agasthyagama edge*) from Western Ghats





- Agasthyagama edge or the northern kangaroo lizard, belongs to the Agamidae family.
- discovered from the southern Western Ghats at Kulamavu in Idukki (Kerala).
- The species is the second one of the Agasthyagama genus after A. beddomii that has been previously reported from Sivagiri hills in Tamil Nadu
- A reduced fifth toe makes these reptiles poor climbers and hence do not climb trees like other lizards.

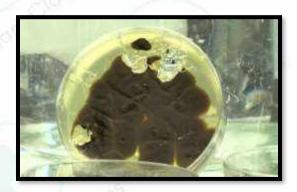
#### Rare moth endemic to Western Ghats 'rediscovered' in Nilgiris after 132 years



Fig. 1: Chiretolois erubescens, Coonoor area, Niloiris, Tamil Nadu, India.

- Chiretolpis erubescens, a rare moth endemic to the Western Ghats recorded to have inhabited the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR).
- The species, which was "rediscovered" after 132 years.
- it was first recorded by British entomologist George Francis Hampton in 1891.

#### **German Scientists Discover Plastic-Eating**



#### **Fungi for Waste Reduction**

- It could offer a hope in tackling the problem of millions of tonnes of waste polluting the world's oceans every year.
- Microfungi can degrade synthetic polymers, showing potential for use in controlled environments like sewage treatment plants.
   However, they are unlikely to solve the global plastic waste crisis. (350-400 million metric tons)

#### What is Alpkarakush kyrgyzicus?

- A new dinosaur species named Alpkarakush kyrgyzicus has been recently discovered, which walked the region of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia around 165 million years ago.
- It is a new species of large theropod dinosaur discovered



- Theropod dinosaurs are one of the most important large groups of dinosaurs, including well-known predators such as Tyrannosaurus and Allosaurus, as well as modern birds.
- Alpkarakush kyrgyzicus is also the first large Jurassic predatory dinosaur ever unearthed between central Europe and East Asia.

#### Fossils Of Colossal Snake Vasuki Unearthed In India Mine



- IIT Roorkee scientists have unearthed Fossil vertebrae of one of the largest snakes that ever lived, from a lignite mine located in the Panandhro area of the Kutch district in Gujarat
- Scientists have named it Vasuki indicus.
- This monster estimated at up to 49 feet (15 meters) in length longer than a T. rex that prowled the swamps of India around 47 million years ago.
- It would have looked like a modern-day large python and would not have been venomous.
- Scientists have recovered 27 vertebrae from the snake, including a few still in the same position as they would have been when the limbless reptile was alive.
- Vasuki, named after the snake king associated with the Hindu deity Shiva, rivals in size another huge prehistoric snake called Titanoboa, whose fossils were discovered in a coal mine in northern Colombia, as announced in 2009.

- These huge snakes lived during the Cenozoic era, which began after the dinosaur age ended 66 million years ago.
- Vasuki was a member of the Madtsoiidae snake family that appeared roughly 90 million years ago but went extinct about 12,000 years ago.
- These snakes spread from India through southern Eurasia and into north Africa after the Indian subcontinent collided with Eurasia around 50 million years ago

## First reported person to die of recently discovered Alaskapox virus



- Alaskapox was discovered in 2015 in Alaska.
- It mainly has been found in small mammals, including red-backed voles and shrews. But pets, such as dogs and cats, may also carry the virus
- Alaskapox, also known as AKPV, is related to smallpox, cowpox and mpox.
- researchers say it may be zoonotic, meaning it can jump from animals to humans.
- Symptoms can include a rash, swollen lymph nodes and joint or muscle pain.
- Alaska is the largest state in the United States, located in the northwest corner of North America



### New species of deep-sea isopod discovered off Kollam named after ISRO



- Researchers have named a new species of deepsea isopod discovered off the Kollam coast (Kerala) after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The tiny fish-parasitic crustacean, belonging to the genus Brucethoa, was recovered from the base of the gill cavity of a marine fish.
- Isopods are an order of invertebrates (animals without backbones) belonging to the greater crustacean group of animals, which includes crabs and shrimp.

### Rare Tree Species re-discovered after 140 years in Western Ghats



- Uniyala multibracteata, a rare tree species not seen for 140 years, has been rediscovered in the Wagamon hills of the Western Ghats.
- Known locally as Kattupoovamkurunnila, this tree blooms cotton hairs and flowers from October to January, thriving in evergreen forests and rocky grasslands at altitudes of 1,200 meters.
- It belongs to the **genus Uniyala**, named after **taxonomist B.P. Uniyal**.

## **Indian Scientists Discover New Plant Species Dendrophthoe longensis**



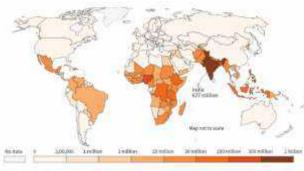


- The new species, Dendrophthoe longensis, was found on the Long Islands in the middle
   Andamans by a group of scientists led by Lal Ji Singh.
- The aerial stem-parasitic flowering mistletoe plant species Dendrophthoe longensis was found on the specific host plant - Mango, Mangifera indica in the edge of evergreen forests, low land areas of tropical forests.
- It has amazing **hemiparasitic adaptations**, but habitat loss and human activities put it at risk.
- Hemiparasites, i.e., plants only partly dependent on the host, have chlorophyll
- Conservation status of the new species is assessed as "Endangered" based on the IUCN categories and criteria (IUCN, 2020).

#### **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)**

- NTDs are a diverse group of 20 conditions/diseases that are mainly prevalent in tropical areas
- Cause: variety of pathogens (including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi, and toxins)
- These include Guinea worm, Chikungunya, Dengue, snakebite envenoming, Kala Azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis), and Elephantiasis (Lymphatic Filariasis).
- Global research about these ailments continues to be heavily underfunded compared to illnesses such as HIV/AIDS.
- These diseases are termed as Neglected Tropical
   Diseases (NTDs) by the World Health Organization
   (WHO).

Map 2: The map shows the estimated number of people requiring treatment against NTDs in 2021.



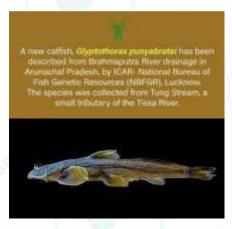
- World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day January
   30.
- India is home to about 12 NTDs. Close to 677
  million people in India required treatment for
  NTD in 2021.
- NTDs primarily affect populations in tropical and subtropical regions, and they have historically received less attention and fewer resources. The

### affected populations are typically among the poorest in the world.

Chart 1 | The chart shows the annual research and development funding for NTDs in 2022(5), adjusted for inflation). Research and development for NTDs folius) have been historically underfunded compared to diseases like HIV/AIDS, tubercolosis, and malatia.



#### Glyptothorax punyabratai: New Catfish Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh



- Recently, the ICAR-NBFGR (National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow) discovered a new catfish species in the waters of Arunachal Pradesh, India and named it as Glyptothorax punyabratai.
- The species was collected from Tung Stream, a tributary of the Tissa River, in the Brahmaputra River basin.
- Most catfish are found in freshwater but a few are marine.
- Most species of catfish are nocturnal.

# New Blue Ant Species Discovered in Eastern Himalayas

- Researchers have discovered a new ant species from the Eastern Himalayas.
- Belonging to the rare genus Paraparatrechina, the blue-coloured insect has been named
   Paraparatrechina neela.
- The discovery, made during an expedition to Siang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, marks the first addition to the Paraparatrechina genus from the Indian subcontinent, since the description of the sole previously known species P. aseta 121 years ago.

- Paraparatrechina neela has been described as a small ant with a total length of less than 2mm.
- Its body is predominantly metallic blue, except for the antennae, mandibles, and legs.



The discovery was made by entomologists
 Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan and Sahanashree R.
 from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) in Bengaluru and Aswaj
 Punnath from the University of Florida.

### New Snake Eel Species Discovered in Odisha



- regional centre at Gopalpur in Odisha's Ganjam district have discovered a new species of snake eel from different estuarine ecosystems
- The new species is named 'Ophichthus Suryai' to honour Surya Kumar Mohanty, former joint director of state fishery department

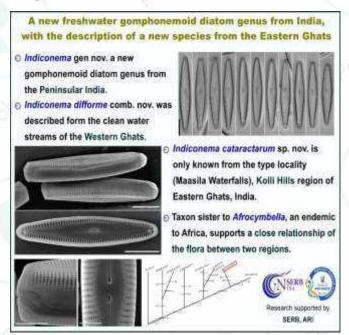
#### New Plant Species Petrocosmea Arunachalense Discovered



- A team of researchers from the Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre of the Botanical Survey of India has discovered a new plant species from the Mandala region of West Kameng district in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It has been named Petrocosmea arunachalense.
- only the second known species of the genus Petrocosmea found in India.
- The detailed research findings have been published in the latest issue of the Nordic Journal of Botany.

### New freshwater "Diatom Genus" Indiconema discovered in India

- Researchers from the Agharkar Research Institute
   (ARI) in Pune have discovered a new genus of
   diatoms in the unpolluted waters of the Eastern
   Ghats mountain range (Masila waterfalls, Tamil
   Nadu).
- One species of Indiconema has been reported from the Eastern Ghats and another from the Western Ghats
- The genus has been named "Indiconema" due to its limited distribution within the country.
- Diatoms are microscopic algae that play a crucial role in producing approximately 25 percent of the global oxygen supply.
- They form the base of the aquatic food chain and serve as valuable indicators of water quality due to their sensitivity to changes in water chemistry.
- India boasts a rich diatom diversity, with an estimated 6,500 taxa, of which 30 percent are endemic (restricted to a particular region).
- Indiconema is closely related to Afrocymbella, a genus endemic to East Africa.



#### Four-ringed butterfly resurfaces in India



- Recently, a four-ringed butterfly was rediscovered in the Namdapha National Park (Arunachal Pradesh) after 61 years.
- Ypthima cantleie
- It was last reported in 1957 from (eastern) Assam's Margherita.

#### New jumping spider species discovered in Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary





- Researchers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu have discovered two new species of jumping spiders in Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the southern Western Ghats.
- The new species are Habrocestum shayadri and Irura Shendurney
- The findings have been published in the peerreviewed European Journal of Taxonomy

The bald ibis, a bird species once extinct in Europe, has now made a comeback.





- The distinctive northern bald ibis, hunted essentially to extinction by the 17th century, was revived by breeding and rewilding efforts over the last two decades, from zero to almost 300
- The feat moved the species from a "critically endangered" classification to "endangered"

### New Plant Species Ceropegia Shivrayiana Discovered at Vishalgad



- The name Ceropegia shivrayiana honors Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, reflecting the region's cultural heritage.
- It is an ancient fort situated at Vishalgad village in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

#### **History:**

- It was built in the year 1058 by Shilahara king Marsinh and was initially known as Khilgil.
- The famous Dargah of Hazrat Sayed Malik Rehan Meera Saheb, which is visited by thousands of tourists, is located in the fort.

#### Bengaluru Researchers Discover Three New Edible Bug Species from Arunachal Pradesh



- Belonging to the genus Coridius of family
   Dinidoridae (Hemiptera), these stink bugs have been named Coridius adii, Coridius insperatus and Coridius esculentus.
- Coridius adii is named in honour of the Adi tribe, one of the major groups inhabiting mainly the Siang valley in Arunchal Pradesh, which consumes this species as food.

# Nagpur Researchers Discover New Plant Species in Ambagad, Maharashtra



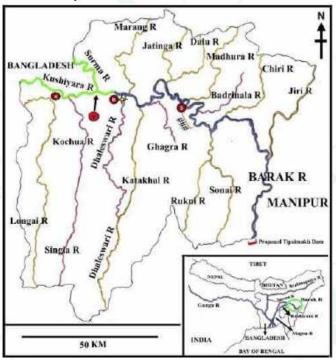
- ➤ Three botany teachers discovered the new plant species of Cleistanthus Collinus, known as 'Garadi' in local parlance, during a taxonomic field exploration in the Ambagad forest in the Bhandara district
- A new plant species, Cleistanthus
   Deekshabhoomiana, has been discovered by botany teachers in the Ambagad forest, located in Bhandara district, Maharashtra.
- An ovitrap is a pot-shaped device which is filled with a combination of water and certain chemicals.
- This chemical mixture attracts egg-laying mosquitoes, specifically Aedes mosquitoes, and destroys them once they are trapped.
- The use of this bio-trap device is said to be capable of controlling up to 60% of the mosquito population.
- One device will cover two to three houses. One ovitrap covers 400 square feet and costs between ₹300 and ₹350. It lasts for about a month.
- The device will be disposed of and it is biodegradable

# New Catfish Species Exostoma Sentiyonoae Discovered in Nagaland



- Has been discovered in the Dzuleke River, a tributary of the Barak River in Nagaland
- The Barak is the second largest river in the Northeast India after the Brahmaputra.
- Origin it originates in Manipur Hills
- flows then along Nagaland-Manipur border and enters Assam in India and Bangladesh.

- The river enters Bangladesh as Surma and Kushiyara.
- Later, the river is called the Meghna and receives the combined flow of the Ganga and Brahmaputra.



### New spider species discovered in Tamil Nadu's Palani Hills





- A new species of jumping spider, Carrhotus piperus, has been identified in the lower Palani Hills of Tamil Nadu.
- This discovery yet again highlights the region's rich biodiversity.

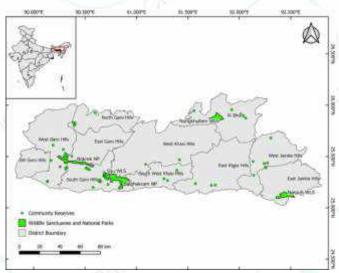
### In a first in India, rare dung beetle species found in Meghalaya



Researchers from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) have identified the species *Onitis bordati* near **Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary** in Ri-Bhoi.

- This marks the first time this species has been documented in India
- Dung beetle species were previously only found in Vietnam and Thailand.

#### **About Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary**



- Falls in the Eastern Himalayan

  Global biodiversity hot spot and is in Ri-Bhoi
  district of Meghalaya.
- The area is a part of the Archaean Meghalaya Plateau.
- The Umtrew is the main river of the area
- Other WLS in Meghalaya:
  - (ii) Narpuh
  - (iii) Siju
  - (iv) Baghmara Pitcher Plant

# India's Second Largest Butterfly Species Discovered in Madurai, Tamil Nadu



- The Southern Birdwing was once considered the largest butterfly in India, with a wingspan of 190mm. However, in 2020, it was surpassed by the Golden Birdwing, which has a wingspan of 194mm
- the Golden Birdwing is widely found in Himalayan region, the Southern Birdwing can be seen in Western and Eastern Ghats regions.

### New Antarctic Dragonfish Species Discovered by Researchers



- This new species is called the Banded Dragonfish (Akarotaxis gouldae).
- named after the Laurence M Gould, an Antarctic research vessel

### New Turmeric Cousin Discovered in Nagaland's Ungma Village

- Researchers have identified a new 'cousin' of the turmeric
- Belonging to the genus Curcuma (the ginger family Zingiberaceae)
- has been given the name Curcuma ungmensis after Ungma, the village in Mokokchung district where it was found.



# Researchers Discover 6 New 'Dancing Girls' Ginger Species in India



- Two scientists from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Bhopal recorded six new species in the genus Globba belonging to the ginger (Zingiberaceae) family
- The common name for this genus is dancing girl or dancing lady ginger.

- These species are Globba corniculata, Globba paschimbengalensis, Globba polymorpha, recorded from West Bengal's Darjeeling
- Globba tyrnaensis, Globba janakiae, from Meghalaya
- Globba yadaviana from Mizoram

### Scientists Discover 1.5 Billion-Year-Old "Giant" Viruses In Yellowstone

- Giant viruses dating back 1.5 billion years were found in Yellowstone's geothermal springs, which scientists claim could reveal the conditions under which life formed on Earth.
- The viruses are labeled as 'giant' because they have extremely large genomes compared to regular viruses and pose no risk to humans

#### **Yellowstone National Park**



- Yellowstone National Park, located in the western United States
- World's First National Park: On March 1872,
   Yellowstone became the first national park in the world.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site: Yellowstone's significance extends beyond national borders—it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978.

### Oldest Known Human Viruses Discovered In 50,000-Year-Old Neanderthal Bones

- Neanderthals were an extinct species or subspecies of archaic humans that lived in Eurasia until approximately 40,000 years ago.
- Neanderthals coexisted with early modern humans (Homo sapiens) in Europe and Asia for several thousand years.
- They were well adapted to cold, glacial environments

 How Neanderthals went extinct while humans survived is one of the biggest questions in our species' history.

Yearbook 2024

- Researchers have long wondered if our closest extinct relatives might have succumbed to viral infections that plague modern humans today.
- The discovery of ancient DNA from three viruses found in 50,000-year-old Neanderthal bones, unearthed at Chagyrskaya cave in Russia offers new information in this regard..
- Based on these results, it seems that Neanderthals were able to get diseases that people get today.
- Long enough ago that humans could have carried pathogens from Africa and passed them on to Neanderthals in Europe.
- The oldest viral DNA found before this was a 31,000-year-old herpesvirus detected in Homo sapiens teeth excavated from Siberia.

### Smallest known great ape, which lived 11m years ago, found in Germany

Buronius manfredschmidi estimated to have weighed just 10kg and was about the size of a human toddler



- The smallest known great ape has been discovered in Germany, dating to 11m years ago.
- The tiny creature, far smaller than any other great ape on record, is estimated to have weighed 10kg, about the size of a human toddler.
- The species, called Buronius manfredschmidi, is an ancient hominid, part of the ancestral family that gave rise to modern humans, gorillas and chimpanzees.
- This new genus is far smaller than any living or any fossil hominid
- Even though Buronius manfredschmidi was small, its shape suggests that it was a good climber and mostly lived high in the sky (Based on the few pieces of bone that have been found, like two teeth and a kneecap)
- This discovery is very important for understanding the variety of hominids that lived in the late
   Miocene era, which lasted from about 23.03 million years ago to 5.333 million years ago.

# Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH): World's Deepest Blue Hole discovered in Mexico



- Researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole in Mexico, but they haven't reached its bottom yet.
- Located in Chetumal Bay at the southeast corner of the Yucatan Peninsula.
- The site named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH) is now the deepest known underwater sinkhole in the world.
- TJBH extends at least 1,380 feet (420 metres) below sea level.

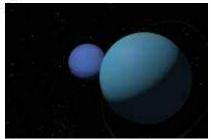




 It is a type of underwater sinkhole or vertical cave that is typically found in low-lying coastal karst platform regions.

- These are formed when limestone or other carbonate rock is dissolved by slightly acidic groundwater over a long period.
- Yucatan Peninsula is a Northeastern projection of Central America which is lying between the Gulf of Mexico to the west and north and the Caribbean Sea to the east.
- The peninsula is almost wholly composed of beds of coralline and porous limestone rocks.

## 3 new moons discovered orbiting Uranus and Neptune



- Astronomers have identified 2 new moons revolving around Neptune and 1 encircling Uranus, increasing the known tally of satellites to 16 and 28 respectively.
- Moon around Uranus is tentatively labelled
   "S/2023 U1"- a 680-day orbit around Uranus
- 2 new moons encircling Neptune- the pair named
   "S/2002 N5," orbits Neptune every 9 years.
- Its fainter counterpart, named "S/2021 N1," completes a 27-year orbit around Neptune.
- Saturn has maximum moons 146 confirmed so far
- Jupiter 2<sup>nd</sup> with 95 moons
- Jupiter's icy moon Ganymede is the largest moon in our solar system. It's bigger than Mercury and Pluto.

### Astronomers find black hole 33 times more massive than our Sun



- Astronomers at the European Southern
   Observatory's Gaia mission spotted "Milky Way's most massive" black hole.
- at least 33 times bigger than the Sun and located
   2,000 light years away from us.
- The black hole has been named Gaia BH3.

- It's the second-closest black hole to Earth and sits in the Aquila constellation. Gaia is a Latin word which means "the eagle".
- The closest black hole to Earth is Gaia-BH1 (also discovered by Gaia), which is 1,560 light-years away.

# Scientists found carbon dioxide and hydrogen peroxide on Pluto's largest moon, Charon



- Data captured by NASA's James Webb Space
   Telescope
- Charon, discovered in 1978, has the distinction of being the solar system's largest moon relative in size to the planet it orbits.
- Pluto, which was earlier known as the ninth planet of the solar system was downgraded to dwarf planet in 2006 after other similar objects were spotted in a region beyond Neptune called the Kuiper Belt.

# Team led by PRL Ahmedabad finds ozone on Jupiter's moon Callisto



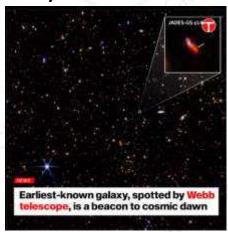
- Scientists led by R. Ramachandran, of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, discovered strong evidence indicating the presence of ozone on Jupiter's moon Callisto.
- Jupiter has 95 moons.
- The planet Jupiter's four largest moons are called the Galilean satellites after Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, who first observed them in 1610.
- These large moons, named Io, Europa, **Ganymede**, and Callisto
- Callisto is the third-largest moon in the Solar System after Ganymede and Titan.

## Astronomers Detect Rare Giant Flare from Magnetar



- Scientists have detected the most distant-known instance of a giant flare from a magnetar, a type of neutron star with immensely strong magnetic fields
- A neutron star is the collapsed core of a massive supergiant star.
- The magnetar is residing in the Messier 82 (M82) galaxy, also known as the "Cigar Galaxy."
- The flare, a surge of gamma rays, released an amount of energy equivalent to 10,000 years of our sun's output in just a tenth of a second.
- Only two confirmed giant flares have been observed in our Milky Way galaxy, in 2004 and 1998
- M82 is 12 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Ursa Major.
- A light year is the distance light travels in a year,
   5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km).

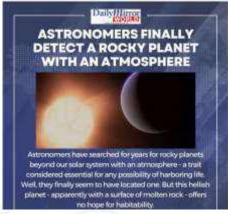
### James Webb Telescope Discovers Earliest Giant Galaxy



- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has spotted the earliest-known galaxy, JADES-GS-z14-0, formed 290 million years after the Big Bang.
- One that is surprisingly bright and big considering it formed during the universe's infancy— at only 2% its current age.
- This galaxy has a mass equivalent to 500 million stars the size of our sun and was rapidly forming new stars, about 20 every year.

- This discovery is very important because it gives us a look into the universe 290 million years after the Big Bang, during a time called the cosmic dawn.
   Before this, the oldest known galaxy was seen about 320 million years after the Big Bang.
- James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has revolutionized the understanding of the early universe since becoming operational in 2022.

### Astronomers finally detect a rocky planet with an atmosphere



- The planet, called 55 Cancri e or Janssen, is about
   8.8 times more massive than Earth, with a diameter about twice that of our planet.
- The planet is located in our Milky Way galaxy about 41 light-years from Earth, in the constellation Cancer
- It orbits its star at one-25th the distance between our solar system's innermost planet Mercury and the sun
- This is one of the hottest-known rocky exoplanets
- This planet apparently with a surface of molten rock offers **no hope for habitability.**
- The planet is probably tidally locked, meaning it
  perpetually has the same side facing its star, much
  like the moon does toward Earth.
- Infrared observations using two instruments aboard the James Webb Space Telescope indicated the presence of a substantial - if inhospitable – atmosphere
- The atmosphere is likely rich in carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide, but can also have other gases such as water vapor and sulfur dioxide.

### Huge underground reservoir of liquid water on Mars, seismic data indicates

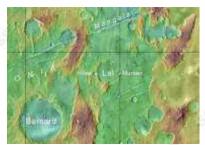
- A massive reservoir of liquid water, equal to an ocean, is found hiding under Mars.
- The water deposit found fractured within igneous rocks, is so huge that it is enough to fill an ocean that can cover the entire Earth's planetary



neighbour, concluded scientists who observed the recent seismic data of Mars.

- The claims were made based on data received from NASA's robotic InSight Lander during a mission to help decipher the interior of Mars.
- The water discovered on Mars is located about 7.2 to 12.4 miles (11.5 to 20 km) below the Martian surface, which is at depths that are too far below the surface for us to access.
- Life can sustain at such depths, as researchers
   point out that conditions beneath are favourable
   for microbial life, but reaching there would be a
   herculean task, almost impossible some may say.

### Three craters discovered on Mars by scientists of Physical Research Laboratory

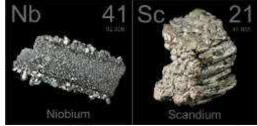


- The scientists of Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered three new craters on Mars.
- They have been discovered in the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars.
- The International Astronomical Union (IAU)
   Working Group for Planetary System
   Nomenclature approved naming the three craters on Mars.
- One crater has been named "Lal crater" after Prof.
   Devendra Lal, a renowned Indian geophysicist and former director of PRL from 1972-1983. It is a 65 km wide crater.
- The second crater has been named "Mursan crater" after a town in Uttar Pradesh, India.
   Mursan crater is a ~10 km wide crater superimposed on the eastern side of the rim of the Lal crater.
- The third crater is "Hilsa crater". It is a ~10 km wide crater superimposed on the western side of the rim of the Lal crater. It is named after a town in Bihar, India.

- There is geophysical evidence of material other than lava in this crater, with a 45-m thick sedimentary deposit in the subsurface of the crater.
- This discovery provides compelling evidence that the water has moved large volumes of sediment into the crater, now named Lal Crater.
- This finding also confirms that Mars was once wet, and water has flown on the surface.

### Chinese Geologists Discovered Two New Minerals In Northern China

- Chinese geologists have discovered two new minerals at the world's largest rare-earth mine in northern China.
- The two new niobium-scandium minerals, named Oboniobite and Scandio-fluoro-eckermannite, were discovered in the Bayan Obo deposit in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
- Niobium and scandium are both extremely rare strategically critical metals.
- Niobium is mainly used in special steels, superconducting materials and aerospace industries,



- Scandium is widely used in aluminum-scandium alloys and solid oxide fuel cells.
- The new minerals contain valuable elements that have significant applications in fields such as new materials, new energy, information technology, aerospace, national defense and military industry, and are of great significance to the country's eco nomic and social development.

#### Researchers Discover 'Dark Oxygen' Production on Seafloor



 Researchers have found that metallic minerals on the deep-ocean floor can produce oxygen in complete darkness, a process that challenges longheld beliefs about the origins of life and the role of photosynthesis.



 Polymetallic nodules, which are naturally occurring mineral masses found on the ocean floor, made up of metals like manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, and lithium, can generate oxygen through electrochemical activity even in the absence of light.

### New ginger variety 'IISR Surasa' developed by ICAR-IISR

- ICAR Indian Institute of Spices
   Research has released its new
   ginger variety for commercial
   applications.
- Named IISR Surasa, the variety has been developed through a farmers participatory breeding programme.
- It can produce up to 24.33 tons per hectare when grown scientifically.

### New Pterosaur Species Discovered in Japan

 Paleontologists have announced the discovery of Nipponopterus mifunensis, from the Late Cretaceous of Japan.



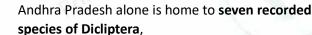
- Pterosaurs were highly successful flying reptiles (not dinosaurs, as they're commonly mislabeled) that lived between 210 and 65 million years ago.
- They were Earth's first flying vertebrates, with birds and bats making their appearances much later.

## Dicliptera srisailamica: New Flower Species Discovered

 Recently, a team of botanists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has identified Dicliptera srisailamica, a flowering plant found in the Eastern

Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

- It is a new plant species belonging to the Acanthaceae family.
- It is named after the temple town of Srisailam.



# World's largest coral found near Solomon Islands: Scientists



- Scientists say they have found the world's largest coral near the Pacific's Solomon Islands, announcing a major discovery "pulsing with life and colour".
- "Measuring 34 metres wide and 32 metres long,"
   the team said the "mega coral" was three times
   bigger than the previous record holder a coral
   dubbed "Big Momma" in American Samoa
- The coral was discovered at the southeastern tip of the Solomon Islands in an area known as the Three Sisters.
- Corals are made of hundreds of thousands of living organisms called polyps, each with its own body and mouth, which grow together as a colony.
- Some corals grow hard, outer skeletons and when many of these fuse together they form a coral reef.
- Corals share a symbiotic relationship with singlecelled algae called zooxanthellae.
- The algae provides the coral with food and nutrients, which they make through photosynthesis, using the sun's light.
- In turn, the corals give the algae a home and key nutrients. The zooxanthellae also give corals their bright colour.
- Coral reefs, also referred to as "rainforests of the sea".
- Coral Bleaching happens when corals experience stress in their environment due to changes in temperature, pollution or high levels of ocean acidity.

- Under stressed conditions, corals expel the colourgiving zooxanthellae from their polyps, which exposes their pale white exoskeleton, giving the corals a bleached appearance.
- This also ends the symbiotic relationship that helps the corals to survive and grow





### New Giant Radio Galaxy Discovered by MeerKAT

 An international team of astronomers from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, has used



the **MeerKAT radio telescope** to discover a new **giant radio galaxy (GRG)** 

- Giant radio galaxies are rare, colossal structures known for their immense size and powerful emissions.
- The newly identified galaxy, MGTC
  J100022.85+031520.4, has remarkable properties
  that contribute to the study of galaxy evolution
  and radio source formation.

#### About MeerKAT Radio Telescope:

- MeerKAT is a connected array of radio
  - telescopes located in the Northern Cape province of South Africa.
- It uses radio signals from space to study the evolution of the universe



- It was originally known as the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT), that would consist of 20 receptors.
- With **64 receptors, the team renamed it** "MeerKAT", i.e., "more of KAT".

### Young Mammoth Discovered in Siberian Permafrost

- Russian scientists have revealed the remains of a 50,000-year-old baby mammoth found in thawing permafrost in Siberia's remote Yakutia region.
- Named "Yana" after the river basin where it was discovered, the mammoth is said to be the "bestpreserved" mammoth carcass ever found.
- Weighs over 100kg and is 120cm tall and 200cm long.

# Stellaria bengalensis: New Plant Species Discovered in West Bengal

 After a plant species of the genus Stellaria (family Caryophyllaceae) was reported from Kerala earlier this year, researchers have identified another member



of the same genus at Kalimpong district in West Bengal.

- named the annual herb Stellaria bengalensis after the State of West Bengal.
- Stellaria bengalensis too was found growing on muddy soil slopes — at altitudes of 2,245-2,450 metres in the Sangser forest, Kalimpong.
- An annual herb growing to a height of 8 to 10.5 cm, Stellaria bengalensis is characterised by white flowers, absence of bract, shorter petals (or included within the sepal), sharp and pointed seeds. Flowering and fruiting occurs during May to September.
- India has around 22 *Stellaria* species mostly distributed in the Himalayan region.
- the researchers have for the time being assessed the new species as 'data deficient' under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### L. AI Tokens

- 2. World's First Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control
- 3. OptiDrop platform
- 4. Snowblind Malware
- 5. BharatGPT
- 6. Hanooman
- 7. EVI
- 8. Phi-3-mini
- 9. Grok Chatbot
- 10. 3D Printed Dummy Ballot Unit
- 11. India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager
- 12. Jio Brain Al Suite
- 13. Doxxing
- 14. Meta 3D Gen



#### What are AI Tokens?





SingularityNET

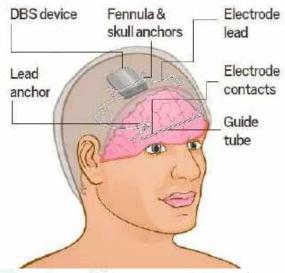
- Al tokens have gained significant attention recently.
- This interest surged following reports of major tech companies, such as Apple and Nvidia, considering investments in OpenAI.
- Al tokens are a type of cryptocurrency tied to Artificial Intelligence
   (Al) projects.
- Payment Method: Al tokens can be used as currency within Al ecosystems, allowing users to pay for services or access specific Al tools.





## World's First Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control in UK

#### **DBS BRAIN IMPLANT**



- A UK-based teenager has become the first person in the world to be fitted with a brain implant to help bring his epileptic seizures under control.
- The deep brain stimulation (DBS) device, which sends electrical signals deep into the brain, has reduced the teenager's daytime seizures by 80%.

- The neurostimulator delivers constant electrical impulses to the brain to disrupt or block abnormal seizure-causing signals.
- Epilepsy, a condition that leads to recurring seizures, sees a person experience jerking of arms and legs, temporary confusion, staring spells, or stiff muscles.
- It is caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain.
- The disease has no identifiable cause in nearly 50% of the cases. However, head trauma, tumours in the brain, some infections like meningitis, or even genetics can lead to epilepsy.

# C-CAMP develops new OptiDrop platform to study single cells

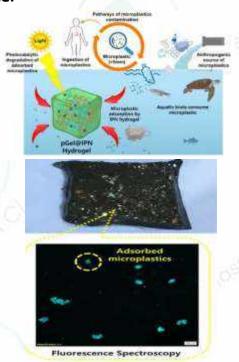


- The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) in Bengaluru has developed a new platform – OptiDrop
- The novel microfluidic chip-based platform allows for optical sensing of biological samples without the expensive open space, thus reducing the cost of studying single cells
- OptiDrop has potential applications in diagnostics, therapeutics, agriculture, and animal health

### C-DOT and IIT Jodhpur partnered for AI in 5G network management

- C-DOT and Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J) have signed an agreement to develop an automated service management system using AI to enhance the efficiency of 5G and beyond networks
- The primary goal of the project is to create Al frameworks for automated network management, fault detection, and diagnostic processes using continuous information generated within the network.

# IISc Scientists Develop Sustainable Hydrogel to Remove Microplastics from Water



- The sustainable hydrogel has a unique intertwined polymer network that can bind the contaminants and degrade them using UV light irradiation.
- The hydrogel was found to be highly efficient it could remove about 95% and 93% of two different types of microplastics in water at near-neutral pH (~6.5).

#### What Is Snowblind Malware?



- A new banking malware called 'Snowblind' is targeting Android users to steal banking credentials.
- Snowblind is made to get banking login information, and make deals without permission.
- They are spread through other platforms or phishing.
- Snowblind is mostly active in Southeast Asia.
- Unlike most Android malware, **Snowblind exploits** a feature of Linux kernel and the Android operating system called **'seccomp'**, which stands for **'secure computing'** used to check applications for signs of tampering.
- Snowblind injects a piece of code that loads before seccomp initialises the anti-tampering measures.
- Snowblind can also disable biometric and twofactor authentication, two security features commonly used by banking apps to thwart unauthorised access.

#### BharatGPT, India's own Generative AI



- India launched its own Generative AI (Large Language Model) platform in 14+ Indian languages, with generative text, voice and video
- Developed by Conversational artificial intelligence (AI) startup CoRover.ai
- with Google Cloud as its 'technology partner'.
- BharatGPT is integrated for voice modality in more than 14 Indian languages & 22 languages for text modality, in partnership with BHASHNI, a National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) under The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity).

- BharatGPT is in-line with current government vision of "Make AI in India, Make AI work for India".
- Data remains in India.
- Fine-tuned as per Indian users.
- Generative AI (GenAI) is a broad category of artificial intelligence (AI) that can create new content. This content can include text, images, video, audio, or code

#### Reliance Industries is set to launch 'Hanooman', a ChatGPT-style AI service



- The BharatGPT group backed by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd is set to launch its first ChatGPT - style service.
- The model has been Named Hanooman.
- will work via 11 local languages in four fields: health care, governance, financial services and education.
- Developed in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology universities and is backed by Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.
- Hanooman will offer speech-to-text capabilities to the users.
- Reliance is already working on Jio Brain- a platform to use AI across a network of about 450 million subscribers.
- Other startups such as Sarvam and Krutrim are also building open-sourced AI models for India.

### EVI - The world's first conversational AI with emotional intelligence



 Hume, a New York-based research lab and technology company, has introduced Empathic Voice Interface (EVI), the first conversational AI with emotional intelligence.

- It is an API (Application Programming Interface)
  that is powered by its proprietary empathic large
  language model (eLLM).
- This eLLM reportedly understands and emulates tones of voices, and word emphasis to optimise human-AI conversations.

#### Microsoft Introduces Phi-3-mini



- A few days after Meta unveiled its Llama 3 Large Language Model (LLM), Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' Al model – the Phi-3-Mini.
- Microsoft has described the Phi-3 as a family of open AI models that are the most capable and cost-effective small language models (SLMs) available.
- The model can also run on the chips that power regular computer instead of the expensive and hard to find AI processors
- Language models are the backbone of Al applications like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.
- These models are trained on existing data to solve common language problems such as text classification, answering questions, text generation, document summarisation, etc.
- The amount of conversation that an AI can read and write at any given time is called the context window, and is measured in something called tokens.
- Phi-3-mini is the first model in its class to support a context window of up to 128K tokens, with little impact on quality.

#### **Grok Chatbot**



 Grok is a generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by xAI, based on a large language model.

- It was developed as an initiative by Elon Musk as a direct response to the rise of OpenAI's ChatGPT which Musk co-founded.
- The chatbot is advertised as "having a sense of humor" and direct access to Twitter (X).

#### Hanooman Al Launches Everest 1.0 multilingual and multi-modal Al model

- Hanooman AI has announced the launch of Everest
   1.0 claiming it is India's first multi-lingual and multi-modal foundational LLM,
- at the Nvidia AI Summit held at the Jio World Center in Mumbai.
- It supports 35 languages & handles tasks like text, image, code, voice generation, with plans to extend to 90 languages.

## IIT Guwahati Develops Innovative 3D Printed Dummy Ballot Unit



- In a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing voter awareness and engagement, the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP) of Kamrup Election District has partnered with Indian Insitute of Technoloy-Guwahati to develop a innovative 3D printed dummy ballot unit.
- Crafted with the objective of acquainting citizens, new voters, and senior citizens, with the intricacies of voting procedures, aims to dispel any apprehensions, anxiety or uncertainties associated with the voting process.
- By offering a hands-on experience, the dummy ballot unit endeavours to foster maximum voter participation.
- This initiative marks the first-of-its-kind endeavour in India

### Mindgrove company launches India's 1st commercial MCU Chip

 Mindgrove Technologies, an IIT Madras incubated startup has launched India's first first indigenous high-performance microcontroller chip with highperformance SoC, Secure IoT



- IoT security (internet of things security) is the technology segment focused on safeguarding connected devices and networks in IoT
- SoC security operations center is responsible for protecting an organization against cyber threats.
- Mindgrove claims that this chip is 30% cheaper than other chips in a similar performance class, allowing Indian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to integrate an India-made SoC into their products and reduce cost without compromising on features.

### Google DeepMind unveils next generation of drug discovery Al model



Google Deepmind has unveiled the third major version of its "AlphaFold" artificial intelligence model, designed to help scientists design drugs and target disease more effectively.

### IIT-Bombay, TCS to build India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager



 The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-Bombay) has entered a strategic partnership with

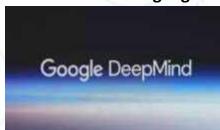
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to develop India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager.
- This advanced sensing tool will hold the potential to unlock new levels of precision in the examination of semiconductor chips, reduce chip failures and improve the energy efficiency of electronic devices.
- This platform will enable better quality control of semiconductor chips, thereby improving product reliability, safety, and energy efficiency of electrical devices.
- Semiconductor chips are essential to all modern electronic devices, making them smart and efficient.
- With the ability to process data and complete tasks, these chips act as the brains of devices across industries such as communications, computing, healthcare, military systems, transportation and clean energy.

### Microsoft's GitHub launches playground for Al models



- MGitHub Modelsicrosoft's developer platform GitHub has announced, an interactive sandbox environment for developers and engineers to explore different AI models for free.
- Leading models like Meta Al's Llama 3.1, OpenAl's GPT-40 and GPT-40 mini, Mistral Al's Mistral Large 2 and Cohere's Command will be among the options available.

### Google DeepMind Launches AI Project 'Morni' for 125 Indian Languages



 Google DeepMind's India unit is taking on an ambitious challenge with a project called Morni, known as the Multimodal Representation for India (Morni)

- aiming to develop an AI model that understands and represents 125 Indian languages and dialects.
- To solve the problem of not having enough language data, Google has launched Project Vaani, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and ARTPARK (Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park) in 2022.
- The project is now in its second phase.
- The project is focused on gathering speech data from across the country, making it available as open-source material.

#### Reliance Jio Introduces Jio Brain Al Suite



- Reliance Jio is developing a suite of tools and applications that span the entire artificial intelligence (AI) lifecycle called 'JioBrain'
- It enables accelerated adoption of AI across Jio and drives faster decisions, more accurate predictions, and a better understanding of customer needs.

#### RBI issues warning against'Juice Jacking



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a cautionary message to mobile phone users advising them against charging their devices using public ports.
- Juice jacking is a security exploit & form of cyberattack where hackers tamper with public USB charging ports, infecting them with malware or making hardware changes that allow them to steal data from devices connected to them.
- The term "juice jacking" was first coined in 2011 by investigative journalist Brian Krebs.
- Using a virtual private network (VPN) and ensuring that devices have the latest security updates installed can help mitigate the risk of cyberattacks.

#### What is Doxxing?



- The word 'doxxing' is derived from the phrase "dropping documents"
- Doxxing is the revelation of a person's private information online without their consent, often with malicious intent.
- Doxxers collect information through IP address, social media profiles, buy data from brokers, phishing campaigns, and even intercept internet traffic.
- The Delhi High Court recently ordered social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to take down content revealing private and professional details of a woman, but ruled that the case was not related to doxxing as the information was available in public.
- Doxxing or doxing has not been defined in the Indian law, nor has it been made a statutory offence in India.
- The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, which is made to protect the data privacy of citizens, specifically mentions not applying to "personal data that is made or caused to be made publicly available." This includes information shared on social media.
- People who have been doxxed in India can report what happened through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal online

#### What is Blue Screen of Death?



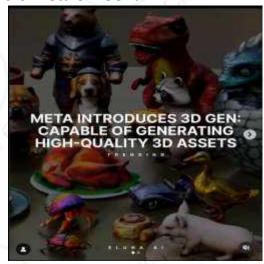
 Microsoft's IT systems were disrupted worldwide, with Windows PC failures being reported across

- services including airlines, banks, health services, emergency helplines, news channels, and more.
- The term blue screen of death gained popularity among internet users, whereas Microsoft typically refers to it as bugcheck or blue screen error.
- A Windows device could display blue screen errors
  if the operating system has encountered a serious
  problem that has forced it to shut down or restart
  unexpectedly,
- the crash screen has white text against a blue background and informs users that "Windows has been shut down to prevent damage to your computer" or something similar

#### Microsoft global tech outage

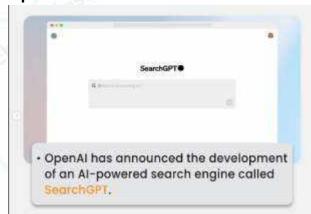
- A software update by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike affected 8.5 million Microsoft Windows devices, causing one of the largest tech outages.
- Less than 1 per cent of Windows machines were affected, according to Microsoft, but it had a cascading effect on centralised software systems.
- CrowdStrike's Falcon update led to the 'blue screens of death' in Windows systems, disrupting emergency services, airlines, financial transactions and individuals.

#### What is Meta 3D Gen?



- A new technology called Meta 3D Gen, which was launched by Mark Zuckerberg's company Meta, lets you make 3D assets by following text prompts.
- This new technology is meant to save a lot of time and make it possible to make hyper-realistic video games, movie effects, and other things.
- Three-dimensional things can be seen in digital files called 3D assets.
- Models called AssetGen and TextureGen are used to build Meta 3D Gen.

#### **OpenAl Launches SearchGPT**

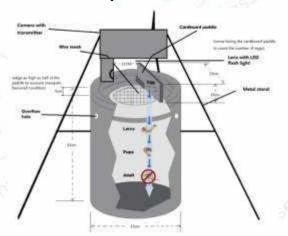


- OpenAl is venturing into a territory long dominated by Google with the selective launch of SearchGPT, an artificial intelligence-powered search engine with real-time access to information from the internet.
- The announcement came just a day after Microsoft rolled out its Bing generative search.
- SearchGPT is available in limited release, with access to a small group of users and publishers.

## Google to launch tool to make Indian agriculture data driven

- At the Google I/O Connect Bengaluru 2024,
   Google announced the upcoming launch of the
   Agricultural Landscape Understanding (ALU)
   Research API (application programming interface).
- Farmers face numerous challenges, including accessing subsidies, securing capital, improving crop yields, and expanding market access.
- The ALU API seeks to mitigate these issues by utilizing artificial intelligence and remote sensing technologies to map individual farm fields across India.
- The tool can get into such granular details to provide for crop type, field size, distance to water, distance to road and distance to market.

#### What is an ovitrap?



- To curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria, the Health Department and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have installed ovitraps, a first-of-a-kind initiative in Bengaluru.
- Ovitraps, which attract and eliminate mosquitoes, have been installed in Gopalpura.

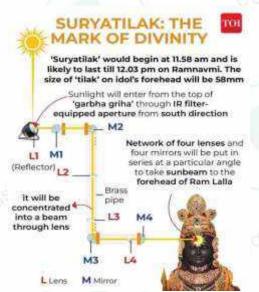
# Indian Institute of Astrophysics plays crucial role in bringing sunlight on forehead of Sri Ram Lalla





- Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, an Autonomous body under the Department of science and Technology played a crucial role in the Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya.
- Sunlight was brought on the forehead of Sri Ram Lalla at 12 noon on Sri Ram Navami in the Chaitra month.
- The English calendar date of Sri Ram Navami festival changes every year as it follows Lunar Calendar.
- Therefore, the position of the sun on the sky changes every year on the day of Sri Ram Navami.
- Detailed calculations show that the English calendar date of Sri Ram Navami repeats every 19 years.

 IIA team led the calculation for identification of the calendar days of Sri Ram Navami for one cycle of 19 years followed by its repetition



- As the temple is not fully complete now, this
  design, with 4 mirrors and 2 lenses, is executed for
  the Surya Tilak on 17th April 2024.
- The final design of the Surya Tilak with 4 mirrors and 4 lenses, will be implemented once the full temple is constructed
- At the site, the of the opto-mechanical system is donimplementatione by CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CBRI). The device is manufactured by Optics, Bangalore.

# Reliance-backed Addverb to launch first humanoid robot for diverse workflows by 2025 using Jio's AI platform

- Addverb announced its foray into humanoid robotics.
- The Noida-based company is expected to launch its first humanoid robot by 2025.
- Addverb will develop its first humanoid robot with Reliance, using Jio's Al platform and 5G services.
- Reliance invested in Addverb in 2021.



#### IIT Bombay scientists develop waterpollutant detecting device 'AroTrack'

 AroTrack - an economical and portable device to accurately detect harmful pollutants such as phenol or benzene in water.



### Hibox App Scam: Thousands of Indians Cheated



- A large number of Indians are estimated to have lost a cumulative Rs 1,000 crore after being cheated in the so-called Hibox application scam, in which they were offered high interest on their "investments".
- The app was promoted by popular influencers on social media and YouTube.
- The alleged scam is being investigated by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit, a specialised wing of the Delhi Police focused on cyber crime.

#### What is the alleged Hibox mobile app scam?

- Would-be victims were invited to "invest" money through the app with the promise of extremely high returns.
- Early "investors" were rewarded with the promised amounts, which drew in more people, until one day the "returns" stopped coming and the individuals behind the app disappeared.

#### What is "Digital Arrest"?



NEWS: A recent scam has emerged, resulting in significant financial losses for individuals and

businesses, amounting to crores of rupees, under the guise of "digital arrest."

#### What is a digital arrest scam?

- A digital arrest scam is an online scam that defrauds victims of their hard-earned money.
- The scammers intimidate the victims and falsely accuse them of illegal activities.
- They later demand money and puts them under pressure for making the payment.

#### How digital arrest scam works?

- In digital arrest scam, perpetrators pose as law enforcement officials, such as CBI agents, income tax officers, or customs agents, and initiate contact with victims via phone calls.
- Subsequently, they request that the victims switch to video communication through platforms like WhatsApp and Skype.
- The scammers then threaten the victims with a digital arrest warrant, citing various reasons such as financial misconduct, tax evasion, or other legal violations.
- These fraudsters create a police station-like set-up to further convince victims that the call is legitimate.
- Under the guise of "clearing their name", "assisting with the investigation", or "refundable security deposit/escrow account",
- individuals are coerced into transferring large sums of money to specified bank accounts or UPI IDs.

#### **IIT Ropar Unveils New Bluetooth System**

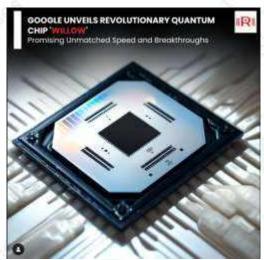


- The Agriculture and Water Technology

  Development Hub (AWaDH) at IIT Ropar revealed
  a new Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) Gateway and
  Node System, which is part of the National Mission
  on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), funded by the Government of India.
- The system includes a built-in humidity and temperature sensor

- In agriculture, the BLE system monitors soil moisture and air quality. This leads to improved farming practices. In logistics, it maintains optimal conditions for perishable goods, reducing spoilage risks.
- Real-time data and alerts enable quick responses to changes in conditions.

## Google Unveils Revolutionary Quantum Chip 'Willow'



- The Willow can perform a standard benchmark computation in under five minutes that would take one of today's fastest supercomputers 10 septillion (that is, 1025) years — a number that vastly exceeds the age of the Universe
- Errors are one of the greatest challenges in quantum computing, since qubits, the units of computation in quantum computers, have a tendency to rapidly exchange information with their environment, making it difficult to protect the information needed to complete a computation.
- Typically the more qubits you use, the more errors will occur, and the system becomes classical.
- Willow can reduce errors exponentially as we scale up using more qubits.

# Google Unveils 'GenCast' for Weather Forecasting

- Google's DeepMind team recently launched
   GenCast, a new Al model that excels in weather prediction
- GenCast provides faster and more accurate forecasts, extending up to 15 days ahead.
- GenCast is what is called a "diffusion model", similar to AI image generators. However, instead of taking text and producing an image, it takes the current state of the atmosphere and produces an estimate of what it will be like in 12 hours.

#### World's first carbon-14 diamond battery



- Scientists at the University of Bristol and the UK
   Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) have developed the carbon-14 diamond battery an extraordinary technology capable of powering devices for thousands of years.
- Diamond Battery uses carbon-14, a radioactive isotope of carbon, which has a half-life of 5,700.
- Operates by harnessing energy from the radioactive decay of carbon-14.
- The carbon-14 battery sits in a case of diamond which provides it with strength and resilience.

#### **Applications**

- It can prove particularly helpful in healthcare where it can be used to power pacemakers, hearing aids, and ocular devices.
   Patients won't need to replace batteries as the diamond battery can last for years.
- The battery could also be used in extreme environments – both in space and on earth – where it is not practical to replace conventional batteries.
- They can also prove to be of great help in space missions.

# India's Deep Ocean Mission's Success: First Image of Active Hydrothermal Vent at 4,500 metre

- India's ambitious Deep Ocean Mission has achieved a groundbreaking milestone with the discovery of an active hydrothermal vent 4,500 meters below the surface of the Indian Ocean.
- In a joint effort by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Indian scientists captured the first-ever image of an active hydrothermal vent in the Indian Ocean.

#### **Hydrothermal vents**

 often described as underwater hot springs, form along mid-ocean ridges where tectonic plates diverge.

- Magma from the Earth's mantle rises, creating new crust and volcanic mountain chains.
- Seawater seeps into the crust, heats up, and shoots back out, carrying dissolved minerals that solidify into chimney-like structures when they meet cold seawater.
- The first hydrothermal vent was discovered in 1977 on the Galapagos Rift, but this is India's first direct observation of such a phenomenon.



- These vents produce rare minerals like nickel, cobalt, and manganese, essential for modern technology and clean energy solutions.
- They host life forms that thrive without sunlight, relying on chemosynthesis—a process where organisms convert inorganic chemicals like hydrogen sulfide into energy.

#### **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)**

- It is an ambitious initiative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) which aims to develop technologies and capabilities for deep sea exploration.
- Also, DOM is one of nine missions under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC).
- <u>Samudryaan</u> and Matsya6000: As a part of DOM, India's flagship deep ocean mission, <u>Samudrayaan</u>, was initiated in 2021 by the Minister of Earth Sciences.
- With Samudrayaan, India is embarking on a groundbreaking crewed expedition to reach a depth of 6,000 m to the ocean bed in the Central Indian Ocean.
- This historic journey will be accomplished by Matsya6000, a deep-ocean submersible designed to accommodate a crew of three members.

Varaha- India's Deep-Ocean Mining System: The National Institute of Ocean Technology, an autonomous institute under MoES has conducted successful deep-sea locomotion trials using 'Varaha,' an underwater mining system, at a depth of 5,270 meters in the central Indian Ocean.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

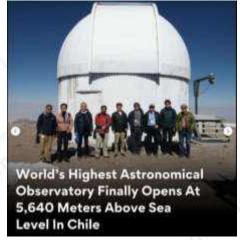
- 1. Asia's Largest and World's
  Highest Imaging Cherenkov
  Observatory
- 2. world's highest observatory
- 3. Punganur Cow
- 4. Kalpana scholarship
- 5. SAKHI app
- 6. START 2024
- 7. ShakthiSAT Mission
- 8. total solar eclipse
- 9. Super Blue Moon
- 10. Doomsday Glacier
- 11. Wet Bulb Temperature
- 12. First Reusable Hybrid Rocket of India
- 13. Earth's second mini-moon 2024
- 14. Nano DAP
- 15. Iberian Lynx

DAE Inaugurates MACE, Asia's Largest and World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Observatory, at Hanle, Ladakh



- The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory
  has been inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary DAE &
  Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, at Hanle, Ladakh.
- MACE is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia.
- Located at an altitude of ~4,300 m, it is also the highest of its kind in the world.
- The telescope is indigenously built by BARC Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), with support from Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and other Indian industry partners.
- Cherenkov radiation happens when electrically charged particles, such as protons or electrons, travel faster than light in a clear medium like water. When this happens, the water molecules and particles interact to give off light.

# University of Tokyo inaugurates world's highest observatory in Chile



- Tokyo University inaugurated the Atacama
   Observatory in Chile's Antofagasta Region, 5,640
   meters above sea level.
- It has been awarded a Guinness World Record for being the highest observatory in the world.
- India's highest astronomical observatory is the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) located in Hanle, in Ladakh. Established in 2001 approximately 4,500 meters (14,764 feet) above sea level. It is managed by Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore

### The Punganur Cow – India's Shortest Humped Cattle Breed



- The Punganur cow is a dwarf breed of cattle that is native to the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh's Rayalaseema region.
- They are considered the world's shortest humped cattle, standing 70–90 cm tall and weighing 115– 200 kg.
- Punganur cows can be white, gray, light brown or dark brown. They have small, crescent-shaped horns of 10-15 cm length.
- Females also have slightly longer horns.
- Their milk has high fat and SNF content. ("Solids Not Fat"). SNF includes protein, carbohydrates, and minerals. When combined with milk fat, SNF is called total solids.

### PM Modi dedicated three ISRO facilities to nation



- PM Narendra Modi dedicated 3 facilities of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to the nation during a visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram on February 27.
- The projects, developed at a cost of about Rs. 1800 crore include:
  - PSLV Integration Facility (PIF) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh);
  - a Semi-Cryogenics Integrated Engine And Stage Test (SIET) facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri (Odisha);
  - Trisonic Wind Tunnel at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).

#### Integration facilities for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) set up at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

- Will give the ISRO the capability to significantly increase the number of PSLV launches in a year from 6 to 15.
- It is also capable of accommodating the launches of SSLV and other small launch vehicles developed by private space companies.

# Semi-cryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

- SIET marks a significant advancement in engine and stage development. It will facilitate the creation of semi-cryogenic engines and stages, thereby enhancing the payload capacity of current launch vehicles.
- this facility can conduct engine tests with up to 200 tons of thrust.
- semi-cryogenic engine which uses refined kerosene (named ISROSENE) and liquid oxygen as propellants

#### Trisonic Wind Tunnel established at the VSSC

 Wind tunnels are vital for aerodynamic testing, allowing for the evaluation of rockets and aircraft during flight in the Earth's atmosphere.

- The Trisonic Wind Tunnel has an overall length of 170 metres.
- The wind tunnel, is the first of its kind in the country, - it can generate speeds ranging from subsonic to supersonic up to four times the speed of sound (Mach number 4).
- The Trisonic Wind Tunnel will provide selfreliance in the end-to-end design of upcoming launch vehicle projects.

# PM Modi lays foundation stone for ISRO's new launch complex (spaceport) in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Kulasekarapattinam spaceport in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district.
- The construction of ISRO's second satellite launch facility would be completed within two years to launch SSLVs, (Small Satellite Launch Vehicles)
- The upcoming facility would have the capacity to launch 24 satellites per year.
- To be built at a cost about 986 crore rupees

#### **SSLV**



- ISRO has designed SSLVs to launch light-weight satellites at low costs.
- These SSLVs can be used to launch satellites that weigh less than 500 kg into the lower earth orbit.

- Launching these satellites from Sriharikota incurs more expense due to the longer distance the rocket has to travel.
- Since more fuel needs to be carried to cover the longer distance, this reduces the rocket's payload capacity.
- Launching small rockets from Sriharikota is difficult for these reasons

# Skyroot offers Kalpana scholarship for women space engineers



- Skyroot Aerospace leading space technology company based in Hyderabad
- First-of-its-kind fellowship program inspired by the legacy of astronaut Kalpana Chawla and dedicated exclusively to women in the space sector
- The program provides a monthly allowance for a year
- Exceptional candidates who complete the oneyear fellowship will have the opportunity to transition into full-time roles at Skyroot Aerospace
- Skyroot Aerospace has the distinction of launching India's first privately developed rocket into space.

# Country's first ready-to-serve dragon fruit juice, ready-to-eat jackfruit curry unveiled at ICAR-IIHR





- The first time in the country, scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) -Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) have developed a ready-to-serve (RTS) dragon fruit/kamalam fruit beverage and ready-to-eat jackfruit curry.
- This innovation was perhaps the most intriguing product for many visitors at the National Horticulture Fair (NHF), Bengaluru.

 With tender jackfruit gaining popularity as a substitute for meat in many countries across the world, over 800 tonnes of tender jackfruit were exported from Karnataka, mainly to Bangladesh and Thailand.

### CPCRI to release flavoured ready to drink coconut beverage from September

- Central Plantation Crops and Research Institute (CPCRI) is under the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Kasaragod, Kerala
- The product is named 'Kalpa Bliz' will be released at the World Coconut Day function at the institute
- Two climate resilient coconut varieties -- Kalpa Suvarna and Kalpa Shatabdi -- released by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 11, 2024 boon to drought affected regions of Kerala and Karnataka.
- Kalpa Ratna, a drought tolerant multi-purpose variety of coconut suitable for tender nut, copra and sap production.
- Kalpa Vajra, a root (wilt) disease tolerant variety.

#### IN-SPACe technical centre focussed on 'satellites & payloads' inaugurated in Ahmedabad



- A first-of-its-kind technical centre built by Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) in Ahmedabad was inaugurated by Union minister of state for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh.
- Will provide "unparalleled opportunities" to the private sector to rigorously test and validate their space technologies
- The IN-SPACe Technical Centre will help develop rockets and satellites.
- India is aiming for a five-fold increase in the space economy by 2030.
- India's space economy today stands at a modest USD 8 billion



**About IN-SPACe** 



- IN-SPACe is responsible to promote, enable, authorize and supervise various space activities of non-governmental entities including building launch vehicles & satellites and providing spacebased services; sharing space infrastructure and premises under the control of DOS/ISRO; and establishing of new space infrastructure and facilities.
- IN-SPACe headquarters in Bopal, Ahmedabad
- Chairman: Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka

### ICAR-CTCRI Secures Patent for Smart Farming e-Crop IoT Device



- Thiruvananthapuram-based ICAR-Central Tuber
   Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) has achieved a
   significant milestone in the area of agricultural
   technology with the development of the
   Electronic Crop (e-Crop), an innovative IoT device
   designed for smart farming.
- Indian Patent Office granted a patent
- IoT (Internet of things) describes devices with sensors, processing ability, software and other technologies that connect and exchange data with other devices and systems over the Internet or other communications networks.
- By integrating data on weather patterns, soil moisture levels, and nutrient status, the device offers farmers invaluable insights into crop growth dynamics.
- It calculates nutrient and water requirements and generates an agro-advisory for the crop on a daily time scale.
- It provides periodical advices via SMS to growers regarding water and nutrient (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) requirements.
- Farmers participating in these demonstrations
  have reported significant increases in yield while
  simultaneously reducing nutrient and water usage
  by up to 50%.
- Dr. Santhosh Mithra, a principal scientist at ICAR-CTCRI, is the inventor of this innovative device.

### Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction (SAKHI)

- The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO facility at Thumba (Thiruvananthapuram) has developed a multi-purpose app SAKHI
- It will help astronauts on the Gaganyaan space flight mission to carry out a range of tasks.
- Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction (SAKHI) will, among other things, monitor the health of the astronauts, help them stay connected with Earth.
- ISRO is to launch the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission in 2025.

#### **ISRO will conduct START 2024**



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will conduct the Space science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024 programme during April and May.
- The main objective of the training programme is to attract the youngsters to the fields of space science and technology.
- Post-graduate students and final year undergraduate students of physical sciences (Physics and Chemistry) and technology studying in educational institutes, universities and colleges within India are eligible to be considered for the training.

# ShakthiSAT Mission: Empowering 12,000 Girls in Space Technology



- Aerospace startup Space Kidz India has announced the launch of its global initiative, ShakthiSAT
- A mission that aims to inspire and empower
   12,000 young girls from 108 countries through space exploration.
- It paves the way forward in the global movement to foster STEM education among young women.
- Space Kidz India is involved in the design, fabrication and launch of small satellites, spacecraft and ground systems.

# 'Artificial sun' from South Korea breaks world record with temperature 100 million degrees Celsius

- South Korea's 'artificial Sun', known as the Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR), has set a world record in nuclear fusion.
- The artificial Sun successfully sustained its plasma at an ion temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds
- This temperature is seven times that of the Sun's core, which is 15 million degrees Celsius.

| Fission Reaction  | Fusion Reaction  |
|---|--|
| A fission reaction is splitting up of a large atom or a molecule into two or more smaller ones. | Fusion is the process of combination of two or more lighter atoms or molecules into larger ones. |
| Fission reaction doesn't occur normally in nature.  | Fusion reaction process occurs in the stars, like in the sun, etc.                               |

# KAIST Researchers develop High-Power, Fast-Charging Sodium-Ion Battery/KAIST

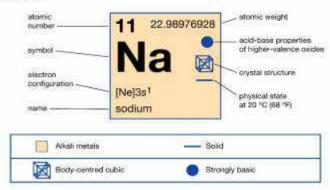
- In a potential breakthrough, South Korean researchers from Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST) have developed a high-power hybrid sodium-ion battery that can be charged in seconds
- Sodium is nearly 1000 times more abundant than lithium
- So a sodium-ion electrochemical energy storage would be a cheaper and potentially more feasible source of energy

#### Sodium

- Sodium (Na) is a chemical element of the alkali metal group (Group 1) of the periodic table.
- It is a very soft silvery-white metal.

 It is the most common alkali metal and the sixth most abundant element on Earth, comprising 2.8 per cent of Earth's crust.

#### Sodium



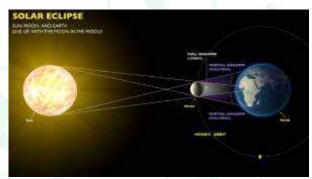
 It occurs abundantly in nature in compounds, especially common salt—sodium chloride (NaCl) which forms the mineral halite and constitutes about 80 per cent of the dissolved constituents of seawater.

## North America witness rare astronomical phenomenon – total solar eclipse



- On April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada.
- According to Royal Museums Greenwich, once a place on Earth witnesses a total solar eclipse, it will be about 400 years before that part sees the next one.

#### What is a Solar Eclipse?



- A solar eclipse takes place when the Moon moves in the middle of Earth and the Sun.
- The Moon blocks the light of the Sun, either fully or partially, which casts a huge shadow on some parts of the world.
- When the moon completely covers the sun, it casts a shadow on Earth, forming what is called a

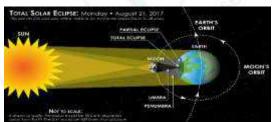
"path of totality." During the total darkening of the sky, also known as totality, we can get a glimpse of the Sun's corona — the outer atmosphere — which is usually not visible due to the bright face of the Sun.

- A solar eclipse is witnessed only during the new moon — when the Moon and Sun are aligned on the same side of Earth.
- A new moon occurs about 29.5 days because that is how long it takes the Moon to orbit Earth.



- But a solar eclipse does not happen every month.
   It takes place only between two to five times annually.
- It is because the Moon does not orbit Earth in the same plane as the Earth orbits the Sun.
- The Moon is tilted by about five degrees with respect to Earth.
- As a result, most of the time when the Moon is in between the Sun and Earth, its shadow is either too high or too low to fall on the Earth

#### Why is a total solar eclipse so rare?



- This is because a total eclipse is only visible if one
  is standing in the umbra the other part of the
  shadow is called the penumbra, which is not as
  dark as the umbra.
- The moon's umbra is cone shaped and becomes smaller as it moves father from the moon.
- Umbral shadow during a solar eclipse will only cover less than 1% of the globe.
- This is why only very few people will get to see a total eclipse at a time.
- The penumbra is lighter and becomes larger as it moves father from moon.

#### **Super Blue Moon**

 Raksha Bandhan, celebrated on Purnima in the month of Shravan, is marked by the sighting of a 'super blue moon'





- The rare supermoon blue moon, also known as the 'Sturgeon Moon' appeared.
- A super moon happens when the full moon is at the closest point to Earth in its orbit (PERIGEE).
- Because the moon is closer, it looks about 14% bigger and 30% brighter than it does when it's farther away.

#### What is a Blue Moon?



- Blue moon describes the situation when a full moon is seen twice in a single month.
- Because the new moon to new moon cycle lasts 29.5 days, a time comes when the full moon occurs at the beginning of a month, and there are days left still for another full cycle to be completed.
  - Such a month, in which the full moon is seen on the 1st or 2nd, will have a second full moon on the 30th or 31st.
  - According to NASA, this happens every two or three years.
- It is important to note that the term <u>Blue Moon</u> has nothing to do with the actual colour of the moon.

### MEA, NSIL sign MoU for grant assistance for the launch of Munal satellite



The Ministry of External Affairs and ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)

- signed an agreement to grant assistance for the launching of the **Nepal-built Munal satellite**.
- The satellite aims to build a vegetation density database of the earth's surface.
- "This satellite is expected to be launched soon on NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle,"

#### First Indian space tourist completes flight

- India-born aviator and commercial pilot Gopi Thotakura was among the six space tourists who undertook a short recreational trip to space on May 19.
- Thotakura, who is based in the United States, is the first space tourist from India
- Thotakura flew aboard a spacecraft of Blue Origin, one of the several private space companies offering a joy ride to people wanting to venture into space.

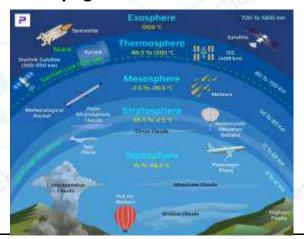
1st Indian Goes To Space As

Tourist On Jeff Bezos' Blue

Origin Flight

- From take off to landing, the whole journey lasted only about ten minutes, during which the spacecraft attained a maximum height of about 105 km from the Earth.
- Space travel begins at about 100 km altitude from Earth, after crossing the so-called Karman line, which is generally considered to be the boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space.
- Thotakura's journey is called a sub-orbital space flight.
- The spacecraft did not get into an orbit around the Farth.
- It crossed the Karman line, stayed there for some time, and then descended back to Earth.

## Science Alert: 'Doomsday Glacier' Melting at a Terrifying Rate





- Antarctica's "Doomsday Glacier" is melting twice as faster than scientists previously thought, because of warm ocean water that is infiltrating miles beneath its surface
- The Thwaites Glacier, which is nicknamed the Doomsday Glacier because of its potential to massively increase sea levels, is located in West Antarctica. It is one of the world's fastestchanging and most unstable glaciers.
- Previous research found that the glacier has been melting rapidly since the 1980s — contributing to a 4% rise in global sea levels with the loss of hundreds of billions of tons of ice.
- If the glacier completely melted, it could raise sea levels by as much as 2 feet (60 centimeters).
- But the glacier is also a natural dam to other ice in West Antarctica. If that ice is released into the oceans, levels could rise 10 feet

### Oldest Evidence of Earth's Magnetic Field Found in Rocks



- The Geologists at MIT and Oxford University collected rock samples from the Isua Supracrustal Belt in Greenland, a region known for its ancient rock formations.
- The researchers determined that the rocks bear the oldest remnants of Earth's early magnetic field, about 3.7 billion years old, with a magnitude of at least 15 microtesla.
- Previous studies have shown evidence for a magnetic field on Earth that is at least 3.5 billion years old.
- This finding suggests Earth's conditions may have been habitable earlier than thought, with a stable magnetic shield playing a crucial role.

- The magnetic field protects the planet from harmful solar radiation and cosmic rays, sustains the atmosphere, and allows liquid water essential for life
- By analyzing the magnetic properties and orientation of iron-oxide minerals, researchers determined the ancient field's strength
- Today, Earth's magnetic field measures around 30 microtesla.

### What Is Wet Bulb Temperature? And How Hot Is Too Hot

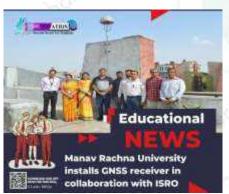
- Wet bulb temperature is a meteorological term used to describe the lowest temperature that can be reached by evaporating water into the air at constant pressure.
- It is measured by covering a thermometer bulb with a wet cloth and letting the water evaporate.
- As the water evaporates, it cools the thermometer, showing the wet bulb temperature.
- This temperature helps measure humidity and understand how much water can evaporate into the air, affecting things like comfort, farming and weather patterns.
- The difference between the Dry bulb and Wet bulb temperatures depends on the humidity of the air.
- When the air is fully saturated (100% humidity), the Wet bulb and Dry bulb temperatures are the same.

#### What is a safe heat/humidity limit?

- A wet-bulb temperature of 35 degrees Celsius is suggested as the maximum safe limit, according to a 2010 study.
- Beyond this point, the human body can't cool itself by sweating, which is necessary to maintain a stable core temperature.
- However, this was proven inaccurate recently
- The researchers discovered the "critical environmental limit" – the point where a person's core temperature starts to rise uncontrollably.
- Below this limit, the body can keep a stable core temperature for a long time.
- Above this limit, the core temperature keeps
   rising, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses.
- The studies discovered that the safe limit is lower than 35 degrees Celsius (as was revealed by the earlier study).
- The ideal wet bulb temperature is approximately
   31 degrees Celsius at humidity levels above 50%.

 This means, 31 degrees Celsius at 100% humidity or 38 degrees Celsius at 60% humidity, showing the significant risk posed by high heat and humidity even for healthy people.

#### MRU installs Delhi NCR's 1st GNSS Receiver in collaboration with ISRO



- Manav Rachna University (MRU) becomes the First University in Delhi NCR to install a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver in collaboration with the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL)-Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- It encompasses critical studies on weather, climate, space weather, and planetary ionospheres through GNSS receiver networks.
- to perform multidisciplinary research in the domain of atmospheric and space research.

# CSIR-IICT scientists identify microalgae as a potential protein supplement

- CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT)
   Hyderabad scientists have spotlighted the
   potential of Chlorella Growth Factor (CGF), a
   protein-rich extract derived from the microalgae
   'Chlorella sorokiniana', as an ideal ingredient for a
   wide range of food and feed applications.
- Microalgae are "under-exploited crops" and do not compete with traditional food crops for space and resources.
- CGF, with its rich amino acid content and superior protein quality, presents a promising alternative protein source that can significantly contribute to human and animal diets.
- CGF is particularly rich in essential amino acids, which are vital for human and vertebrate health but cannot be synthesized by their bodies.
- The amino acid profile of CGF even surpasses
  that of commercially available soy meal by
  metrics such as Protein Efficiency Ratio (PER),
  Essential Amino Acid Index (EAAI), and Biological
  Value (BV).

### ESA lines up initial signatories for Zero Debris Charter



- 12 countries have signed on to a charter developed by the European Space Agency to limit the creation of orbital debris
- 12 countries Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
- ESA developed the Zero Debris Charter, a nonbinding agreement, iwith the goal of no net addition of debris in orbit by 2030.
- This include reducing the risks of a satellite creating debris through a collision or break up to no greater than 1-in-1,000 and keeping the risk of casualties on the ground caused by debris from a reentering satellite to "significantly" lower than 1in-10,000.
- It also requests operators perform "timely" removal of satellites from low Earth orbit and the geostationary belt at the end of their lives with a probability of success of at least 99%, but does not specify how quickly satellites should be deorbited.

# Russian cosmonaut becomes first person to spend 1,000 days in space



- Oleg Kononenko, a 59-year-old Russian cosmonaut has become the first person to spend 1,000 days in space, Russian space agency Roscosmos.
- This milestone was reached during Kononenko's fifth mission to the International Space Station (ISS) which commenced on September 15, 2023.

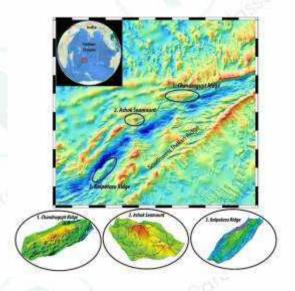
- Kononenko first took the cumulative space time record in February 2024, when he surpassed the total of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds set by fellow Russian Gennady Padalka in 2015.
- If Kononenko's mission ends as scheduled Sept.
   23, 2024, he will have spent a total of 1,110 days in orbit.

### First Reusable Hybrid Rocket of India RHUMI-1 launched from Chennai



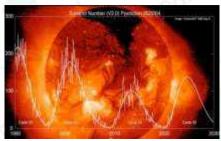
- India launched its first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI- 1', developed by the Tamil Nadu-based start-up Space Zone India with Martin Group, from Thiruvidandhai in Chennai.
- The rocket, carrying 3 Cube Satellites and 50 PICO Satellites, was launched into a suborbital trajectory using a mobile launcher.
- These satellites will be collecting data for research purposes on Global warming and Climate change.
- The mission RHUMI is led by Anand Megalingam, the founder of the Space Zone, under the mentorship of Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai Former Director of ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC).
- It combines the advantages of both liquid and solid fuel propellant systems to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.

# Three Indian Ocean structures named Ashoka, Chandragupt and Kalpataru



| Structu<br>re<br>Name          | Туре                        | Disco<br>vered<br>By   | Year<br>of<br>Disco<br>very | Area<br>Cove<br>red  | Named<br>After  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Ashoka<br>Seamo<br>unt         | Seam<br>ount                | Russia<br>n Sea<br>vessel<br>Akade<br>mik<br>Nikola<br>y<br>Strakh | 2012                        | 180<br>sq<br>km      | Emperor<br>Ashoka<br>(Maurya<br>n<br>dynasty)                             |
| Chandr<br>agupt<br>Ridge       | Ridge                       | ov<br>Indian<br>resear<br>ch<br>vessel<br>MGS<br>Sagar             | 2020                        | 675<br>sq<br>km      | Emperor<br>Chandra<br>gupta<br>(Maurya<br>n<br>dynasty)                   |
| Kalpat<br>aru<br>Ridge         | Ridge                       | Russia<br>n Sea<br>vessel<br>Akade<br>mik<br>Nikola<br>y<br>Strakh | 2012                        | 430<br>sq<br>km      | Kalpatar<br>u (wish-<br>fulfilling<br>tree in<br>Indian<br>mytholo<br>gy) |
| Raman<br>Ridge                 | Ridge                       | US oil<br>vessel   | 1951                        | Not<br>speci<br>fied | Physicist<br>and<br>Nobel<br>Laureate<br>Sir CV                           |
| Panikka<br>r<br>Seamo<br>unt   | Seam<br>ount                | Indian<br>resear<br>ch<br>vessel<br>Sagar<br>Kanya                 | 1992                        | Not<br>speci<br>fied | Raman<br>Oceanog<br>rapher<br>NK<br>Panikkar                              |
| Sagar<br>Kanya<br>Seamo<br>unt | Seam<br>ount                | Indian<br>resear<br>ch<br>vessel<br>Sagar<br>Kanya                 | 1986                        | Not<br>speci<br>fied | Named<br>after<br>research<br>vessel<br>Sagar<br>Kanya                    |
| Wadia<br>Guyot                 | Guyo<br>t<br>(Volc<br>anic) | Indian<br>resear<br>ch<br>vessel<br>Sagar<br>Kanya                 | 1992                        | Not<br>speci<br>fied | Geologis<br>t DN<br>Wadia   |

### Astronomers Develop New Method to Predict Solar Cycle Amplitude



- In a recently-published work the Indian Institute
  of Astrophysics (IIA) researchers discovered that
  the width of the supergranular cells on the solar
  surface during the minimum year of the solar
  cycle is related to the number of sunspots seen
  during the subsequent solar cycle maximum.
- Their research can help in space weather forecasting.
- The astronomers have discovered a new correlation using 100 years of solar data from the IIA's Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.

#### Earth's second mini-moon 2024 PT5



- Earth will temporarily capture a small asteroid aprox. 10 meters (33 feet) in diameter, known as 2024 PT5, in its gravitational field.
- This asteroid comes from the Arjuna asteroid belt
- from September 29 to November 25
- The Arjuna asteroid belt is a group of asteroids in the Solar System, specifically classified as near-Earth objects (NEOs).
- The asteroid was discovered on August 7, 2024,
- by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) at Haleakala Observatory in Hawaii.
- Asteroids, sometimes called minor
  planets, are rocky remnants left over from the
  early formation of our solar system about 4.6
  billion years ago.
- Most of this ancient space rubble can be found orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter within the main asteroid belt.

# The Rig Veda, one of the oldest Hindu texts, holds the earliest record of a total solar eclipse



- Astronomers have uncovered a reference to a total solar eclipse in the Rig Veda, dating back approximately 6,000 years.
- This discovery marks the oldest known mention of an eclipse.
- The Rig Veda, a collection of sayings and hymns compiled around 1500 B.C.

| The Four Ved | as   |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| Rigveda      | <ul> <li>Rigveda is the oldest Veda.</li> <li>collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns</li> <li>It also includes Vishvamitra's</li> <li>famous Gayatri mantra</li> </ul>   |  |
| Yajurveda    | <ul> <li>compilation of ritual-offering formulas that were said by a priest while an individual performed ritual actions.</li> <li>yajur, meaning "worship" or "sacrifice" and Veda, meaning "knowledge". Yajur Veda is sometimes translated as "Knowledge of the Sacrifice"</li> </ul>          |  |
| Samaveda     | <ul> <li>The Samaveda is the shortest of all the four Vedas.</li> <li>collection of Rigvedic verses organised in the form of poetry to facilitate singing.</li> </ul>  |  |
| Atharvaveda  | <ul> <li>compilation of magical spells and charms that are used to ward off evil spirits and diseases.</li> <li>concerned with sacred rituals, but addresses the daily problems of Vedic people.</li> <li>The Atharva Veda is the latest and contains hymns (some from the Rig Veda).</li> </ul> |  |

## Why Saturn's majestic rings will briefly 'disappear' in march 2025



- Saturn, which is tilted at an angle of 26.73
  degrees, takes about 29.4 Earth years to complete
  a single orbit of the Sun.
- This means that for half of a Saturn year (roughly 15 years),
- the gas giant is tilted towards the Sun, and for the other half it is tilted away from it.
- Its rings too are tilted at the same angle, and as the planet revolves, they appear to change their orientation when viewed from Earth.
- Every 13 to 15 years, the edge of Saturn's rings aligns directly with Earth.
- This is what will happen in March 2025 when only the edges of the ring will be visible from our planet. Since Saturn's rings are very thin — just tens of metres thick in most places — at this position, they will reflect very little light, essentially making them invisible.
- This phenomenon last occurred in 2009.

# AVPL International's VIRAJ drone gets dual certification from European aviation safety agency



- AVPL International has become the first Indian drone manufacturer to obtain dual certification from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for its VIRAJ drone.
- This will allow the company to facilitate drone operations in the European market
- The VIRAJ drone is designed for agricultural applications, classified under the small category unmanned aircraft.

- Equipped with a 10-litre tank for spraying fertilisers and pesticides. Includes a 10-litre seed dispenser for versatile farming needs.
- Performance: Offers a flight time of up to 30 minutes per charge. Can cover 3-4 acres per charge for spraying or seeding operations.

### CSIR-NPL Launches Certification Process for Continuous Emission Monitoring

- Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) is a critical tool for accurate pollution monitoring and reporting, essential for industries across India.
- In 2014, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) mandated the installation of CEMS in 17 categories of highly polluting industries and common pollution control facilities.

| Key Points                         | Details                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| CEMS                               | Essential tool for accurate                |  |
| Importance                         | pollution monitoring and                   |  |
|                                    | reporting in India.                        |  |
| <b>CPCB Mandate</b>                | Installation of CEMS required in           |  |
| (2014)                             | 17 highly polluting industries.            |  |
| CSIR-NPL Role                      | Designated as the national                 |  |
| (600)                              | verification agency for CEMS               |  |
| -10g-                              | certification in 2019 by MOEF.             |  |
| NPLI CS                            | Developed by CSIR-NPL for                  |  |
| Certification                      | certifying CEMS instruments and            |  |
| Scheme                             | equipment.                                 |  |
| Current CSIR-NPL accepting applica |  |  |
| Certification                      | for gaseous CEMS; PM CEMS                  |  |
|                                    | certification to follow.                   |  |
| PM 2.5 Testing                     | CSIR-NPL has a facility for PM 2.5         |  |
| Facility                           | monitoring systems, now                    |  |
| 11                                 | accepting certification                    |  |
| -000                               | applications.                              |  |
| Certification                      | Ensures products meet national             |  |
| Significance                       | and international standards,               |  |
| (0)                                | crucial for legal compliance.              |  |
| CSE Report                         | Emphasized the need for a robust           |  |
| (2022)                             | CEMS certification system in               |  |
|                                    | India, proposing a European-style process. |  |

# Dhruva Space gets IN-SPACe nod to provide ground stations as a service

 Hyderabad-based space engineering solutions provider Dhruva Space has become one of the first private players in the country to get authorisation from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN- SPACE) to provide ground stations as a service (GSaaS).



 The approval will enable it to commercially support a wide range of space missions, offer critical ground support, and enable real-time satellite communication and control.

### What is Han Purple?



- Scientists are fascinated with Han Purple, an artificial pigment created over 2,500 years ago by the Chinese, due to quantum property discoveries.
- It holds significant historical importance as it was used in ancient artworks such as wall paintings, ceramics, metalware, and jewelry
- Han Purple emits intense infrared light and changes its behavior under extreme cold and high magnetic fields, according to recent research.
- Han purple disappeared from use after the Qin and Han Dynasties, only to be rediscovered by modern chemists in the 1990s.
- Unlike natural dyes, Han purple was a synthetic pigment made from inorganic materials.
- It is composed of barium copper silicate, a complex synthetic compound similar to Egyptian blue
- Its composition was first identified by scientist Elisabeth FitzHugh.
- People are interested in Han Purple's quantum critical point behavior under extreme conditions because it might help explain things like hightemperature superconductivity.

### Nano DAP Experiment Reveals Decline in Wheat Yields

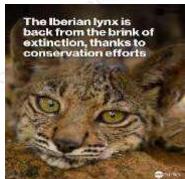


- A two-year field experiment on the efficacy of nano diammonium phosphate (DAP) by scientists from the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has found a substantial decrease in wheat yields compared to conventional nitrogen fertiliser application.
- Wheat Yield Decline: The study showed that when farmers used nano DAP instead of regular DAP, the wheat grain yield decreased by 16.1%.
- Plant Growth Affected: The study also found that plants didn't grow as tall when nano DAP was used.

#### What Is the Government's Fertilizer Strategy?

- DAP is the second most used fertilizer in India, after urea. The government wants to:
- Reduce the amount of fertilizer India imports
- · Lower the cost of fertilizer subsidies
- Promote the efficient use of fertilizers

## **Iberian Lynx Conservation Status Upgraded to Vulnerable**





- The Iberian Lynx (Lynx pardinus) is the proverbial 'cat with nine lives'.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) moved its conservation status from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable'

- The species is **native to Spain and Portugal.** In **2001**, there were only **62 adult individuals**, but by 2022, there were 648, and **now more than 2,000.**
- Known for its pointy ears, long legs and leopardlike spotted fur, the Iberian lynx is a species distinct from the more common Eurasian lynx found from France to the Himalayas.

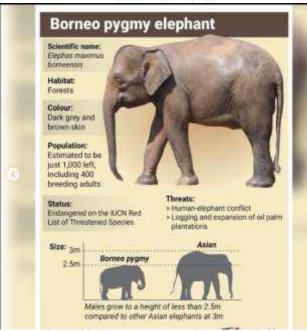


#### **Conservation status**

- IUCN Red list: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix II

### Bornean Elephant Classified as Endangered in IUCN list





- The smallest Asian elephant subspecies-Bornean elephant (Elephas maximus borneensis) is now classified as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List due to a dwindling population.
- Habitat- forests of Borneo and Sumatra
- With only around 1,000 individuals remaining, habitat loss from logging and oil palm plantations poses a severe threat.

- The elephants are distinguished by their small size, with males growing to some 2.5 m in height compared to 3 m on the mainland
- Asian elephant (Elephas maximus) has been classified as Endangered by the IUCN since 1986.

## Neelakurinji becomes a 'threatened species,' officially



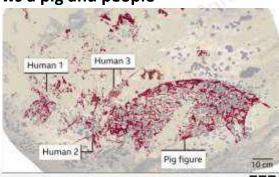
- The endangered purple bloom of the Western Ghats, Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana), was recently added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- The latest global assessment confirms its threatened status in the Vulnerable (Criteria A2c) category of the IUCN
- Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana), the purplish flowering shrub, which blooms once in 12 years,

# Charles Darwin's frog exhibits unique upside-down spawning behaviour



- an Indo-American team of biologists has discovered an extraordinary reproductive behaviour in the Charles Darwin's frog (Minervarya charlesdarwini), an endangered species endemic to the Andaman Islands.
- Unlike other frogs, this species deposits its eggs in a vertical, upside-down position on the inner walls of water-filled tree cavities or root buttresses.
- Once laid, the eggs eventually fall into the water below, where they develop into tadpoles.
- No other frog lays terrestrial eggs in an upsidedown position within tree holes
- Charles Darwin's frog is classified as 'Vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

# World's oldest cave painting in Indonesia shows a pig and people



- 000
- On the ceiling of a limestone cave on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, scientists have discovered artwork depicting three human-like figures interacting with a wild pig in what they have determined is the world's oldest-known confidently dated cave painting - created at least 51,200 years ago.
- The scene is painted in a single shade of dark red pigment.

# India's first tagging of horseshoe crabs kicked off by Zoological Survey of India

of India (ZSI) and the
Odisha Forest
Department have
joined hands to tag
horseshoe crabs over
the next three years
along the State's coast



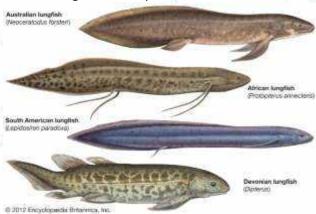
- to understand the population and habitat utilisation for its conservation and management.
- Horseshoe crabs are one of oldest living creatures on the Earth, and a valuable species medicinally.
- India is home to two species of horseshoe crabs —
   Tachypleus gigas and Carcinoscorpius
   rotundicauda (mangrove) and both the species
   are found along the northeastern coast of India,
   especially along the Odisha and West Bengal coast.
- The first tagging of horseshoe crabs was carried out in the Khandiamuhan estuary of the Balasore coast
- Destructive fishing practices are major threats to horseshoe crabs
- Illegal smuggling of the species
- Horseshoe crabs are a Schedule 2 species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

### Scientists Sequence Largest Animal Genome in Lungfish Study

 The South American lungfish is an extraordinary creature in some sense, a living fossil.



- Inhabiting slow-moving and stagnant waters in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, French Guiana and Paraguay.
- The South American lungfish reaches up to about 1.25 metres long.
- This freshwater species (Lepidosiren paradoxa)
   also has another distinction: the largest genome
   (all the genetic information of an organism) of any
   animal on the earth.
- Scientists have now sequenced its genome, finding it to be about 30-times the size of the human genetic blueprint.



- The metric for genome size was the number of base pairs, the fundamental units of DNA, in an organism's cellular nuclei.
- If stretched out like from a ball of yarn, the length of the DNA in each cell of this lungfish would extend almost 60 metres.
- The human genome would extend a mere 2 metres
- 18 of the 19 South American lungfish chromosomes - the threadlike structures that carry an organism's genomic information - are each individually larger than the entire human genome



- there are plants whose genome is larger.
- The current record holder is a fork fern species, called Tmesipteris oblanceolata, in the French overseas territory of New Caledonia in the Pacific.
- Its genome is more than 50 times the human genome's size.
- Until now, the largest-known animal genome was that of another lungfish, the Australian lungfish (Neoceratodus forsteri).

### Defence Space Agency inaugurates firstever space exercise 'Antariksha Abhyas-2024'



- from 11 13 Nov 24.
- 'Antariksha Abhyas 2024', a three day Exercise to war-game the growing threats from and to Space Based Assets and Services
- Exercise Antariksha Abhyas is a first of its kind exercise being conducted and is expected to help secure national strategic objectives in space and integrate India's space capability in military operations.
- It will have participants from the Defence Space Agency and its allied units along with personnel from the Army, Navy and the Air Force.
- Representatives from ISRO and DRDO will also take part in it.
- The creation of the Defence Space Agency (DSA), the Defence Cyber Agency (DCA), and the Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) was approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Combined Commanders' Conference at Jodhpur Air Force Station on 28 September 2018.

### Scientists Decode Brain Activity to treat Anxiety and Depression

- A team of scientists has uncovered new regions of the brain that support social interactions and are in constant communication with the ancient amygdala region—a discovery that could help treat psychiatric conditions such as anxiety and depression.
- The study found that the advanced parts of the human brain supporting social interactions—

- known as the social cognitive network—are connected to and in constant communication with the ancient amygdala.
- Often referred to as the "lizard brain," the amygdala is typically associated with detecting threats and processing fear.
- "The amygdala is responsible for social behaviours like parenting, mating, aggression, and navigating social-dominance hierarchies,".
- This study is the first to show that the medial nucleus of the amygdala is directly connected to newly evolved regions of the social cognitive network, which are involved in thinking about other people.
- This connection allows the social cognitive network to access the amygdala's role in processing emotionally significant content.
- Both anxiety and depression are linked to hyperactivity in the amygdala, which can lead to excessive emotional responses and impaired emotional regulation.

# Dunlin, a Near Threatened species, spotted during Kerala Bird Race



- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has upgraded the threat level of the species to Near Threatened in 2024 from Least Concern in 2023.
- The species is often found in large flocks on mudflats and beaches.

### What is Gympie-Gympie, the World's Most Toxic Plant?



- Gympie-Gympie, an unassuming green plant which can "spark suicidal thoughts."
- Dendrocnide moroides is commonly known as the Australian stinging tree.
- It is primarily found in rainforest areas of Australasia, the Moluccas, and Indonesia.
- The plant has hair-like needles all over its body, filled with powerful neurotoxin. feels both like electrocution and burning — a sensation that can last for weeks, or even months.

# World's Oldest Known Wild Bird Lays First Egg at 74



- The world's oldest known wild bird, a Laysan albatross named Wisdom, is around 74 years old now, she has laid her 60th egg
- at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in the northwestern Hawaiian Archipelago.

A Siberian Demoiselle crane, Sukpak, set a record by migrating over 3,676 km to Rajasthan, India



- A tagged Siberian Demoiselle crane has made history by setting a new distance record for migratory birds arriving in Rajasthan.
- The crane, known as Sukpak, flew an impressive
   3,676 km to reach Khichan in the Phalodi district,
   surpassing the previous longest recorded flight of
   2,800 km for a crane tagged in Mongolia.
- Khichan is India's first reserve for Demoiselle cranes.

- It is the smallest crane species
- The bird holds cultural importance in India, where it is called Koonj or Kurjaa.

# NCVET recognizes IN-SPACe as awarding body to boost vocational training in space sector

- The National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), has officially recognized the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) as an Awarding Body (Dual).
- IN-SPACe's recognition as an awarding body will help standardize and accredit its specialized training programs - in areas such as Satellite Manufacturing, Space Technology in Agriculture, Mission Design for Launch Vehicles, Orbital Mechanics, and Advances in Space Propulsion Systems.
- IN-SPACe operates as an autonomous agency under the Department of Space (DOS), dedicated to promoting and enabling various space activities, including the development of launch vehicles and satellites, and space-based services.

# In a first, IIA astronomers spot far UV emissions from novae in Andromeda galaxy



- Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have spotted far ultra violet (FUV) emissions from novae for the first time in the neighbouring Andromeda galaxy.
- IIA team used ultraviolet imaging telescope (UVIT/AstroSat) data

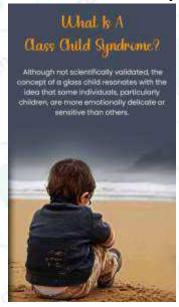
- AstroSat is India's first dedicated space astronomy observatory and the UVIT is one of the primary payloads which was developed by IIA.
- Launched on September 28, 2015 by the PSLV-C30 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota

## IIT-Madras launches research centre for next-gen Amoled displays



- Amoled (active-matrix organic light emitting diode) displays for smartphones, tablets, watches and wearables.
- Inaugurated by S. Krishnan, secretary of MeitY
- The centre, funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), DRDO and Tata Sons, will work on a novel patterning technique to lower the cost for display manufacture in the country.
- This Centre will support the nation's initiative to develop a semiconductor industry in India

#### What is Glass Child Syndrome?



- The term "glass child" refers to siblings of children with chronic illnesses or disabilities.
- These siblings often feel invisible, overshadowed by their sibling's condition, which has gained attention, denoting the emotional struggles faced by these children.

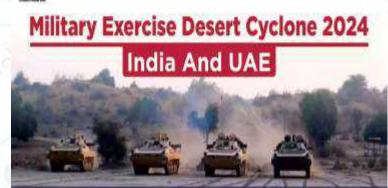
# Defense News

### **MILITARY EXERCISES**

#### **Indian Army**

| Exercise Name   | Countries<br>Participated |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Desert Cyclone  | India, UAE                |
| Cyclone-I       | India, Egypt              |
| Khanjar         | India, Kyrgyzstan         |
| SADA TANSEEQ    | India, Saudi Arabia       |
| Dharma Guardian | India, Japan              |
| LAMITIYE        | India, Seychelles         |
| DUSTLIK         | India, Uzbekistan         |
| SHAKTI          | India, France             |
| YUDH ABHYAS     | India, USA                |
| VAJRA PRAHAR    | India, USA                |
| VINBAX          | India , Vietnam           |
| AUSTRAHIND      | India , Australia         |

### India-UAE 'Desert Cyclone 2024' Joint Military Exercise Scheduled in Rajasthan



- The **first India-UAE joint military exercise**, "Desert Cyclone 2024", will take place from **January 2–15**, 2024 in Rajasthan.
- The first-ever India-UAE Joint Air Forces exercise took place in 2008 in Abu Dhabi.

# Exercise 'Khanjar' commences in Himachal Pradesh



- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar
- started at the Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh.
- The exercise is being conducted from January 22 to February 3.
- It is an annual event conducted alternatively in both the countries.
- The Indian Army contingent comprising 20
  personnel is being represented by troops from The
  Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and the
  Kyrgyzstan contingent comprising 20 personnel is
  represented by Scorpion Brigade.

#### **Exercise Cyclone**



- a joint special forces exercise between India and Egypt.
- 2nd edition of the Exercise Cyclone
- Being conducted at Anshas, Egypt from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 1st February 2024.
- The first edition of the exercise was conducted last year in India.
- The Indian contingent is being represented by troops from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Egyptian contingent comprising 25 personnel of Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon.

### India-Japan Joint Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' Commences In Rajasthan



- The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN'
- between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self
   Defence Force
- commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan
- scheduled from 25th February to 9th March 2024
- It is an annual exercise and conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
- The Japanese contingent (34th Infantry Regiment) and Indian Army contingent (Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.)

### Multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' commences in Kathmandu

- Kathmandu, on Feburary 20 Multinational military exercise – 'Shanti Prayas IV' – kicked off in Nepal.
- The participation of 1,125 army personnel from 19 countries, including India, Bangladesh, Nepal,
   Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Two-week-long military drill.
- Organised with the assistance of the Global Peace Operation Initiative of the US government.
- Nepal hosted the inaugural multi-platoon training event "Shanti Prayas" in 2000. Since then, three successful multi-platoon exercises have taken place.

### 'Bharat Shakti' war game in Pokhran



- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the tri-services war game 'Bharat Shakti' in Rajasthan's Pokhran on March 12
- The war game witnessed a combined demonstration of indigenous defence equipment in the form of a tri-services live fire and manoeuvre exercise Bharat Shakti at Pokhran in Rajasthan.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"



- Around 45 military personnel each from the Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) will participate in the 10-day joint military exercise 'Lamitiye 2024' from March 18 to 27 in Seychelles.
- 'LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' is a biennial training event and has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.

# 'Dustlik 2024' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan



- **5th Edition** of 'DUSTLIK' to be conducted at Termez District, **Uzbekistan from 15 to 28 April 2024.**
- The fourth edition of the joint military exercise between the two countries was held on February 20 last year at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.
- The inaugural edition of this exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.

## India and France to conduct the 7th edition Military Exercise Shakti



- From May 13-26 in the Umroi region of Meghalaya.
- Started in 2011

- Exercise "Shakti" is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France. The last edition took place in France in November 2021.
- 90 personnel will be primarily represented by a battalion of the Rajput Regiment
- Indian Navy and Indian Air Force will also participate in the exercise.
- The French contingent, also consisting of 90 personnel, 13<sup>th</sup> Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE).
- The Indian contingent comprises 90 personnel primarily from the Rajput Regiment, along with personnel from other arms and services, participating in the exercise.
- Observers from the Indian Navy and the Indian Air
   Force are also part of this 14-day exercise.
- It will also include the French contingent consisting of 90 personnel mainly from the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE).

## 13th Edition Of India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE



- Scheduled from July 1st to 15th, 2024
- The exercise will take place at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand.
- The previous edition occurred in Umroi, Meghalaya, in September 2019.
- An annual training event that is conducted in India and Thailand alternatively, since 2006.
- The Indian Army's 76-member contingent is primarily from the LADAKH SCOUTS
- Rhe Royal Thailand Army contingent also consists of 76 personnel, mainly from the 1st Battalion, 14 Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division.
- The Exercise will enhance combined capabilities in executing Joint Counter Insurgency/ Terrorist
   Operations in Jungle and Urban Environment under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.

| Military exercises between India & Thailand |                    |  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Army MAITREE                                |                    |  |
| Navy  | INDO – THAI CORPAT |  |
| AIR FORCE                                   | SIAM BHARAT        |  |

### Indian Army Departs for Multinational Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024



- The Indian Army contingent of 40 soldiers has departed for Mongolia to take part in the Multinational Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024.
- The exercise will run from July 27 to August 9, 2024, at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- This is the 21st edition of the annual exercise, which began as a bilateral event between the USA and the Mongolian Armed Forces in 2003.
- The exercise now involves military forces from around the world, with a focus on high-degree physical fitness, joint planning, and joint tactical drills.

## India-Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2024'



- 16th edition of Annual Joint Military Exercise
   'Nomadic Elephant' between armies of India and Mongolia will be conducted in Meghalaya's Umroi from July 3-16
- Nomadic Elephant I 2004 Mongolia
- The 15th edition of the Exercise was conducted in Mongolia's Ulaanbaatar
- The exercise set to be conducted in Meghalaya aims to enhance interoperability between two armies in carrying out semi-conventional operations in semiurban/mountainous terrain.

#### Joint Military Exercises of the Indian Army

| Exercise Name | Partner Country/Countries |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Vajra Prahar  | United States             |
| Sada Tanseeq  | Saudi Arabia              |
| Shakti        | France                    |

| United Kingdom |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| China          | 260                         |
| Russia         | 201                         |
| Thailand       | 36                          |
| Bangladesh     |                             |
|                | China<br>Russia<br>Thailand |

### Indian Army Conducts 'Parvat Prahaar' Exercise in Ladakh



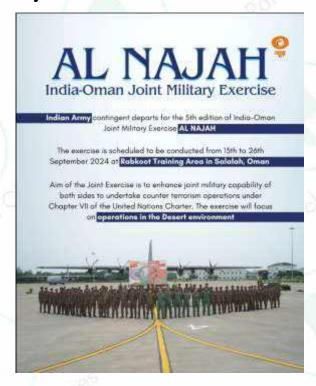
- The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, 'Parvat Prahaar', in Ladakh, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations, close to the India-China border
- Participating Units: Infantry, Armoured, Artillery, Support Units, Mountain Strike Corps of the Northern Command

### **10th bilateral Mitra Shakti Military Exercise Commences in Sri Lanka**



- The annual bilateral Mitra Shakti military exercise between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army commenced in the Sri Lankan Army Training School, Maduru Oya,in Sri Lanka's Southern Province.
- Scheduled from 12 to 25 August, is an annual Combined Training Exercise of the two countries' Forces
- Its last edition was conducted in Pune in November 2023

### India- Oman Joint Military Exercise Al Najah V



- The Indian Army contingent departed for the 5th edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH.
- to be conducted from 13th to 26th September 2024
- at Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman.
- Exercise AL NAJAH has been held biennially since
   2015, alternating between India and Oman.
- Last edition was conducted at Mahajan in Rajasthan.
- undertake counter terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The exercise will focus on operations in the Desert environment.

| Naseem Al Bahr | India & Oman (Navy)      |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Eastern Bridge | India & Oman (Air Force) |

### India- Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise Kazind -2024 Commences In Auli



 The 8th edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2024 at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand.

- 30th September to 13th October 2024.
- held annually since 2016.
- Last edition of the Joint Exercise was held at Otar,
   Kazakhstan from 30th October to 11th November 2023.
- 120 personnel, are being represented by a battalion of the KUMAON Regiment of Indian Army,
- Kazakhstan contingent will be represented mainly by personnel from Land Forces and Air Borne Assault Troopers.

## INDIA- USA Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas -2024



- The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of India-USA Joint Military Exercise YUDH ABHYAS-2024 commenced, at Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 9th to 22nd September 2024.
- Exercise YUDH ABHYAS has been held annually since 2004

## National Symposium 'Exercise AIKYA' on Disaster Management to Begin in Chennai



- Chennai is set to host a two-day integrated symposium-cum table top exercise 'Aikya' on disaster management
- Organised by the National Disaster Management Authority and the Indian Army, the symposium would bring together key stakeholders from Central government and from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Puducherry.
- The main objective was to foster discussions on available technologies and simulate emergency

situations to test the roles and responsibilities of key disaster manager

#### **Exercise Swavlamban Shakti**

- Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps, under the Southern Command is conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi.
- From 17th to 22nd October
- The XXI Corps, also known as the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, is a strike formation headquartered in Bhopal.
- aims to improve the Army's combat abilities by using new and advanced technologies.
- This exercise is focused on incorporating New Technology Equipment (NTEs) into the Army's offensive operations, ensuring preparedness for future conflict scenarios.
- Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh, General Officer Commanding of Sudarshan Chakra Corps.



# 15<sup>th</sup> edition of India - Us Joint Special Forces Exercise 'VAJRA PRAHAR'



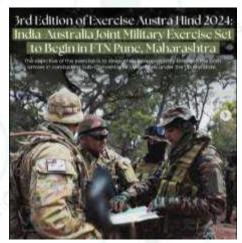
- The Indian Army contingent participating in the 15th edition of India- US joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR.
- 2nd to 22nd November 2024 at Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA.
- Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in December 2023.
- This will be second exercise of the year between Indian and the US Army, the previous being Exercise YUDH ABHYAS 2024, conducted at Rajasthan in September 2024.
- Contingents of both the countries will comprise 45 personnel each.
- The Indian Army contingent will be represented by Special Forces units and the US Army contingent will be represented by Green Berets of US.

### 9<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Indonesia Joint EXERCISE 'GARUD SHAKTI'



- The Indian Army Special Forces Contingent comprising 25 personnel
- 1st to 12th of November 2024.
- At Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia
- The Indian contingent The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)
- Indonesian contingent Indonesian Special Forces Kopassus.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Australia Joint Military Exercise "AUSTRAHIND"



- November 8 -21
- at the Foreign Training Node in Pune.

- AUSTRAHIND, which launched in 2022 in Rajasthan, has grown into an annual event, alternating between India and Australia
- This year's edition focuses on enhancing joint capabilities in sub-conventional operations within semi-urban and semi-desert environments, in accordance with Chapter VII of the UN mandate
- The Indian contingent comprises 140 personnel, primarily from the DOGRA Regiment and the Indian Air Force.
- while the Australian side is represented by 120 soldiers from the 13th Light Horse Regiment of the 10th Brigade.

### India-Singapore Bilateral Exercise AgniWarrior 2024



- The India-Singapore bilateral military exercise, AgniWarrior 2024 will take place in Maharashtra from November 28 to November 30.
- The exercise is scheduled to take place at the Devlali Field Firing Ranges, part of the School of Artillery in Maharashtra.
- With 2025 set to mark 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore.
- Primary objective of the exercise is to enhance professional military interactions between the artillery units of India and Singapore.
- The exercise comes a month after Dr Ng Eng Hen, Singapore's Minister of Defence, visited India to cochair the sixth India-Singapore Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi, with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh.

## India and Cambodia commences inaugural joint table top Exercise CINBAX in Pune



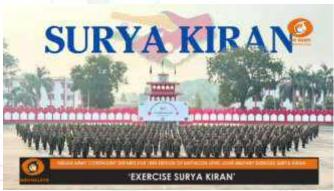
- 1st edition of Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX, between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army commenced at Foreign Training Node, Pune
- The exercise will be conducted from 1st to 8th December 2024.
- aimed to wargame conduct of joint Counter
   Terrorism (CT) operations under Chapter VII of the
   United Nations Charter
- The exercise will be conducted in three phases.
- Phase-I will focus on preparations and orientation of participants for CT operations during UN peace keeping missions.
- Phase-II will involve conduct of the Table Top exercises
- Phase-III will involve finalisation of plans and summing up.

### 'HARIMAU SHAKTI 2024' Indian Army Arrives in Malaysia for Bilateral Army Exercise



- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army
- December 2 to December 15 at the Bentong Camp in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.
- Indian contingent comprising of 78 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of MAHAR Regiment.
- The Malaysian contingent is being represented by 123 personnel from The Royal Malaysian Regiment.
- The exercise will focus on operations in the jungle environment.
- In 2023, the joint bilateral training exercise took place in India at Meghalaya's Umroi Cantonment.

# Indian Army contingent departs for 18<sup>th</sup> edition of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran



- The Indian Army contingent comprising 334
   personnel departed for Nepal today to participate in
   18th edition of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise
   SURYA KIRAN.
- The exercise will be conducted in Saljhandi, Nepal from 31st December 2024 to 13th January 2025.
- It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in the two countries.
- The Indian Army contingent is being led by a Battalion from the 11th Gorkha Rifles.
- The Nepal Army contingent will be represented by Srijung Battalion.
- The aim of Exercise SURYA KIRAN is to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter terrorism operations in mountains, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under United Nations Charter
- The first Indo-Nepal joint army training exercise known as Surya Kiran started in 2011.

#### **Indian Air Force**

|                | $\overline{}$    |
|----------------|------------------|
| Exercise Name  | Countries        |
|                | Participated     |
| Garuda         | India, France    |
| Cope India     | India, USA       |
| SINDEX         | India, Singapore |
| Eastern Bridge | India, Oman      |
| Desert Eagle   | India, UAE       |
| INDRADHANUSH   | India, UK        |

#### IAF conducts 'Exercise Desert Knight'

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted
 Trilateral Exercise Desert Knight along with
 French Air and Space Force (FASF) and
 United Arab Emirates (UAE) AirForce over
 the Arabian Sea on January 23.



- India Air Force- Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, AWACS, C-130-J and Air to Air Refueller aircraft.
- French Air and Space Force (FASF)- Rafale fighter aircraft and a Multi Role Tanker Transport
- UAE Air Force- F-16.

#### Defence Exercises between India and France:

- Varuna Naval exercise
- Garuda Air exercise
- ➤ Shakti Army exercise

#### **Defence Exercises between India and UAE:**

- Exercise Desert Eagle Air exercise
- In-UAE BILAT Naval exercise
- Desert Cyclone Army exercise

#### **Exercise Vayu Shakti-24**



- Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-24' at the Pokhran range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Theme: Lightning Strike from the Sky
- The indigenous Air Defence Systems, Akash and SAMAR missile systems, were also showcased during the exercise
- The SAMAR (Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation) air defense missile system marked a significant milestone as it was fired for the first time during the Vayushakti Exercise in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on February 17th.
- developed entirely by units of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Maintenance Command.
- Operating at speeds ranging from 2 to 2.5 Mach

# IAF's 'Gagan Shakti-2024' 10-day mega exercise from April 1-10



- The Indian Air Force is conducting its biggest exercise 'Gagan Shakti' involving all Air Force stations.
- Held every five years, it will commence on April 1, 2024, at Pokhran's field firing range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan.
- This exercise will continue till April 10
   encompassing both western and northern fronts.
   'Gagan Shakti' was last held in 2018
- The Indian Army is providing logistics support for this mega exercise
- The Indian Air Force was officially established on 8
   October 1932
- Motto of the Indian Air Force (Touch the sky with Glory)
- Air Chief Marshal VR
   CHAUDHARI PVSM AVSM VM ADC



### IAF Aircrafts participating in Exercise Eastern Bridge VII At Oman

- In IAF contingent comprising MiG-29s, Jaguars and C-17s are participating in the bilateral exercise Exercise Eastern Bridge VII in Oman
- Between Royal Oman Air Force and the Indian Air Force
- This is the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Exercise that is scheduled from 11 to 22 September 2024 at Air Force base Masirah, Oman.

## Gagan Strike-II: Indian Army, IAF Conduct Joint Exercise in Punjab



 The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, part of the Army's Western Command, recently concluded a three-day joint military exercise Gagan Strike-II with the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Punjab

# IAF Contingent Participates In Exercise Red Flag 2024 Conducted At Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska



- An Indian Air Force-IAF contingent participated in the Exercise Red Flag 2024 conducted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska of the United States Air Force.
- This was the second edition of Ex Red Flag 2024,
- The exercise witnessed participation of the Indian Air Force along with Republic of Singapore Air Force, Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom,

- Royal Netherlands Air Force, German Luftwaffe, and the US Air Force.
- This was the first time the IAF Rafale aircraft participated in Ex Red Flag. The Exercise Red Flag 2024 was conducted from 4th to 14th of this month.

## India to host its first-ever multination air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024'

- The countries sending their air force combat contingents are the US, the UK, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Singapore and the UAE.
- The exercise will be held in two phases.
- 1st Phase: Southern India in August
- 2nd Phase: Western sector August end to Mid-September

#### **Exercise Pitch Black**



- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent landed at Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin, Australia to participate in the biennial, multinational exercise Pitch Black.
- The exercise which focuses on night time flying will take place from 12th July to 2nd August.
- The largest edition in its 43-year history, the exercise will include participation from 20 countries, over One hundred forty aircraft, and 4 thousand 4 hundred military personnel of various air forces.
- The IAF contingent comprises over 150 skilled Air Warriors including pilots, engineers, technicians, and experts, who will be operating Su-30 MKI multirole fighters, along with C-17 Globemaster and IL-78 Air-to-Air Refuelling aircraft in combat enabling roles.
- The IAF previously took part in the 2018 and 2022 editions of this exercise.

### First multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024' at Sular in Tamil Nadu



- The Indian Air Force hosts its largest multilateral air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti,' in two phases starting August 6.
- The first phase will be held in Sulur, Tamil Nadu, from August 6 to 14.
- Followed by the second phase in Jodhpur,
   Rajasthan, from August 29 to September 14.
- The exercise aims to demonstrate India's defence capabilities and strengthen cooperation among participating nations.
- In the exercise, nearly 30 countries will participate, and out of 30, 10 countries will join the exercise with their fighter aircraft.
- Ten countries will participate with assets Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece,
   Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United
   Kingdom, the United States, and Singapore
- India would showcase its indigenous fighter aircraft and equipment, including the Tejas, Rafale, Mirage 2000, Jaguar, and MIG 29.

### IAF Arrives in Malaysia for Udara Shakti 2024



- The Indian Air Force contingent arrived at Kuantan, Malaysia to participate in bilateral Air Exercise
   Udara Shakti- 2024 with the Royal Malaysian Air Force.
- Exercise from 5-9 August 2024.
- The first bilateral Air Force exercise was conducted in 2018.

#### **Indian Navy**

| Exercise Name    | Countries Participated      |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Malabar          | India, USA, Japan           |
| Milan            | India, ASEAN countries      |
| Varuna           | India, France               |
| Konkan           | India, UK                   |
| Indra            | India, Russia               |
| Samudra Laksmana | India, Malaysia             |
| Tiger Triumph    | India, USA                  |
| Simbex           | India, Singapore            |
| IBSAMAR          | India, Brazil, South Africa |

## 12th edition of MILAN naval exercise begins in Visakhapatnam



- MILAN 24 (Multilateral Naval Exercise- 2024) at Visakhapatnam from 19th February to 27th February 2024.
- MILAN 24 is likely to witness the largest-ever participation to date with invites being extended to over 50
   Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs).
- Theme: "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future,"
- The exercise aims to strengthen collaboration among participating navies.
- MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise, was initiated by the Indian Navy in 1995.

### Indian Navy's P-8I Aircraft Reaches Guam USA For Exercise Sea Dragon 24



- 4<sup>th</sup> edition of multi-lateral Ex Sea Dragon 24 (the Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise)
- Organised by the US Navy.
- Among the navies of the US, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and India.

### India-Thailand First Naval Exercise Ayutthaya



 The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted from 20 to 23 December 2023.

- Indigenously built Indian Naval ships INS Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise.
- The RTN side was represented by **His Thai Majesty's Ship HTMS Prachuap Khiri Khan.**
- The 36th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was also conducted along with the maiden bilateral exercise.
- The Indo-Thai Bilateral Exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya' translates to 'The Invincible One' or 'Undefeatable', and symbolises the significance of two of the oldest cities, Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand

### Trilateral Exercise 'Dosti-16' Kicks Off In Maldives



- The 16th edition of the India-Maldives-Sri Lanka trilateral exercise "Dosti" with Bangladesh as observer.
- in the Maldives from February 22–25, 2024.
- India is sending ICGS Samarth, ICGS Abhinav, and ICG Dornier for the exercise.

 The 'Dosti' drill started in 1991 as a bilateral exercise by the coast guards of India and the Maldives. Sri Lanka joined it in 2012.

#### Security concerns

- Malé ignored New Delhi's concerns and allowed a 'research vessel' of China to enter the territorial waters of the Maldives.
- China's research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 3 entered the main port of the Maldives
- The 'Dosti' drill started in 1991 as a bilateral exercise by the coast guards of India and the Maldives. Sri Lanka joined it in 2012.

# India – Mozambique – Tanzania Trilateral (IMT TRILAT 24) Exercise Concludes at Nacala, Mozambique



- INS Tir and INS Sujata participated in the second edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise, a joint maritime exercise from 21-28 Mar 24.
- The initial harbour phase from 21 to 24 Mar 24 were held onboard INS Tir at Zanzibar (Tanzania) and INS Sujata at Maputo (Mozambique).
- The sea phase commenced on 24 Mar 24
- The closing ceremony, held onboard INS Tir and INS Sujata at Nacala, Mozambique featured representatives from all three navies.
- The **first edition** of IMT TRILAT exercise conducted in **Oct 2022**.

### India – U.S. Maritime Security Exercise 'Sea Defenders-2024' at Port Blair

- Between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) successfully concluded at Port Blair Andaman & Nicobar Islands on March 9.
- The exercise featured Indian Coast Guard helicopter and Dornier aircraft
- One of the highlights of the exercise was the
   Pollution Response Demonstration, where Indian
   Coast Guard ships and aircraft displayed their

proficiency in **responding to oil spills** and other environmental hazards at sea.



### Indian Navy at Exercise Cutlass Express 2024

- INS Tir, the lead ship of First Training Squadron (1TS) participated in Exercise Cutlass Express - 24 (CE- 24)
- held at Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 Feb 08
   Mar 24.
- As part of Cutlass Express, the Indian Navy actively engaged with participants from 16 friendly foreign countries.
- Indian Navy has been participating in the exercise since 2019.

#### **EX TIGER TRIUMPH - 24**



- Tiger Triumph Bilateral Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Amphibious Exercise
- between India and US
- on the Eastern Seaboard from 18 to 31 Mar 24.
- The Harbour Phase of the exercise is being conducted at Visakhapatnam from 18 to 25 Mar 24
- The Sea phase from March 26 to 31
- The Opening Ceremony of the exercise was held onboard INS Jalashwa

### India - Malaysia Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana



- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Exercise Samudra Laksamana is underway from 28 Feb - 02 Mar 24 at/ off Visakhapatnam.
- Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir are participating
- This exercise has harbour professional interactions followed by the operational phase at sea.

# Sagar Kavach 2024: Coastal Security Exercise in Lakshadweep Islands



- A two-day exercise involving all maritime security agencies of the country was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands from April 1-2.
- The Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police, fisheries, customs and other security agencies were engaged in the coastal security exercise
- Earlier in March, the first edition of this biannual coastal exercise (01/24) for the state of Kerala was conducted

### Indian Navy Conducted Exercise 'Poorvi Lehar' On East Coast

 The Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast under the operational control of

### the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

- The exercise saw the active participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and Special Forces.
- Aimed to validate procedures and assess the Indian Navy's preparedness to address maritime security challenges in the region effectively.

#### Flag Officer Commanding in Chief



#### **Eastern Naval Command**

Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, AVSM, VSM

#### **Western Naval Command**

Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, AVSM, NM

#### **Southern Naval Command**

Vice Admiral V Srinivas, AVSM, NM

### 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Japan - India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)-24 start in Japan



- Indian Navy's indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Shivalik arrived at Yokosuka, Japan to participate in the bilateral Japan – India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX 24).
- The JIMEX-24 exercise is being hosted by Japanese Navy - Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF).
- The JMSDF is represented by its Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri.
- The exercise will include both the harbour and the sea phases.
- JIMEX was started in 2012 in Japan.
- The 7th JIMEX -23 was hosted by the Indian Navy off Visakhapatnam in July 2023.

#### Exercises between India and Japan

- Malabar: It is a multinational naval exercise in which India, Japan, United States and Australia participates.
- JIMEX (naval)
- SHINYUU Maitri (Air Force)
- Dharma Guardian (Army)

### Indian Naval Ship 'Tabar' Conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) With Spanish Navy Ship 'Atalaya'



- Indian Navy's frontline frigate, INS Tabar had arrived on a two day visit at Malaga, Spain to conducted Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya
- · in the Mediterranean Sea.



INS Tabar Completes MPX with Russian Ship Soobrazitelny



The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar, commanded by Captain MR Harish with a crew of 280 officers and

- sailors, conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Russian Navy Ship Soobrazitelny on 30 July 2024.
- The INS Tabar visited St. Petersburg port in Russia for participating in the 328th Russian Navy Day Parade celebrations.
- It was the second time that INS Tabar was participating in the Russian Navy Day Parade. It participated in the 325th Russian Navy Day Parade held in 2021.

#### **About INS Tabar**

- INS Tabar of the Indian Navy is a **Talwar Class multi-** role stealth frigate.
- It was constructed at St. Petersburg's Baltic
   Shipyard in Russia and was commissioned in the
   Indian Navy in 2004.
- The ship, which has a maximum speed of 30 knots, is capable of engaging enemy surface vessels, submarines, and aerial targets.
- INS Tabar is part of the Indian Navy's Western
   Fleet, which is based in Mumbai and under Western
   Naval Command.

Indian Navy's P8I aircraft's first-ever deployment in Europe in 'Exercise Varuna'



- **P8I** landed at Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube in France.
- The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of biennial Indo-French bilateral naval 'Exercise Varuna', held from September 2 to 4 in the Mediterranean Sea.
- INS Tabar, also participated in the exercise.

### India, Oman conducted joint naval exercise Naseem Al Bahr off Goa' coast

- The Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman successfully concluded the 'Naseem Al Bahr' naval exercise off Goa
- from October 13 to October 18.
- the exercise was conducted in two phases, with the harbour phase followed by the sea phase
- Oman is the first Gulf country with which all the three wings of India's defence forces hold joint exercises.

#### **SIMBEX 2024**



- The 31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is scheduled from 23 to 29 Oct 2024, in the Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam.
- Republic of Singapore Navy Ship RSS Tenacious with embarked helicopter and INS Shivalik participating in SIMBEX2024.
- SIMBEX began as 'Exercise Lion King' in 1994
- The exercise will be conducted in two phases the Harbour Phase from 23 to 25 October at Visakhapatnam and the Sea Phase from 28 to 29 October in the Bay of Bengal.

# INS Talwar Arrives South Africa To Participate in IBSAMAR VIII



 Indian Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Talwar, arrived at Simon's Town, South Africa to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of IBSAMAR.

- A joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy scheduled from 06 to 18 October 2024.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen cohesion between the three navies.
- INS Talwar was commissioned on 18 June 2003 and is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based in Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.

# India-Germany Conduct First Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)



- The maiden IN GN Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Bay of Bengal
- from October 21–23, 2024
  - > INS Delhi: An Indian Navy destroyer (part of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy)
  - **Baden-Württemberg:** A German Navy frigate
  - Frankfurt Am Main: A German Navy tanker

# Exercise Malabar 2024 – Opening Ceremony



- The Opening Ceremony of MALABAR 2024 under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command was held onboard Indian Naval Ship Satpura at Visakhapatnam on 09 Oct 24.
- Navies from Australia, Japan, and the United States have joined the Indian Navy for the 28th edition of this annual maritime exercise from 08 Oct 24 - 18 Oct 24.
- In two distinct phases both at Harbour and at Sea.
- Aims to strengthen cooperation and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

 Aligned with the Indian Government's vision of Security & Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)

| Year | Event   |
|------|---|
| 1992 | The exercise began as a bilateral drill       |
|      | between India and the United States along     |
|      | the Malabar Coast                             |
| 2007 | The exercise moved to the Bay of Bengal and   |
|      | included Japan, Singapore, and Australia      |
| 2015 | Japan became a permanent partner in the       |
| \    | exercise                                      |
| 2020 | Australia rejoined the exercise, marking the  |
| 10   | Quad's joint participation in military drills |

# 2nd edition of 'Sagar Kavach' exercise 2024 held by Indian Coast Guard

- on 16-17 October 2024 across Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman & Diu coasts.
- first 'Sagar Kavach' exercise of 2024 on 11 and 12
   July 2024 along the coast of Andhra Pradesh.
- State Police, Indian Navy, Marine Police, Border Security Force (BSF), National Security Guard (NSG), Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and the Port authorities, participated in the exercise

## Italian carrier at Goa, holds maiden carrier exercise with Indian Navy

- The Italian Navy's flagship aircraft carrier, ITS
   Cavour, engaged in historic joint operations with
   India's INS Vikramaditya, along with INS
   Visakhapatnam and ITS Alpino
- off Goa coast from October 1 to 6.
- marking the first-ever carrier exercises between the two nations.
- During the exercise, Indian Navy's Mig-29K fighters and IAF's Su-30MKI, Rafale and early warning aircraft exercised with F-35Bs and other aerial assets of the Italian Carrier Strike Groups (CSG)

# Indian Navy's P8I aircraft reaches Australia's Darwin to participate in 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Kakadu

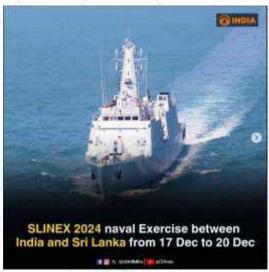
- Australia's biggest warfare exercise-Kakadu, incorporates warships, helicopters and maritime patrol aircraft from attending countries.
- Scheduled from 7 September -20 September 24
- The Indian Navy will participate in the exercise alongside more than 30 nations
- Theme 'Regional Cooperation through Trusted and Proven Partnerships.'

## INS Shivalik Joins 29th RIMPAC Exercise In Hawaii



- The Indian Navy has joined the world's largest naval military wargame Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) in Hawaii.
- 29 nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, over
   150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel
   participated
- The Indian Navy has deployed frontline warship INS Shivalik for the RIMPAC.
- The theme of RIMPAC 2024 is "Partners: Integrated and Prepared".
- The harbour phase of the exercise is taking place from June 27 to July 7.
- The RIMPAC exercise will run till August 1.
- About: RIMPAC is the largest biennial multilateral naval exercises, led by the United States of America.
- Background: RIMPAC commenced in 1971 as an annual exercise involving the US, Australia, and Canada.
- However, starting in 1974, the maritime exercise transitioned to a biennial event.
- **About: INS 'Shivalik'** is India's first stealth frigate in the Shivalik series developed under Project 17.
- It is built at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 29, 2010.
- Features: Pioneering the use of the CODOG (COmbined Diesel Or Gas) propulsion system, it marks a first for the Indian Navy.

### India, Sri Lanka joint naval exercise SLINEX 2024 from December 17



 The SLINEX 2024, the bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka will be conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) off Visakahpatnam coast from December 17 to 20.

- The exercise will be held in two phases —the
   Harbour Phase (from December 17 to 18) and the
   Sea Phase (December 19 to 20).
- Initiated in 2005, the SLINEX is a significant series of bilateral naval exercises that have strengthened the maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.
- Indian Naval Ship INS Sumitra, a naval offshore patrol vessel of the Eastern Fleet, along with a Special Forces team will participate on behalf of India.
- While SLNS Sayura, an offshore patrol vessel, with an embarked Special Forces team will join on behalf of Sri Lanka.

#### **Coast Guard**

Indian Coast Guard to host National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX-24) in Kochi from Nov 27-30



- 11<sup>th</sup> edition to enhance Mass Rescue Operations (MRO)
- organised by National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board - involves testing coordination among various agencies.
- Theme "Enhancing Search and Rescue capabilities through Regional collaboration"
- Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh inaugurated the event
- Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, S
   Paramesh, will oversee the activities.
- Participants include officials from government agencies, ministries, and armed forces & Foreign delegates

### India and Vietnam Coast Guard Joint Exercise

- Sea exercise code-named 'Sahayog-Hop Tac', conducted off the coast of Kochi, enhanced cooperation between the Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Vietnam Coast Guard ship CSB 8005 was on a four-day visit
- The exercise addressed critical maritime security challenges and included various scenarios, such as a pollution-response demonstration. The exercise also included Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations to inspect vessels suspected of illegal activities

#### **Combined Exercise**

### Exercise Cyber Suraksha - 2024



- The comprehensive cyber defence exercise 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024' was conducted by Defence Cyber Agency of India from 20 - 24 May 2024.
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended the Exercise and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities.
- It aims to further develop Cyber Defence Capability of all Cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders.

### Poorvi Prahaar: India Launches Major Tri-Services Exercise



- The Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy will jointly commence a command-level triservice theatre exercise code-named 'Poorvi Prahar'
- from 10-18 November 2024.
- along the mountainous terrain of the India-China border in the eastern theatre.
- It will be held from the airfields of Assam in Dibrugarh, Jorhat, and Tezpur to the valleys and mountains of Arunachal Pradesh along the India-China border.
- The main aim of the Poorvi Prahar exercise is to familiarise and train the three wings of the Indian military—the Army, Navy, and Air Force—in executing integrated joint operations in mountainous terrain.
- For the first time, the Indian Navy will deploy its long-range patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, P-8I Poseidon.

# NSG's joint counterterrorism, counter-IED exercise conclude in Gurugram

- The 10th National Joint Counter-Terrorist Exercise
   'Agnipariksha-X' and the 8th Counter-IED Exercise
   'Visfot Kawach-VIII' concluded successfully at
   NSG Manesar, Gurugram
- More than 650 commandos from the State police and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) participated in the National Security Guard's (NSG) two-week counter-terrorism and counterimprovised explosive device (IED) exercise
- The exercises honed counter-terrorist, bomb disposal, and K9 teams' (dog squads) skills. the teams were trained in tactical urban and rural settings

### Indian Army concludes 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024' multilateral HADR exercise in Gujarat



- The Indian Army successfully conducted the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024' at Ahmedabad and Porbandar on 18-19 November 2024 in Guirat.
- General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff attended this significant event.
- The exercise conducted by the Konark Corps of Southern Command of Indian Army
- Inaugural event theme of 'Cyclone in Coastal Region of Gujarat'.
- This event highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Airforce, Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force & other Central & State Agencies in addressing natural disasters.
- Representatives from 9 Friendly Foreign Countries from the Gulf Cooperation Council, Indian Ocean Region and South East Asia attended this significant event on both days.

### **DRDO**

### DRDO conducts successful flight-test of New Generation AKASH missile



DRDD CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL MAIDEN TEST LAUNCH OF

### AKASH-NG MISSILE

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) Surface to Air Missile (SAM)
- from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

DRDO: Chairman Samir V Kamat Established in **1958** 

#### Akash Missile (Akash-NG)

- It is a surface-to-air Missile.
- It is a new variant of the Akash missile- can strike targets at 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach
   2.5
- Developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- It is being produced by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).

The Akash missile system has been designed and developed as part of India's 30-year-old Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

#### **Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme**

It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.

The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program

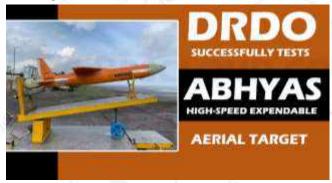
**Prithvi**: Short range surface to surface ballistic missile. **Agni**: Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e. Agni (1.2.3.4.5)

**Trishul**: Short range low level surface to air missile.

Nag: 3rd generation anti-tank missile.

Akash: Medium range surface to air missile.

### DRDO carries out successful flight trials of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target 'ABHYAS'



- Four flight trials of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) - ABHYAS were successfully carried out by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
- · from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha
- during January 30 to February 02, 2024
- Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)
- ABHYAS offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems.
- Production Agencies Hindustan Aeronautics
   Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Defence
- · It is designed for autonomous flying
- It has Radar Cross Section, Visual and Infrared augmentation system required for weapon practice.
- It has a laptop-based Ground Control System
- ABHYAS requires minimum logistics and is cost effective compared to imported equivalents.
- Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat

### Mission Divyastra: India test-fires Agni-5 missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted India's first successful flight test of the indigenously developed Agni-V missile.
- The flight test, named Mission Divyastra, was carried out from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- Agni is a long-range missile. It is India's first intercontinental land based ballistic missile with a range of over 5,000 km.
- Agni-5 ballistic missile equipped to carry multiple warheads, each of which is capable of hitting a separate target.

- This ability to carry multiple warheads on a single missile, called MIRV or Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle
- MIRV technology is possessed only by the United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France.
   Last year, Pakistan also claimed to have tested a MIRV-equipped missile, Ababeel.
- Agni-5 uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine.
- The **Agni 1 to 4 missiles** have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km and have **already been deployed.**
- Agni-5 is an ingeniously built advanced surface-tosurface ballistic missile developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- IGMDP was the brainchild of renowned scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The missiles developed under IGMDP are:
  - Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile –
     Prithvi
  - Intermediate-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile – Agni
  - Short-range low-level surface-to-air missile Trishul
  - Medium-range surface-to-air missile Akash
  - Third generation anti-tank missile Nag

# Agni-Prime Missile Has Been Successfully Flight-Tested In Odisha



- Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with
  Defence Research and Development Organisation
  (DRDO), conducted the successful flight-test of New
  Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime from Dr APJ
  Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha
- Agni-Prime met all the trial objectives validating its reliable performance.

#### **Agni-Prime Missile**

- Agni-Prime is a medium-range nuclear capable ballistic missile that will have a range of 1000 km to 2000 km.
- Agni-P is a new generation, an advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles

- Agni-P will replace the Prithvi, Agni-1, and Agni-2 ballistic missiles that were built two decades ago with technologies now considered outdated.
- Agni-P has been developed specifically for nuclear strikes against targets in Pakistan.
- Last month, India successfully carried out the first flight test of indigenously developed nuclear capable Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV).

# Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) successfully flight-tested by DRDO off the Odisha coast



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of long range subsonic Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on April 18, 2024.
- During the test, all subsystems performed as per expectation.
- The missile is developed by Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)
- Indigenous propulsion system Developed by Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- Secretary Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat

#### **Supersonic vs Subsonic Missiles**

- Supersonic and subsonic missiles are categorized based on their speed relative to the speed of sound in the medium through which they travel.
- Supersonic missiles travel faster than the speed of sound, typically at speeds ranging from Mach 1 to Mach 5. Mach 1 is the speed of sound, which is about 1,235 kilometers/hour (768 miles/hour) at sea level.
- Subsonic missiles fly below the speed of sound, typically at speeds of Mach 0.8 or slower.

### DRDO And Indian Army Conduct Successful Trials Of MPATGM Weapon System



 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range (PFFR)

### India successfully test-fires RudraM-II airto-surface missile



- DRDO successfully test-fired a RudraM-II air-tosurface missile from a Su-30 fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.
- RudraM-II is an indigenously-developed solidpropelled air-launched missile system meant for air-to-surface role to neutralise several types of enemy assets.

#### RudraM:

- Rudram is an air-to-surface missile, designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.
- Anti-radiation missiles are designed to detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources, which are generally part of their air defence systems.
- Once the Rudram missile locks on the target, it is capable of striking accurately even if the radiation source switches off in between.
- The missile has an operational range of more than 100 km, based on the launch parameters from the fighter jet.

## DRDO tests missile-assisted torpedo delivery system



- DRDO announced the successful flight test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- SMART is a next-generation missile-based lightweight torpedo delivery system
- Designed and developed by DRDO to enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy
- The missile was launched from the ground mobile launcher.

DRDO successfully carries out maiden test flight of Long Range Glide Bomb GAURAV from Sukhoi-30 MK-I



- The Defence Research and Development
   Organisation (DRDO) on successfully carried out the
   maiden flight test of the long-range glide bomb
   (LRGB) Gaurav from a Su-30 MK-I fighter jet of the
   Indian Air Force.
- The test was conducted off the coast of Odisha.
- Gaurav is an air-launched 1,000 kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at long distances.

- The LRGB has been designed and developed indigenously by the Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad.
- Complete flight data during the test launch was captured by Telemetry and Electro optical tracking systems deployed by Integrated Test Range along the coastline."
- The flight was monitored by senior DRDO scientists.
- Adani Defence and Bharat Forge, who are the Development cum Production Partners also participated during the flight trial.

### DRDO & Indian Navy successfully flight tests 'Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile' (VL-SRSAM)



- from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha
- The missile is designed to defend navy ships against low-flying, high-speed anti-ship cruise missiles, drones, and similar threats.

#### India has successfully test-fired Rudram-1



 India has successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, the Rudram-1, developed by

- the Defence Research and Development
  Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Rudram-1 is integrated with the IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, serving as the launch platform.
- The missile features INS-GPS navigation and a Passive Homing Head for final attack, allowing it to accurately hit radiation-emitting targets.

| Missile      | Name(s)      | emitting targets.  Description |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Туре         | Name(s)      | Description                    |
| Ballistic    | Agni Series, | Long-range missiles            |
| Missiles     | Prithvi      | capable of delivering          |
| 2500         |              | nuclear and                    |
| 10           |              | conventional warheads.         |
| Cruise       | BrahMos,     | Subsonic and supersonic        |
| Missiles     | Nirbhay      | missiles for precision         |
| 1            |              | strikes, BrahMos being         |
|              |              | the fastest supersonic         |
|              |              | cruise missile.                |
| Anti-Tank    | Nag,         | Designed to destroy            |
| Missiles     | HELINA,      | tanks and armoured             |
|              | MPATGM       | vehicles.                      |
| Surface-to-  | Akash,       | Used for air defence to        |
| Air Missiles | Barak-8      | intercept and destroy          |
| Z-107        |              | enemy aircraft and             |
| 200          | 1            | missiles.                      |
| Air-to-Air   | Astra,       | Fired from aircraft to         |
| Missiles     | Python-5     | target enemy aircraft.         |
| Anti-Ship    | BrahMos,     | Used to target and             |
| Missiles     | Dhanush      | destroy enemy ships            |
| Wilsones     | Dilailasii   | and naval vessels.             |
| Anti-        | RudraM,      | Designed to detect and         |
| Radiation    | NGARM        | destroy enemy radar            |
| Missiles     | NG/ (INIV)   | installations.                 |
| Surface-to-  | Prahaar,     | Short to medium-range          |
| Surface      | Shaurya      | missiles for targeting         |
| Missiles     | Shaarya      | enemy installations and        |
| Wilsones     | / 🤘          | strategic points on the        |
|              |              | ground.                        |
| Submarine-   | K-15         | Launched from                  |
| launched     | Sagarika, K- | submarines for nuclear         |
| ballistic    | 4            | deterrence.                    |
| Missiles     | -            | deterrence.                    |
| (SLBMs)      | \$2.5        |                                |
| Man-         | Igla-S,      | Portable systems for           |
| Portable     | Starstreak   | targeting low-                 |
| Air-Defense  | Jaistieak    | flying aircraft and            |
| Systems      |              | helicopters                    |
| (MANPADS)    |              | Helicopters                    |
| (IVIAIVEADS) |              |                                |



### DRDO successfully tests Phase-II ballistic missile defence system



- India successfully conducted a flight test of its
   Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System demonstrating its capability to defend against
  hostile missiles with a range of up to 5,000 km.
- The test, conducted at the integrated test range (ITR) in Odisha's Chandipur.

# India successfully carries out launch of Agni-4 ballistic missile from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur



- Launched from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Agni-4 Missile new-generation nuclear-capable
   Agni-Prime intermediate-range ballistic missile,
   with a strike range as far as 4,000 kilometres.
- The 20-metre-long missile can carry a payload of 1,000 kg and can be fired from a road-mobile launcher.
- It is a surface-to-surface missile, designed and developed by DRDO
- It is a mobile, two-stage solid-fuel system.

## DRDO successfully conducts maiden flight test of long range land attack cruise missile



- Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM), with a range of over 1,000 km, from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher.
- This is a new variant of the Nirbhay LRLACM
- It is configured to launch from ground and also from frontline ships
- Developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru
- Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad and Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru are the two Development-cum-Production-Partners for LRLACM

## DRDO completes Flight Tests of Guided Pinaka Weapon System

- DRDO announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka multi-barrel rocket (MBRL) system
- The Pinaka MBRL, named after the legendary bow of Lord Shiva
- The Indian Army has four Pinaka regiments in service and six more are on order.
- MBRLS is capable of firing free flight as well as guided Pinaka rockets. The free flight rockets can engage targets up to 37.5 km (Pinaka Mk-I) and 60 km (Pinaka Mk-II) range whereas guided Pinaka

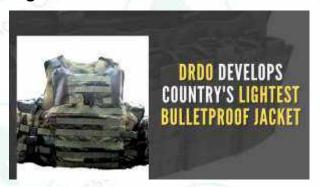
rocket can engage targets located deep into enemy territory up to a range of 75 km with high precision.



- Eventually, the plan is to take up the range to 120 km and then to 300 km.
- Pinaka MBRLS was first used during the Kargil War, where it successfully neutralised Pakistan Army positions on the mountain tops.
- The system is mounted on a Tatra truck for mobility.
- The Pinaka project has been successfully led by two DRDO laboratories in Pune—Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)—in partnership with two private sector firms, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Tata Power Company Ltd (TPCL).
- France is considering India's Pinaka for its requirements along with other systems and a team is expected to visit Indian soon to carry out detailed evaluation of the system.
- Armenia became the first export customer for the Pinaka with interest expressed by several countries in the system.

#### Other Related news to DRDO

### DRDO & IIT Delhi develop ABHED Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets



- named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat).
- The jackets have been developed at the DRDO
   Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT, Delhi.

- These jackets have been created from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material.
- With minimum possible weight of 8.2 kgs and 9.5 kgs for different BIS Levels, these modular-design jackets having front & rear armours provide 360° protection.

#### **NIPUN Munition**



- News: The Defence Research and Development
  Organisation (DRDO) has transferred the Authority
  Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of the 'Nipun'
  munition to the Directorate General of Quality
  Assurance (DGQA) at the Armament Research &
  Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pashan,
  Pune.
- NIPUN is a new anti-personnel mine designed and developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune, India, in collaboration with the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- The mine is intended to be the first line of defense against enemy infantry and infiltrators, and is meant to be used against humans
- NIPUN is considered to be more effective and potent than existing anti-personnel mines, and is said to be safe to handle, transport, and lay.
- Two Indian private industries, Economic Explosives
   Ltd (EEL) in Nagpur and Premier Explosives Ltd (PEL)
   in Secunderabad are currently engaged in bulk
   production as per the purchase order from the
   Indian Army.
- Over 20 munitions have already been delivered to the Indian Army.

### SPACE Testing Hub set up by DRDO, inaugurated in Kerala

- SPACE Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation
- Inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman DRDO **Dr Samir V Kamat**

at Underwater Acoustic Research Facility,
 Kulamavu in Idukki, Kerala.



- The SPACE is set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO
- It has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for Indian Navy onboard various platforms including ships, submarines and helicopters.
- SONAR (Sound Navigation and Ranging) systems
  are used by naval forces for detecting, locating, and
  identifying objects underwater by using sound
  waves.
- The SPACE marks a milestone in naval technology advancement.
- The submersible platform can be lowered to any depth upto 100 m.
- Modern, well-equipped scientific laboratories will now have the capabilities to cater to data processing and sample analyses for Anti-Submarine Warfare research.

# DRDO successfully conducts first phase of field firing trials of Indian light tank 'Zorawar'



- It is an indigenously designed and developed Light Tank, expected to be inducted into the Indian Army by the year 2027
- The 25-tonne Zorawar tank, developed by DRDO's Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T).

It was named after a military general **Zorawar Singh Kahluria** who led the military expedition to **Kailash Mansarovar during the Sino-Sikh War in 1841.** 

# IAF successfully tests Crystal Maze-2 missile capable of striking targets up to 250 kilometres away

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) achieved a significant milestone by successfully test-firing an air-launched ballistic missile, known as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2.
- The missile, capable of striking targets over 250 kilometers away, was launched from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### **About The Crystal Maze 2 Missile**

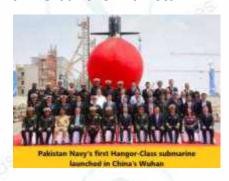
- The Crystal Maze 2 is an extended stand-off range air-to-surface missile of Israel's origin.
- It is designed to strike high-value stationary and relocatable targets, such as long-range radars and air defense systems.
- The missile is effective in GPS-denied environments, similar to conditions faced during the Kargil War.

### OTHER COUNTRIES MISSILE, TEST & EXERCISE

### U.S. Navy Deploys Long-Range Missiles to Counter China

- The US Navy has introduced the AIM-174B, an extremely long-range air-to-air missile, in the Indo-Pacific, aiming to counter China's aerial dominance.
- The defence missile is now the longest-range missile ever fielded by the US.
- Capable of striking targets up to 400 km (250 miles) away, it surpasses the range of China's PL-15 missile, providing US jets a critical edge in aerial engagements.

### China launches first of the 8 Hangor-class submarine built for Pakistan



### Pyoljji-1-2 and Hwasal-1 Ra-3: North Korea Tests Cruise Missile Warhead



 North Korea tested a "super-large" cruise missile warhead and a new anti-aircraft missile in a western coastal area

### Pakistan Successfully Tests Precision-Guided 'Fatah-II' Rocket

 Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres.

### Iran unveils all new and powerful suicide drone 'Shahed-136B'



- Iran for the first time has showcased the Shahed
   136B drone and Jihad ballistic missile.
- The **Shahed-136B** is the new **one-way attack drone** which is also known as a **'kamikaze' drones.**
- the 'kamikaze' drones have formed a vital part in the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Shahed-136B drone operational range of more than 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles).
- Iran also unveiled its "Jihad" single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile with a high-explosive detachable warhead and a range of 1,000 km

## Taiwan Plans Major Stinger Missile Purchase from US

The Taiwanese
 Ministry of National
 Defence plans to buy
 over 1,000 additional
 Stinger missiles to
 boost its defence



capabilities amid growing concerns about China's military activities.

 The FIM-92 Stinger is a man-portable surface-to-air missile system (MANPADS) that was designed and manufactured by the American Defense Industry.

# Taiwan Receives First Shipment of Harpoon Missile Systems from the US



 As a part of the deal in 2020, Taiwan has received its first shipment of 100 land-based Harpoon a nti-ship missile systems from the United States, which arrived at Kaohsiung Port

- This is an important step in strengthening Taiwan's military, especially during times of regional tension.
- developed in the 1970s, numerous variants have been produced since its inception, including air-, ship-, and sub-launched versions.
- It is currently in service with the armed forces of more than 30 countries, including India.
- Range: 90-240 km

#### What is THAAD?



- US to send THAAD defence battery system to Israel
- A THAAD battery consists of 95 soldiers, six truckmounted launchers, 48 interceptors, radar surveillance and radar, and a tactical fire component
- THAAD provides a "rapidly deployable capability against short-range (up to 1,000 km), mediumrange (1,000–3,000 km), and limited intermediaterange (3,000–5,000 km) ballistic missile threats
- It has been developed by Lockheed Martin Corporation.

# 'Steadfast Defender 2024' : NATO's largest military exercise since Cold War



- Steadfast Defender is the largest exercise since the last Reforger exercise in 1988.
- With 90 thousand personnel, from the
   31 NATO allies and Sweden, taking part in drills
   across the North Atlantic and Europe
- It will test the ability of the alliance to quickly deploy forces and will test NATO's new defense plans
- The overall exercise will run through June.



### Russia launches largest naval drill The "Ocean 2024"

- Russia has launched its largest naval drill in decades
- The "Ocean 2024", will be held simultaneously in the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, as well as the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Baltic Seas from September 10-16
- The exercises will involve more than 400 battleships, submarines, and support vessels from the auxiliary fleet, along with over 120 aircraft and more than 90,000 personnel.
- China is also participating in the drills, contributing four vessels and 15 aircraft from the People's Liberation Army.
- representatives from 15 other nations were invited to observe the drills.

#### The "Birlestik-2024" exercise

Participants: Military
 personnel from the five
 participating countries.
 (Azerbaijan,
 Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
 Tajikistan, and
 Uzbekistan.)



- Location: Conducted at

  Oymasha training ground and Cape Tokmak in
  Kazakhstan's Caspian Sea aquatorium.
- Objective: Enhance regional defense cooperation and readiness through joint operational planning.
- Duration: Scheduled from July 11 to July 17
- Scale: Involves approximately 4,000 military personnel
- Focus: Training includes coordination of land, air, and naval forces to address regional security challenges.



#### The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises



- United States and South Korea kicked off a largescale joint military exercises, aimed at strengthening their combined defence capabilities and deterring threats from North Korea
- The annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises comes amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

## Keris Woomera 2024: Indonesia-Australia Joint Military Drills

- Indonesia and Australia have launched joint military exercises off the coast of Java, with around 2,000 troops taking part in a series of air, maritime, amphibious, and land operations.
- The four-day Keris Woomera 2024 drills, include live-fire exercises involving tanks, artillery, infantry, and attack helicopters, along with a joint landing operation and a non-combat evacuation exercise simulating a disaster scenario.
- The exercise is part of Australia's Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2024, its largest international engagement initiative in the region

### U.S. Unveils Advanced Dark Eagle Hypersonic Missile System



- The U.S. military successfully launched a Long-Range Hypersonic missile from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
- The U.S. claims that Dark Eagle outperforms Russia's S-300V4, S-400, and S-500 systems.

## Philippines to acquire U.S. Typhon missile system



- The land-based "mid-range capability" Typhon
  missile launcher, developed by US firm Lockheed
  Martin for the US Army, has a range of 300 miles
  (480 kilometres), though a longer-range version is in
  development.
- Manila and Washington, longstanding treaty allies, have deepened their defense cooperation since
   Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos took office in 2022 and began pushing back on Beijing's claims to the South China Sea.
- The Philippines and the United States conduct annual joint military exercises called Balikatan, which means "shoulder-to-shoulder".

China's First Type 076 Amphibious Assault Ship



- China has launched its first next-generation amphibious assault ship, Named Sichuan after a southwestern Chinese province.
- the Type 076 ranks among the world's largest amphibious assault ships

### **DEFENSE PRCOUREMENT & MOU**

### First Indigenously Developed Pollution Control Vessel Launched in Goa



The Indian Coast Guard's pollution control vessel Samudra Pratap launched at Goa Shipyard on Thursday | Photo Credit: ANI

- The ship was launched and named as 'Samudra Pratap'.
- The Ship has been built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- The vessel will help to check the oil spillage in the country's sea coast.
- GSL, a premier Indian Shipyard, signed a contract for constructing two Pollution Control Vessels for Indian Coast Guard at a cost of Rs 583 Crores.
- It is for the first time that these vessels are being designed and constructed indigenously.
- The ship has a length of 114.5m, breadth of 16.5m and would displace 4170 T.

### ICG launches two Fast Patrol Vessels with over 60% indigenous content built by Goa Shipyard Ltd



 The two Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) 'Adamya' and 'Akshar'

- part of the contract signed with GSL for eight such
   FPVs to be built at a cost of Rs 473 crore.
- primary role of protection, monitoring, control and surveillance
- Each FPV has a length of 52m, breadth of 8m, max speed of 27 knots, Controllable Pitch Propellerbased propulsion system and displacement of 320 tons

## Indian Navy Commissions New Deep-Water Survey Vessel



- Nirdeshak (Yard 3026), second of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships, steered by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata was delivered to the Indian Navy
- The first ship of the class, INS Sandhayak, was commissioned on 03 Feb 24.
- The contract for four Survey Vessels (SVL) was signed on 30 Oct 18.
- displacement of about 3400 tons and overall length of 110 meters

### Samarthak - First ship of Multi Purpose Vessel project launched in Kattupalli

- The Indian Navy marked a significant milestone with the launch of Samarthak, the first vessel under the two Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project being constructed by L&T Shipyard at Kattupalli.
- These vessels will serve a range of functions, including towing other ships, launching and recovering targets, operating unmanned autonomous vehicles, and testing indigenous weapons and sensors under development.

### India's fourth nuclear submarine launched into water



- India launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), S4\*, at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam.
- The S4\* features advanced capabilities, including the K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) with a 3,500 km range.
- India currently has two SSBNs operational. INS
   Arihant was commissioned into service in August 2016.
- The second SSBN, INS Arighaat (S3), was commissioned August 2024
- The 3rd SSBN Aridhman (S4) is currently undergoing sea trials and is expected to be commissioned, into service next year
- The first two SSBNs share the same reactor, while the S4 and S4\* have an improved reactor
- Earlier this month, the Cabinet Committee on Security approved the construction of two indigenous nuclear attack submarines (SSN), also called hunter-killers, a critical requirement for the Indian Navy to monitor the Indo-Pacific.

## India commissioned second nuclear submarine INS Arighat

## INDIA'S 2ND NUCLEAR SUBMARINE INS ARIGHAT COMMISSIONED



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned India's second Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) submarine, at Visakhapatnam
- INS Arighat, is the second in its class after INS
   Arihant, which was commissioned in August 2016.

- INS Arighat is about 112-metre long and weighs around 6,000 tonnes.
- The nuclear reactor can power the submarine to about 12 to 15 knots on surface and up to 20 to 24 knots when submerged.
- The missiles have a range of about 750 km.
- Nuclear-powered submarines are more stealthier and run more deep and silent. They need not surface or snorkel for oxygen to recharge its batteries.
- The third nuclear-powered INS Aridhaman, which is said to be bigger and more sophisticated and can weigh around 7,000 tonnes, is also

## LAUNCH OF 25T BOLLARD PULL TUG, ASHVA (YARD 337)



- Third 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Ashva (Yard 337)
  was launched at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited
  Kolkata.
- "Make in India" initiative of Govt of India.
- Contract for construction and delivery of six 25T BP Tug was concluded with M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL)

### Indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant joins western naval fleet



- With this, the Indian Navy has two aircraft carriers
   INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya on its
   western front.
- The Western Fleet is part of the Mumbaiheadquartered Western Naval Command (WNC).

#### **About INS Vikrant:**

 PM Modi commissioned INS Vikrant on 2 September, 2022.

- It is the first ever indigenously designed and constructed aircraft carrier, & the largest ship ever built in maritime history of India.
- The ship has been designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by M/s Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- Also, with a displacement of 43,000 tonnes when fully loaded.
- The ship is capable of operating an air wing consisting of 30 aircraft

### Indian Navy commissioned Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility – VINETRA at Vishakhapatnam

- The Indian Navy commissioned its indigenously designed and developed Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility
- By Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, at INS Satavahana, Visakhapatnam.
- L&T Defence has constructed the Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility, Vinetra (meaning Trainer).
- The facility, aims to enhance the escape capabilities of crew from a distressed Kalvari-class submarine, and has been indigenously designed and developed



## Stealth frigates from Russia to be delivered in September 2024, February 2025

- After a series of delays, two stealth frigates under construction in Russia for the Indian Navy are set to be delivered soon beginning September.
- "First ship Tushil is ready for acceptance by the Indian Navy and is scheduled to be delivered by September.
- "The second ship Tamal is expected to be delivered by February 2025."
- In October 2016, India and Russia signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement for the four stealth frigates, two directly imported and two to be manufactured by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

- All the four ships are powered by engines from Zorya-Mashproekt of Ukraine.
- A stealth frigate is a type of naval warship designed with advanced stealth technology and features to minimize its radar cross-section and overall visibility to enemy detection systems.

## Two Russian stealth frigates for Indian Navy launched



- The first indigenously built Talwar Class frigate named 'Triput' [Triput, which means arrow], for the Indian Navy, constructed by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), was launched into waters.
- The ship is part of the two frigates India is building indigenously with the help of Russia.
- The ship was launched into the water in a ceremony in Goa attended by P S Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Goa
- India had contracted four frigates from Russia in October 2016, Two of the ships were to be constructed in Russia and two were to be constructed in India with technology transfer from Russia at GSL.
- The delivery of warships to be constructed in Russia was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian war with Ukraine.
- Russia is scheduled to deliver the first of the two ships, **Tushil**, in September 2024 and the other frigate, **Tamal**, by February 2025.

## 2 Anti-Submarine Warfare built for Indian Navy launched at Cochin Shipyard

- The fourth and the fifth ships in the series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercrafts (ASW SWC), vessels of the Indian Navy, were launched at the Cochin Shipyard
- These would bear the names INS MALPE and INS MULKI on being commissioned into the Navy.

 The contract to design, construct and deliver the eight ASW SWC ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) in April 2019.

### 25T BOLLARD PULL TUG, MAHABALI



- 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, made in India, Mahabali has been delivered to Indian Navy in Kochi.
- Contract for construction and delivery of three 25T BP Tugs was concluded with M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd, an MSME
- The Tugs will assist Naval ships and submarines during berthing and un-berthing, turning and maneuvering in confined waters.
- The Tugs will also provide afloat firefighting assistance to ships and will also have capability to conduct limited Search and Rescue Operations.

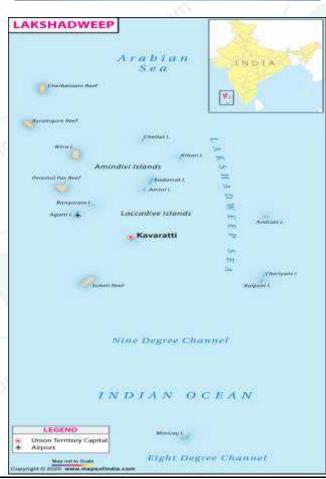
## Commissioning Of INS JATAYU At Minicoy Island (Lakshadweep)



- The Navy is set to commission naval detachment
   Minicoy as INS Jatayu on 6 March at the strategically important Lakshadweep Islands.
- Minicoy is the southernmost island of Lakshadweep which straddles the vital sea lines of communications
- INS Jatayu is the second naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti.
- The base will be expanded over a period of time into a larger base capable of operating aircraft carriers.

- It will increase Indian Navy's capability as the **first** responder in the region and augment connectivity with the mainland.
- The base will enhance operational reach and facilitate Indian Navy's operational effort towards anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in Western Arabian Sea
- The Indian Navy's move is surfaced by increasing China's presence in the region.
- Aligned with the withdrawal of Indian troops from the Maldives, the induction of INS Jatayu is a proactive step of India's geopolitical strategy in response to the Maldives' shift towards China.
- The Naval Detachment Minicoy was set up in the early 1980s under the operational command of Naval Officer-in-Charge (Lakshadweep)





### Navy's Make In India 3<sup>rd</sup> 25T Bollard Pull Tug 'Bajrang' launched in Bharuch, Gujarat



Contract for construction and delivery of **three 25T BP Tug** was concluded with **M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd.** an MSME, in consonance with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative of the Government of India.

### 'Agray' and 'Akshay' ships launched to augment Indian Navy's anti-submarine operations





- Agray and Akshay are the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercrafts (ASW SWC) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) launched in Kolkata
- Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Kolkatabased PSU GRSE for production of 8 such ASW
   SWCs. These are the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> ships.
- These Arnala class of ships will replace the inservice Abhay class ships of Indian Navy
- These are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations
- Neeta Chaudhari, wife of Air Chief Marshal V R
   Chaudhari, Chief of the Air staff, launched the ships

- India is among select countries in the world with a capacity to build modern warships, submarines and aircraft carriers.
- The ASW SWC ships are 77.6 m long & 105 m wide with a displacement of 900 tons and endurance of over 1800 NM.

### First-ever Made-in-India ASTDS tug 'Ocean Grace' at Paradip Port

- ASTDS Approved Standard Tug Design and Specifications
- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU)
- The Tug 'Ocean Grace' is built by Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW promoting Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The goal of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) is to convert at least 50% of all tugs into Green Tugs by 2030
- Aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 to 70% by 2047.

### **Paradip Port**

- It is a natural, deep-water port on the East coast of India in Paradip
- It is at the confluence of the Mahanadi and the Bay of Bengal
- Late **Biju Patnaik**, the then Chief Minister of Odisha, is the **founder father of Paradip Port**.
- Government of India declared Paradip Port as the Eighth Major Port of India on 18th April 1966 making it the FIRST MAJOR PORT in the East Coast commissioned after independence.
- Paradip Port manages almost 25% of the coastal traffic handled by all ports in the country.
- Paradip Port tops the list of Major Ports in productivity; in the fiscal year 2022–2023, it achieved 32,500 metric tons per ship berth day.
- It operates at over 80% berth mechanization.

### Launch of 6<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile Barge, LSAM 20 (Yard 130)



- The Indian Navy launched the 6<sup>th</sup> barge, LSAM 20 (Yard 130), as part of an 11-barge project, constructed by M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, boosting transport and logistics for naval operations.
- A barge is defined as flat-bottomed marine vessel that's mainly used for cargo transportation. They don't move independently like a boat; they float and are towed or tugged by other vessels.
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi Admiral R. Hari Kumar (retired on April 30, 2024)

## Launch Of LSAM 13 (YARD 81) fifth barge of 08 X missile cum ammunition (MCA) Barge Project



- The launch of 'Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13 (Yard 81)', the fifth Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project.
- The contract for building 08 x Missile Cum
   Ammunition Barge was signed between MoD and
   M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd,
   Visakhapatnam on 19 Feb 21.

### MH 60R 'Seahawks' Helicopters To Be Commissioned Into The Indian Navy As INAS 334 Squadron



- The Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role helicopter on 06 Mar 2024 at INS Garuda, the naval air station in Kochi.
- The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334.
- The US-manufactured MH 60R Seahawk is a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter.

- India signed an agreement with the US for procurement of 24-MH 60Rs in February 2020 under the framework of foreign military sales.
- The helicopter is designed for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and vertical replenishment (VERTREP).

'Vajra Shot' developed by Big Bang Boom Solutions has been deployed in the Army and the Air Force



'Vajra Shot' - The India-Made Handheld Anti-Drone Gun With Range of 4 Km

- Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi inaugurated the 'Swavlamban 2024' exhibition at Bharat Mandapam
- loped handheld anti-drone gun, Vajra Shot, attracted significant attention at Swavlamban 2024.
- Designed by Big Bang Boom Solutions
- Range of up to four kilometers.India's indigenously deve
- Can detect and jam drone signals, disrupting communication between drones and their operators.

### Indian Army rolls out its first overhauled T-90 Bhishma tank



- The T-90 Bhishma, the Army's main battle tank since 2003, is known for its firepower, speed, and protection.
- With this overhaul, the tank has become even more powerful and lethal.
- Weighing approximately 47 tonnes,
- 9.6 meters long and 2.8 meters wide.
- Its compact size enables it to manoeuvre quickly through forests, mountains, and marshy terrain at a speed of up to 60 kilometres per hour.
- In terms of firepower, the T-90 Bhishma is equipped with a 125 mm smoothbore gun
- An anti-aircraft gun mounted on top can bring down targets within a two kilometre range, and the tank can fire up to 800 shells per minute.

## Indian Army Set to Receive Apache Helicopters

- The Indian Army is set to receive its first three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from Boeing in December 2024, after a delay of more than six months
- The Apache helicopters are designed mainly for operations in desert areas – have limitations when

- used in high-altitude regions, such as mountainous terrain
- the Army is set to deploy the indigenous light combat helicopter (LCH), manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., in Ladakh next year.
- In March, the Indian Army formed the 451 Aviation Squadron in Jodhpur to operate the new Apache helicopters.
- India signed a deal with Boeing for six Apaches, for the Army, at a cost of around \$800 million in February 2020.
- Country of Origin: United States
- Manufacturer: Boeing
- It is also known as the Apache Guardian
- Other purchasers: India, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, UAE, and UK.

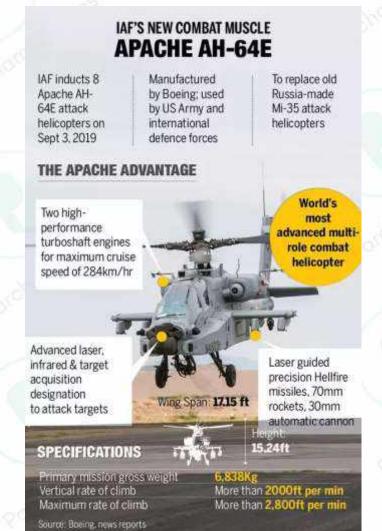
## India develops indigenous Kamikaze drones ahead of 78th Independence Day: Report



- The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has unveiled a groundbreaking development in defence technology: fully indigenous kamikaze drones.
- These "do-and-die" unmanned aerial vehicles, equipped with home-built engines, are capable of flying up to 1,000 kilometers, marking a significant stride in India's defense capabilities
- Kamikaze drones also known as loitering munitions

## Indian Army receives first batch of indigenous suicide drones 'Nagastra-1'





- The Indian Army has received the first batch of man-portable suicide drones named Nagastra-1
- The drones are capable of accurately striking
   enemy training camps, launch pads and infiltrators,
   hence minimising risk to soldiers.
- The high-tech drones are designed and developed completely in India by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), a subsidiary of Solar Industries, Nagpur.
- The drones have an indigenous content of over 75 per cent.
- It will enhance the capability of the Indian Army to execute shallow strikes across the border when necessary.
- Drones like Nagastra-1 with in-built warheads are known as kamikaze or exploding drones.
- The Indian Army placed an order of 480 such drones to EEL, out of which 120 Nagastra-1s have been delivered
- Nagastra -1, in a "kamikaze mode", can neutralise any hostile threat with a GPS-enabled precision strike with an accuracy of 2m.
- The man-portable fixed-wing electric UAV, which weighs 9 kg, has an endurance of 30 min, a man-inloop range of 15 km, and an autonomous mode range of 30 km.
- Its electric propulsion system provides a low acoustic signature to make it undetectable by the enemy at a height of more than 200 metres.
- The munitions can carry a 1 kg warhead up to a range of 15 km, with an upgraded version capable of carrying a 2.2 kg warhead up to 30 km.

#### Indian Air Force to acquire 6 Tapas drones



- Tapas drones are medium-altitude long, endurance-category drones that have been developed indigenously by the DRDO and being manufactured by a consortium of Bharat Electronics Limited and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- The Tapas drones have been tested by the defence forces and during the trials, they managed to reach
   28,000 feet altitude and could fly for over 18 hours.

The IAF has made a proposal to the **Centre to buy 10 made-in-India Tapas drones** – **6** for the **Indian Air Force, 4 for the Indian Navy.** 



| Aspect         | Details   |
|----------------|---|
| Vehicle Name   | Kamaz-53949 Typhoon-K   |
| Manufacturer   | Remdiesel, a subsidiary of KamAZ  |
| Vehicle Type   | Russian-made 4x4 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle                     |
| Purpose        | Safe transportation of troops and military cargo in high-risk areas for mines       |
| Additional     | Command post vehicle, ambulance,  |
| Configurations | logistics support vehicle   |
| Dimensions     | Length: 6.7 m, Width: 2.5 m, Height: 2.8 m  |
| Weight         | Curb weight: 13,700 kg, Payload capacity: 2,000 kg                                  |
| Performance    | Max road speed: 100 km/h, Range: up to 1,000 km without refueling                   |
| Capacity       | Crew: 2 members, Troops: 8 fully equipped   |
| Protection     | Withstands 8 kg TNT explosion under the floor, 10 kg TNT explosion under the wheels |

### Indian Air Force Approves Production of Astra Mark 1 Missiles



The Indian Air Force has given its green signal for the production of **200** Astra mark-1 (Mk-1) missiles for its Su-30 MKI and the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft **Tejas**. The Defence Research and Development
 Organisation (DRDO) developed the Astra Mk-1,
 which is being manufactured by Bharat Dynamics
 Limited, a public-sector company.

#### About the Astra weapon system

- The Astra is an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR)
  missile that can be fired from the Indian Air Force's
  Sukhoi 30MKI, the LCA Tejas fighter aircraft, and the
  Indian Navy's Mig-29K fighter plane.
- The Astra Mk-1 has a range of 80-110 km with a maximum speed of 4.5 Mach. One Mach is equal to the speed of the sound.
- The missile is capable of destroying aerial targets like fighter aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, drones, etc.

## India Unveils New Indigenous Assault Rifle 'Ugram'



- DRDO has developed and launched a new 7.62mm caliber assault rifle named 'Ugram' intended as a standard-issue weapon for the Indian Armed Forces replacing some aging INSAS rifles.
- The newly-created rifle weighs four kg and will have an effective range of 500 metres
- Ugram was developed to meet the operational needs of the military, paramilitary, and police forces.

## Navy Chief formally receives Drishti-10 long endurance UAV



Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar formally received the first Drishti-10 star liner Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) assembled by Adani Defence & Aerospace in Hyderabad.

- The Drishti-10 is an indigenously assembled version of the Hermes-900 MALE UAV and has over 70% indigenous content.
- Drishti-10 Starliner is an advanced Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance, 450 kgs payload capacity, the only all-weather military platform
- The first bird with 75 Navy personnel will leave from Hyderabad to Porbandar

## SARVATRA: Indian Army's Mobile Bridge System



- Crafted by Armament and Combat Engineering
   Systems (ACE) under the Defence Research and
   Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian
   Army.
- Developed in collaboration with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML).
- Sarvatra, offers versatile bridging solutions for all types of military traffic. It is a multi-span bridge that can span gaps from 15–75 meters wide.
- It can be used as an emergency bridge during natural calamities like floods and earthquakes.
- The bridges are mounted on Tatra 815 trucks, and can be set up in less than two and a half hours.

## **Indian Army Inducts First Apache 451 Aviation Squadron**



- Preparing to induct the first batch of AH-64E
   Apache attack helicopters at IAF Hindon Air Force
   Station (GHAZIABAD), the Indian Army Aviation
   Corps raised its first Unit at Jodhpur that will operate the helicopters.
- The Apaches will be the second attack helicopters in the Army after the indigenous Light Combat helicopter (LCH).

- Indian Army had signed a contract to acquire 6
   Apache Helicopters from the US
- IAF already operates a fleet of 22 Apache helicopters on eastern & western fronts
- The Apache helicopters, often referred to as "tanks in the air"
- can strike 138 targets in a minute. With a maximum speed of 280 km/h.
- Equipped with AGM 114 Hellfire anti-tank missiles and Stinger missiles, the Apache AH-64E is prepared to handle both ground and aerial threats.



## Maiden test-firing of India's first indigenously made 1500 HP engine



- The maiden test-firing of India's first indigenously made 1500 Horsepower (HP) engine for Main Battle Tanks at BEML's Engine division in Mysuru complex on March 20, 2024.
- Defence PSU Bharat Earth Movers Ltd's (BEML)
- The 1500 HP engine represents a paradigm shift in military propulsion systems, possessing cutting-edge features such as high power-to-weight ratio, operability in extreme conditions including high altitudes, sub-zero temperatures, and desert environments.
- **Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane** presided over the test firing

#### INAS 334 'SEAHAWKS' commissioned



- INAS 334 'Seahawks', the Indian Navy's first MH 60R Squadron
- INAS Indian Naval Air Squadron
- commissioned in the presence of Adm R Hari Kumar, the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), at INS Garuda,
   Southern Naval Command, Kochi.
- The US-manufactured MH 60R Seahawk is a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter.
- India signed an agreement with the US for procurement of 24-MH 60Rs in February 2020 under the framework of foreign military sales.
- The multi mission helicopter is designed for antisubmarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and vertical replenishment (VERTREP).

## Government issues tender to purchase of 97 LCA Mark-1A fighter planes



- In the largest ever order for indigenous military hardware placed by the Indian govt, a Rs 65,000 crore tender has been issued by the Defence ministry to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for made-in-India 97 LCA Mark 1A fighter jets.
- LCA Mark 1A is the advanced version of Tejas aircraft.
- The new fighters will enable the Indian Air Force (IAF) to replace its aging MiG fleet.

### **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**

- The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme was started by the Government of India in 1984
- It was in 2003 that the Light Combat Aircraft programme was named 'Tejas' (meaning radiance in Sanskrit) by the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The lightest, smallest, and tailless multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
- Designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-tosurface, precision-guided, weapons.

#### Variants of Tejas:

- **Tejas Trainer:** 2-seater operational conversion trainer for training air force pilots.
- LCA Navy: Twin- and single-seat carrier-capable for the Indian Navy.
- LCA Tejas Navy MK2: This is phase 2 of the LCA Navy variant.
- LCA Tejas Mk-1A: This is an improvement over the LCA Tejas Mk1 with a higher thrust engine

## India receives fresh batch of Igla-S air defence system from Russia, to be deployed at LAC



- Indian Army received 24 Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), which were accompanied by 100 missiles.
- the rest of these systems will be made in India through Transfer of Technology (ToT) from Russia.
- This procurement aims to enhance the Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities, particularly in high mountainous terrain along the northern border.

#### Igla-S

#### Igla-S portable anti-aircraft missile system Designed to engage all types of aircraft and helicopters, as well as small airborne targets such as cruise missiles, at any time of day in visible conditions on collision and pursuit courses against background and artificial thermal interference. 500 to 6,000 m 10 to 3,500 m target altitude Firing range no more than 12 s. no more than 5 s. mobile-to-combat position ready to start time transition time from activation Target speed: up to 400 m/s up to 320 m/s on collision courses on catch-up cources Homing head type: tracking • passive • thermal • bispectral Sources: Roseboranexport. **▼SPUT∩IK**

- It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) developed by Russia.
- It is known in the West as SA-24 Grinch.
- It entered service with the Russian Army in 2004.
- It has the capability of bringing down low-flying aircraft. It can also identify and neutralise air targets, such as cruise missiles and drones.
- It has an effective range upto 6 km.
- The limiting altitude of effective target destruction for the "Igla-S" complex is 3.5 km.

## Indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft developed by Bengaluru firm



- Flying Wedge Defence, a city based defence and aerospace technology firm unveiled the FWD-200B unmanned aircraft.
- The firm claimed that it is India's first indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft.
- The FWD-200B has a payload capacity of 100 kgs and is classified as a MALE Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (Medium-altitude Long-endurance)
- The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) consists of optical surveillance payloads and is integrated with missile-like weapons for precision air strikes.
- With a max speed of 200 kts/370 kmph, it has an endurance capacity of 12-20 hours.
- "The FWD-200B can carry a maximum takeoff weight of 498 Kgs in addition to this, it holds a ground control station (GCS) range of 200 kms.

## SEBEX 2: India gets one of the most powerful non-nuclear bombs



- SEBEX 2 is developed by Economic Explosives
   Limited (Solar Group) under the Make in India
   initiative
- This explosive has a lethality 2.01 times greater than standard TNT (Trinitrotoluene)
- It has been evaluated, tested, and certified by the
   Navy under its Defence Export Promotion Scheme
- SEBEX 2 is made from High-Melting Explosives
   (HMX), which means it can greatly increase the
   destructive power of many weapons, like bombs,
   gun shells, and warheads, without adding any extra
   weight.

## India signs repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 assault rifles, to be delivered by end-2025



- The Ministry of Defence has signed a repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 rifles from Sig Sauer of the U.S. and deliveries are expected to completed by end-2025.
- The Army has for long been looking to replace the indigenous INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System) rifles in use with a modern rifle.
- The Army has inducted 66,400 of the 72,400 SIG-716 assault rifles procured under a ₹700-crore deal in February 2019
- The SIG-716 weighing 3.82 kgs and has an effective range of 600m and is more capable and reliable than the INSAS in use.
- It employs the heavier caliber 7.62 mm
   ammunition compared to the 5.56mm of the INSAS.

## IIT-Madras collaborate with Munitions India to develop India's first indigenously designed 155 mm smart ammunition



- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Munitions India Limited, a Defence Public Sector Enterprise, to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155 Smart ammunition
- The goal is to achieve a circular error probable (CEP) of 10 meters, compared to the current CEP of 500 meters.
- The smart shell is expected to have a minimum range of 8 km and a maximum range of 38 km
- It aims to increase accuracy and lethality, and achieve indigenization in the defense sector.

## Army launches integrated generator monitoring, control system 'Vidyut Rakshak'



- A tech-based innovation -- an integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system -developed by the Indian Army was launched.
- 'Vidyut Rakshak', developed by the Army Design Bureau (ADB) was launched by the Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi.
- Indian Army is observing the 'Year of Tech Absorption'
- Apart from monitoring generator parameters, it enables fault prediction, and prevention and automates manual operation, saving manpower.

### IIT Indore Develops E-Shoes for Live Location Tracking



The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore has delivered 10 pairs of Tribo-Electric Nanogenerator (TENG)-based shoe sole energy harvesting units to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO),

- Which will help in live location tracking of jawans and can help improve the performance of athletes as well.
- The TENG technology can be used to track the location of senior citizens suffering from Alzheimer's, school children and climbers and can help monitor the attendance and work of workers in factories.

## Indian Army Inducts First Apache 451 Aviation Squadron

- Preparing to induct the first batch of AH-64E
   Apache attack helicopters at IAF Hindon Air Force
   Station (GHAZIABAD), the Indian Army Aviation
   Corps raised its first Unit at Jodhpur that will operate the helicopters.
- The Apaches will be the second attack helicopters in the Army after the indigenous Light Combat helicopter (LCH).
- Indian Army had signed a contract to acquire 6
   Apache Helicopters from the US
- IAF already operates a fleet of 22 Apache helicopters on eastern & western fronts

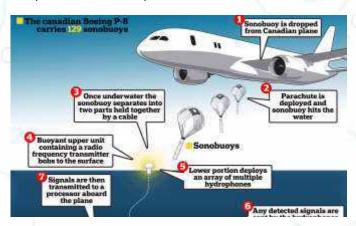
### Indian Army Signed MoU To Advance Collaboration In 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies For Indian Army'

- Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Indian Army and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER), - an autonomous Research and Development laboratory under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance collaboration in 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for Indian Army'.
- 2024 'Year of Technological Absorption for Indian Army'

## US approved a \$52.8 million deal to sell Anti Submarine Warfare Sonobuoys to India



- Sonobuoys are electro-mechanical acoustic sensors that relay underwater sounds emitted from ships & submarines; they are critical for anti-submarine warfare.
- A naval helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft generally drops sonobuoys in a pattern. An inflatable system with a radio transmitter remains on the surface for communication with the ship or aircraft tracking it while sensors descend below the surface to predetermined depth.



 While India already operates the American sonobuoys from the P-8I maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, the fresh deal is for the MH-60 Romeo helicopters, also procured from the US.

### Australia, U.S., U.K. sign nuclear transfer deal for AUKUS submarines



- Australia had signed a deal to allow the exchange of nuclear secrets and material with the United States and Britain, a key step toward equipping its navy with nuclear-powered submarines.
- It is a trilateral security partnership between the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Australia agreed in 2021.

## CCS clears deals for two indigenous nuclear attack submarines, 31 MQ-9B drones from U.S



- The Cabinet Committee on Security approved two high-profile deals for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from General Atomics of the U.S. as well indigenous construction of two Nuclear Attack Submarines (SSN - Ship Submersible Nuclear).
- India has already indigenously manufactured nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) and the SSN project
- India's second SSBN INS Arighaat, was commissioned into service at Visakhapatnam in end-August joining the first SSBN INS Arihant, which was commissioned into service in 2016.

## India delivers 1<sup>st</sup> batch of BrahMos missiles to Philippines



- This is the first export order for the supersonic cruise missile, a joint venture between India and Russia
- In January 2022 the two countries signed a deal worth almost \$375 million to equip the Philippine Marines with three batteries of missiles.
- The BrahMos battery comprises four mobile autonomous launchers, each with three missiles, enabling the command post to fire 12 missiles at a similar number of targets within 30 seconds.
- India has set a defense export target of ₹35,000 crore by 2024-25.
- India's defence exports grew 32.5% last fiscal and crossed the ₹21,000-crore mark for the first time.

#### **BrahMos missile**

- Supersonic cruise missile.
- Joint venture between the DRDO of India and NPOM of Russia
- Named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- The missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets and has been long inducted by the Indian armed forces.
- range is 450km and work is on to extend it to 600km and beyond.
- It operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle

## Indian Army plans Rs 57,000 crore project to replace Russian T-72 tanks

- The Indian Army is set to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) this year
  - > to produce 1,770 Future Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs) in India
  - to replace the ageing Russian-origin T-72 tanks from 2030 onwards
- The Army plans to induct the first batch of 118 indigenous Arjun Mark-1A tanks this year.
- The Army is gearing up to deploy 354 indigenous light tanks for high-altitude warfare under Project Zorawar

## LCA Tejas MK-1A completes maiden flight in Bengaluru



- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) successfully completed the first flight of indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A fighter jet in Bengaluru
- The jet is a superior variant of the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas
- The Tejas Mk-1A will have an advanced electronic radar, warfare communication systems, additional combat capability with Beyond Visual Range Missiles and improved maintenance features.

### IIT Dharwad Unveils Innovative Fire Rescue Drone



- A team of teachers and students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad, has developed a fire rescue assistant drone.
- The drone is designed to be able to fly through small rooms and high temperatures, which is important for fighting fires in complicated places, sensors that can survive soot and making protective shields that are flexible after a lot of fire testing.
- By 2025, the remaining MiG-21 Bison squadrons will be phased out to make way for the new Tejas aircraft
- IAF had signed a contract worth over ₹48,000 crore in 2021 with the HAL for supplying 83 LCA Mark 1A planes. The IAF has clearance to buy 97 more LCA Mark 1A fighter jets at ₹65,000 crore.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is an Indian public sector aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bangalore. Established on 23 December 1940, HAL is one of the oldest and largest aerospace and defence manufacturers in the world
- C.B. Ananthakrishnan Director (Finance) & CFO with Addl. Charge of Chairman and Managing Director

## Indian navy signs MOU with Bajaj Allianz life insurance for providing insurance to naval civilians

- This initiative is a key highlight of 2024, declared as the "Year of Naval Civilians."
- provides Naval Civilians with voluntary life insurance options at competitive rates.

### **Defence Accounts Department Partners With Banks for SPARSH Centres**



- The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) of the Ministry of Defence DAD has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank in New Delhi to onboard them as SPARSH service centres across 1,128 branches of the four banks.
- SPARSH (System for Pension Administration, RAKSHA) is a web-based system for processing pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary.

## **Indian Army Partners with IOCL for Green** and Sustainable Transport Solutions



- The Indian Army has collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology for heavyduty e-mobility.
- IndianOil Equips Indian Army with Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus for use in Delhi-NCR
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Army and the IOCL in presence of Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande and Indian Oil Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology offers a clean and efficient alternative by converting Hydrogen gas

- into electricity through an electro-chemical process.
- The process leaves water vapour as the only by product, thus ensuring zero emission.

## Indian Oil Corp. and Indian Navy partnered for Hydrogen E-Mobility



- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) handed over a green hydrogen fuel cell bus to the Indian Navy to promote hydrogen and fuel cell technology for heavy-duty e-mobility.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between both entities in the presence of Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, S M Vaidya, Chairman, Indian Oil.

### Indian Army and Indian Air Force signs MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara



- to enhance the skills and capability building of personnel in logistics operations.
- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya will serve as a vital partner in empowering the Armed Forces with cutting-edge logistics education, research and innovation.

### IIT Kanpur & AFMS to Develop Tech for Monitoring Soldiers' Health in Tough Terrains

 Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur on 18 April 2024.  Under this MoU, AFMS and IIT Kanpur will team up to undertake research and develop new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains.

## India, Japan sign agreement for UNICORN masts for Indian naval warships



- India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Implementation (MoI) for the "co-development" of UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) mast, a conical structure that houses antennas atop warships increasing their stealth characteristics, for fitment on Indian Naval warships under the framework of the India-Japan Defence Technology Cooperation.
- It will be co-developed by Bharat Electronics
   Limited in India with Japanese collaboration.
- Once implemented, this would be the first export case of defence technology from Japan under the bilateral agreement on defence equipment and technology transfer signed in 2015.
- Indian Envoy to Japan Sibi George

Pantsir-S1: India's New Missile-Gun System from Russia

### **INDIA-RUSSIA PACT: JOINT**



- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's Rosoboronexport (ROE) to collaborate on the Pantsir air defence missile-gun systems.
- The Pantsir-S1 system is a mobile, short-range air defence system equipped with both missile and gun capabilities.

- The Pantsir-S1's capabilities include engaging targets within a range of 1,200 to 20,000 meters using missiles, and 200 to 4,000 meters with gun weapons.
- The altitude range for missiles is from 15 to 15,000 meters, while guns can engage targets between 0 to 3.000 meters.
- It can also handle up to four targets simultaneously and engage objects moving at speeds of up to 1,000 meters per second.

### **Army receives Sabal 20 logistics drone**



- The Army has received Sabal 20 logistics drones procured from EndureAir Systems (Kanpur based) for deployment in the Eastern sector.
- Sabal 20 is an electric unmanned helicopter capable of carrying payloads of up to 20 kg.
- the design "ensures remarkable stability, superior high-altitude performance, minimised turbulence risk, and outstanding lifting capacity across diverse terrains".
- Sabal 20 is engineered to meet rigorous operational demands, supporting missions such as long-range deliveries, high-altitude operations, and precision logistics.
- Its advanced Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) technology enables seamless operations in confined and rugged terrains, while its low RPM design minimises noise, enhancing stealth in sensitive missions.

## IIT Kanpur Develops "Anālakṣhya" Stealth Technology

- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K)
  announced a breakthrough in stealth technology,
  which would make combat systems like tanks and
  fighter aircraft invisible, or near-invisible to enemy
  radar.
- Designated a "meta-material surface cloaking system" (MSCS), this has been named the Anālakṣhya by its inventors in IIT-K.
- It is of major interest to the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in its

- development of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) -- a "stealth fighter" that is being engineered to be near-invisible to the enemy's air defence radar.
- The system is currently under acquisition by the Indian armed forces.

### India Tests Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile K-4



- The potency of India's nuclear arsenal has witnessed a quantum jump—the 3,500-km range solid-fuelled K4 submarine launched ballistic missile (SLBM).
- The missile, which was fired for the first time from a submarine—INS Arighaat - was tested for almost its complete range across the Bay of Bengal.
- Even though the missile has been tested six times before, this was the first time it was fired from the submarine.
- While India did operate the INS Arihant with the K15 SLBM, the range was only 750 km.
- With the induction of INS Arihant into the Navy in 2016, India completed the nuclear triad - of being able to fire a nuclear ballistic missile for land, air and undersea (but the potency was less because of the range).
- India could have only covered certain parts of Pakistan with the K-15. But the K4 enables covering not just the whole of Pakistan but also a large part of China.
- Incidentally, India is also working on the K5 missile which will have a range of about 5,000 km.
- India currently operates two nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBN)—INS Arihant and INS Arighaat. Working on third - INS Aridhaman

### **Operation Tamarisk**

- During the Cold War, intelligence gathering was crucial as the U.S., U.K., and France sought ways to gain an advantage over the Soviet Union.
- One unconventional method involved sifting through discarded materials, leading to the operation known as Mission Operation Tamarisk.



 Operation Tamarisk took place in East Germany, which was a joint effort by U.S., U.K., and French intelligence agencies. The goal was to gather insights from Soviet military waste.

## Rajnath Singh commissioned Stealth frigate 'INS Tushil' into Indian Navy in Russia



- INS Tushil (F 70), the latest multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia on December 09, 2024
- INS Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigates of the Project 1135.6 of which, six are already in service. INS Tushil, the seventh in the series
- It is armed with a range of advanced weapons, including the jointly-developed Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles.
- The name Tushil translates to "protector shield,"
- its crest symbolizes the 'Abhedya Kavacham'
   (Impenetrable Shield), alongside its motto—
   Nirbhay, Abhedya aur Balsheel (Fearless, Indomitable, Resolute)
- The ship features an indigenous content of 26%.
- INS Tushil will join the Western Fleet, the "Sword Arm" of the Indian Navy, under the Western Naval Command, ranking among the most technologically advanced frigates in the world.

## INS Nirdeshak to be commissioned at Vizag Naval Dockyard



- INS Nirdeshak is the second ship under the Survey Vessel (Large) Project of the Indian Navy.
- It is designed to conduct hydrographic surveys, assist in navigation, and support maritime operations.
- It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata with over 80% indigenous content.
- INS Sandhayak, the first of the four ships of Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project, was commissioned on February 3
- Legacy: INS Nirdeshak represents
  the reincarnation of the erstwhile INS Nirdeshak,
  which served the Indian Navy for 32 years with
  distinction until its decommissioning in 2014.
- The name 'Nirdeshak', meaning 'Pathfinder', signifies its role in charting the seas with precision.
- Key Specifications:
  - Displacement: Approx. 3400–3800 tons.
  - Length: 110 meters.
  - Speed: Capable of achieving speeds exceeding 18 knots.
  - Endurance: Can remain at sea for over 25 days.

## Defence ministry signs Rs 13,500 Cr deal with HAL for 12 Su-30 fighters



- The Defence Ministry inked a Rs 13,500 crore deal with state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to procure 12 Sukhoi jets for the Indian Air Force.
- The Russian-origin aircraft will feature 62.6 per cent domestic content.
- Su-30MKI is a two-seater multi-role long-range fighter jet developed by Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi.
- It is now built under licence by HAL for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

### Indian Navy to commission last Scorpeneclass submarine & first Nilgiri-class frigate in January 2025

- The Indian Navy is set to begin 2025 with two new commissioning.
- The last of the Kalvari-class or Scorpene-class submarines and the first of the Nilgiri-class frigates are likely to be commissioned in January.
- Both were scheduled for commissioning in December, but the timelines have changed.
- Vagsheer is the sixth and last Scorpene-class submarine, ordered by the Indian Navy in 2005.
- It was launched in April 2022.
- These submarines have been completely built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders through a transfer of technology from France-based Naval Group.
- While the French name for this class of submarines is Scorpene, the Indian Navy has classified these as the Kalvari-class submarines.
- Scorpenes are 2000-ton conventional attack submarines designed for all types of missions, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, long-range strikes, special operations or intelligence gathering.
- These submarines have six weapon-launching tubes and 18 weapons (torpedoes, missiles).
- The six submarines in the Kalvari class are:
  - > INS Kalvari: commissioned in December 2017
  - INS Khanderi: commissioned in September 2019
  - > INS Karanj: commissioned in March 2021
  - > INS Vela: commissioned in November 2021
  - > INS Vagir: commissioned in January 2023
- first Nilgiri-class frigate, INS Nilgiri, launched in September 2019.
- The Nilgiri-class frigates are part of Project 17A, a series of seven stealth guided-missile frigates being built for the Indian Navy - also being built by Mazagon Dock.

- These Project 17A frigates are based on the P17
   Shivalik-class frigates with advanced stealth
   features, and indigenous weapons and sensors than
   the Shivalik-class frigates.
- The second ship, Tamal, is expected to be delivered by next year.
- These ships are part of a \$2.5 billion
   deal inked between India and Russia in 2016 for
   four frigates two ships were to be built in Russia
   and the other two will be built at the Goa Shipyard
   in India with technical collaboration from Russia.

### Indian Light Tank achieves major milestone by firing several rounds accurately at high altitude

- at an altitude of more than 4200m.
- This was subsequent to the Phase I trial in desert environment in September 2024.
- This light tank has been defined, designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment, the Chennai-based laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- It is manufactured by the Industry Partner Larsen & Toubro Precision Engineering & Systems.
- ILT is being designed as a 25-ton class armoured fighting vehicle for Armed Forces for High altitude applications.

## Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Signs MoU with Indian Navy to Boost Logistics Education & Research

- The MoU aims at enhancing logistics-related education, research, and training for the Indian Navy.
- The collaboration is set to strengthen the Indian Navy's logistical framework by focusing on supply chain management, multimodal transportation, and sustainability in logistics.
- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, established in 2022 as a central university under the Ministry of Railways, is dedicated to creating world-class talent in the logistics and transportation sectors.

### Adani Defence Delivers 2<sup>nd</sup> Drishti-10 Drone to Indian Navy for Maritime Security



- The second Drishti-10, a variant of Israel's Hermes 900 medium-altitude long-endurance UAV, was integrated into naval operations at Porbandar in Gujarat following the successful deployment of the first drone earlier this year.
- Manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace at its Hyderabad facility
- Drishti 10, India's only indigenous UAV operating reliably above 32,000+ feet with large payload carrying capacity and boasting a 36-hour endurance and a payload capacity of 450 kg.
- The Drishti 10 is the sole military platform approved to operate in all weather conditions, holding Nato's STANAG 4671 certification for airworthiness of its UAV system.
- Adani Defence also delivered the Drishti-10 Starliner to the Indian Army.

## India ships first batch of Akash Weapon system to Armenia



- The first batch of the indigenously developed surface-to-air missile system Akash, was shipped to Armenia.
- part of a deal under which India is to supply 15
   Akash systems to Armenia.
- This is the second missile system to be exported from India after India sold the supersonic Brahmos cruise missile to the Philippines.
- With a record defence export of Rs 21,083 crore in 2023-24, the government has set a defence export target of Rs 35,000 crore for 2024-25.
- The United States of America has emerged as the largest buyer of the Indian weapon system, followed by France.

#### **About the Akash Missile System**

- The Akash is a surface-to-air missile system developed by the premier Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- Each Akash system is equipped with an indigenously developed single Rajendra 3D passive electronically scanned array radar.

- range of 25 km and can engage hostile aircraft, drones, missiles and other aerial assets.
- The Indian Air Force inducted the Akash missile system in 2014, and the Indian Army in 2015

#### **About Armenia**

Capital: YerevanCurrency: Dram

Prime Minister: Nikol Pashniyan



## 2 indigenously-built warships Nilgiri & Surat delivered to Indian Navy



- 2 warships, a destroyer (Surat) and a frigate (Nilgiri) were delivered to the Indian Navy.
- The ships have been designed by the Warship
   Design Bureau of Indian Navy and constructed indigenously by Mazagon Docks Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL)
- Yard 12707 (Surat), the fourth and final Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyer.
- Previous 3 in the past three years IN Ships
   Visakhapatnam, Mormugao and Imphal commissioned
- It is also poised to be IN's first Al enabled warship.
- Yard 12651 (Nilgiri), is the First of Class (FoC) ship
  of Project 17A stealth frigate is a follow-on of the
  Shivalik class (Project 17) frigates active in service.

- Nilgiri is first among the seven P17A frigates under construction and MDL, Mumbai and GRSE, Kolkata.
- Nilgiri & Surat are expected to be delivered to IN in 2025 and 2026.

### Defence Ministry signs contract with L&T for procurement of K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns

- The Defence Ministry signed a ₹7,629 crore contract with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for 100 additional of 155 mm/52 calibre K9 Vajra-T selfpropelled tracked artillery guns.
- The K9 Vajra is built by L&T with technology transfer from South Korean defence major Hanwha

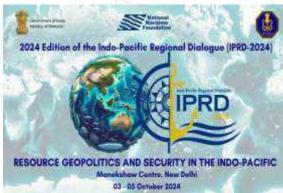
  Defence

 The K9 Vajra was mainly brought for use in deserts, and the standoff with China prompted the Army to deploy them in the mountains.



### **DEFENCE CONFERENCES**

## Indian Navy's IPRD 2024 to Focus on Resource-Geopolitics & Security



- The 2024 edition of the annual apex-level international conference of the Indian Navy, the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD).
- theme 'Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific'
- in New Delhi from the 3rd to the 5th October

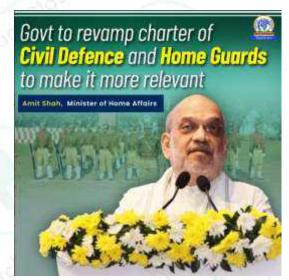
Indian Army To Conduct Chanakya Defence Dialogue – 2024 On 24-25 October



 The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) is set to conduct the **Second Edition** of its flagship event, **Chanakya Defence Dialogue**-2024 .

- theme "Drivers in Nation Building: Fuelling Growth through Comprehensive Security".
- will be conducted on 24th and 25th October 2024 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- will facilitate in- depth discussions, for national and international leaders, policymakers and subject matter experts foster strategic partnerships and contribute to the formulation of actionable insights for enhancing national security and development.

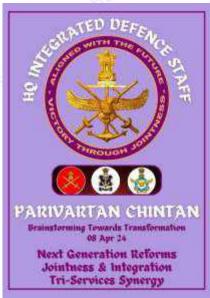
14th All India Conference on Civil Defence and Home Guards in Gandhinagar, Gujarat



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addresses 14th All India Home Guards and Civil Defence Conference in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 22<sup>nd</sup> October

- the Civil Defence Directorate was established in
   1962, and the Civil Defence Act was passed in 1968
- Invaluable contribution of Home Guards and Civil Defence volunteers during the wars of 1965 and 1971.

### 'Parivartan Chintan', a Tri-Service Conference by Defence Ministry



- Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service
   Conference aimed at generating new and fresh
   ideas, initiatives and reforms to achieve enhanced
   jointness and integration among the army, navy, and
   air force
- held in New Delhi on 08 Apr 2024.
- A day long discussion will be chaired by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.
- The 'Chintan' will be the first-ever conference of the heads of all tri-services institutions, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the three services
- General Manoj Pande Chief of the Army Staff (COAS),
- Admiral R. Hari Kumar Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Choudhari Chief of the Air Staff (CAS).

## Two-Day Maiden Joint Commanders Conference in Lucknow

- The first Joint Commanders' Conference (JCC) is set to take place at the Headquarters Central Command, Lucknow from 04-05 September 2024.
- Theme 'Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat: Transforming the Armed Forces
- Inauguration by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will speak to the commanders from the Army, the Air Force and the Navy
- It will provide an opportunity for the Commanders to review modernisation plans of the Armed Forces and discuss ways to improve the nation's defence capability through jointness & enhanced synergy among the three Services.

### Indian Navy to host 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Goa Maritime Symposium



- Indian Navy will be hosting the fifth edition of Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS -24) at Naval War College, Goa from 23 - 24 Sep 24
- for fostering collaborative thinking, cooperation, and mutual understanding between India and key maritime nations of the Indian Ocean Region.
- Theme Common Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region: Progressing Lines of Efforts to Mitigate Dynamic Threats such as illegal and unregulated fishing and other illegal maritime activities.
- The two-day symposium will see the participation of Naval representatives from 12 countries Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, the Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- The observers from Kenya and Tanzania will also attend the event

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates MTEX-24



- The Maritime Technical Exposition MTEX-24 in association with the <u>Federation of Indian Chambers</u> <u>of Commerce and Industry</u> (FICCI) taking place in Visakhapatnam.
- MTEX-24 showcases the latest advancements in naval technology.
- MTEX-24, a three-day defence exposition as part of MILAN 2024.
- MTEX-24 highlights India's push towards selfreliance in the defence sector.
- It showcases the latest advancements in naval technology like shipbuilding, communication systems, cybersecurity, and sustainable energy solutions developed by the Indian industry.

### Border Security Force (BSF) Delegation Commences 54<sup>th</sup> BGB-BSF Border Conference in Dhaka

- A 9-member delegation of Border Security Force
   (BSF) led by Director General (DG) Nitin Agrawal
   reached Dhaka to attend the 54<sup>th</sup> DG-level BGB-BSF
   Border Conference.
- The conference will be held from March 5th to 9th at the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) headquarters in Dhaka.
- Border Guard Bangladesh DG Major General: Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui

#### **SEMINAR 'MEGHAYAN 2024'**



- As part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations (23<sup>rd</sup> March), a METOC (Meteorological and Oceanographic) seminar 'Meghayan-24' was conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC)
- at Southern Naval Command on 28 Mar 24.
- The theme 'At the Frontline of Climate Action'
- An indigenous mobile application INDRA (Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis) to disseminate weather related information and forecasts empowering optimal & quick decision making was also launched.
- The application has been developed by BISAG
   (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) Gujarat in coordination with Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy.

## Tri-Service Conference, 'Parivartan Chintan II', Chaired By CDS General Anil Chauhan



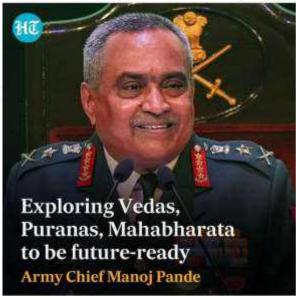
Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan chaired a two-day conference, 'Parivartan Chintan-2' on 9-10 May on the jointness and integration of the Armed Forces in New Delhi.

### CDS, General Anil Chauhan Chaired an apex level Tri-Service Financial Conference in New Delhi



 Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan chaired an apex level Tri-Service Financial Conference in New Delhi on 5<sup>th</sup> August.  The conference was aimed to enhance cohesion and synergy in financial issues of the Armed Forces and saw the participation of senior officials from Ministry of Defence, Controller General Defence Accounts among others.

## Project Udbhav to Revive Ancient patterns in Military Culture



- As part of 'Project Udbhav', a seminar-cumexhibition on 'Historical Patterns of Indian Strategic Culture' was held at the National Museum in New Delhi on May 21, 2024.
- What is Project Udbhav?
- Project Udbhav was launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Indian Military Heritage Festival on October 21, 2023.
- It is a collaboration between Indian Army and United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence services think tank.
- The project, named 'Udbhav', translates to 'origin' or 'genesis'
- The Project has delved deep into ancient texts such as Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads and Arthashastra.
- Furthermore, it has explored the epic battles of the Mahabharata and the strategic brilliance practiced during the reigns of Mauryas, Guptas and Marathas, which has shaped India's rich military heritage,

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated IDAX-24 in Jodhpur

- The Indian Air Force is conducting one of its largest multinational air exercises, Tarang Shakti-24, in Jodhpur.
- On the sidelines of the event, the IAF also hosted the India Defence Aviation Exposition (IDAX-24)

- which was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- Scheduled from September 12-14
- The event will provide an opportunity for the Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) and Indian audience to witness, experience and interact with participants from the Indian aviation industry, including DPSUs, DRDO, private industries (Tier-I, II, III) and top-notch startups. (IANS)

### **Tarang Shakti exercise**

- It will be the largest international air exercise ever conducted in India, with invitations extended to 51 countries.
- Phase one of the exercise will be conducted at Sulur in Tamil Nadu from August 6 to August 14 and four countries including France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom will participate with their assets.
- Phase two will be held at Jodhpur in
   Rajasthan from September 1 to 14 and it will see participation from Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE and the USA with their assets.

Indian Air Force's Sarang Helicopter Display Team to participate at Singapore Air Show 2024





A team of **71 personnel of Indian Air Force's (IAF) Sarang Helicopter Display Team** landed at the Paya

- Lebar Air Base of Singapore to participate in the Singapore Air Show 2024.
- The biennial Singapore Air Show is scheduled from February 20–25, 2024 at the Changi Exhibition Centre (CEC)
- The team will showcase its aerobatics maneuvers with five Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) also known as 'Dhruy
- The name "Sarang" means "peacock" in Sanskrit.
- The Sarang Helicopter Display Team was formed in 2003 and their first International public performance was in 2004, at Asian Aerospace Show Singapore.
- The 'Dhruv' helicopter, designed and conceived by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is an all-weather, multi-mission capable helicopter.

#### **EURONAVAL 2024**



- India is among 104 countries invited to attend the world's largest naval defence trade show.
- The event will be held from November 4th to 7th,
   2024, at the Paris-Nord Villepinte Exhibition Centre.
- This year, 13 countries will be organising their own national pavilion

### Chief of Defence Staff Chairs 35th Tri-Services Commanders' Conference in Kochi



- Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan chaired the 35th Tri-services Commanders' Conference (TSTCC) at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
- Commanders from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, along with officers from the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and various formations, attended the conference.

### **DEFENCE EVENTS**

### Kaksar Bridge renamed as Captain Amit Bhardwai Setu



- in Honor of Kargil War Hero Capt. Amit Bhardwaj
- During the 1999 Kargil War, Capt. Amit Bhardwaj of the 4 JAT Battalion sacrificed his life in Kaksar, Kargil.

## Indian Army launches month-long tribute to 1962 Battle of Walong hero



- from October 17 to November 14, 2024,
- to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of Walong during the 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- Events will culminate on Walong Day, November 14, with the inauguration of the renovated Walong War Memorial

### Indian Army opened Khalubar War Memorial in Ladakh



 Located in Aryan Valley, the memorial honors the bravery of soldiers, including Captain Manoj Pandey, who recaptured the area during the Kargil War.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performs Shastra Puja on Bijoya Dashami



- at Sukna cantonment, Darjeeling on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami
- · old tradition of weapon worship

### Indian Army Organises Human Library Event With Kargil War Heroes As Part Of 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas Celebrations



- In Ladakh, In a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of Indian soldiers, the Tiger Hill Brigade of Indian Army organised a Human Library event with Kargil War Heroes as part of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations.
- The event, held in Hanuyokma village in the Hanu Valley, aimed to honor the nation's war heroes and inspire the local youth.

### **Kargil Vijay Diwas**

- It is celebrated on July 26 every year.
- The day commemorates the victory of the Indian armed forces in the Kargil War fought against

  Pakistan
- The year 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

## BSF Organises "Grow with the Trees" Plantation Drive in Srinagar



- The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), organized the "Grow with the Trees" plantation drive at the BSF Headquarters in Srinagar.
- The drive aimed to foster a sense of community and teamwork while addressing environmental sustainability.

### The 'Know Your Army' Programme Began In Leh

- In Ladakh, in the run-up to a series of events of Kargil Vijay Diwas, a two-day-long motivational programme under the theme 'Know Your Army' has begun in Leh.
- Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to commemorate the victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999.
- This year marks the 25th anniversary or Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- This programme is being organised to motivate local youth to join the army as well as familiarise the local population with the modern weapons technology, tactics, and battle-worthiness of the Indian army.

## IAF conclude 3rd Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Program (WASP) with Tri-Service

- This edition of WASP saw tri-services participation for the first time.
- Theme "India's Strategic Culture and Imperative for Contemporary National Security'
- WASP is a strategic education programme of 15 weeks duration which was started in 2022 to

provide the participants with a deep understanding of geo-politics, grand strategy and Comprehensive National Power.



### Indian Army Launches Project NAMAN: SPARSH-Enabled Service Centres Nationwide



- The Indian Army launched the first phase of Project NAMAN, in presence of General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff
- Project NAMAN is centred around the implementation of the SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), digital pension system, which streamlines pension related processes for Defence Pensioners, addressing the critical need for accessible facilitation points for Veterans and Next of Kin (NOK) across the country.
- The project involves the establishment of reception and facilitation centers dedicated to Army Veterans, Pensioners, War Widows, offering SPARSH-enabled pension services, Government to Citizen (G2C)

**services**, and Business to Consumer **(B2C) services**, all at a single, **convenient location**.

## Rajnath Singh inaugurated new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre of Indian Coast Guard in Chennai



 He also inaugurated the Marine Pollution Response Centre in Chennai and the Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry.

### Indian Army Sets Up Highest Tank Repair Facilities in Ladakh



- Indian Army has over 500 of its tanks and infantry combat vehicles deployed in Eastern Ladakh after the stand-off between India and China started in April-May 2020, post-Chinese aggression there.
- The Indian Army has created a record of sorts by setting up two of world's highest tank repair facilities in that area to support its operations there.
- These Medium Maintenance (Reset) Facilities are located in Nyoma and the DBO Sector, close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) along China, and work at heights above 14,500 feet.

## India's second VLF communication station to come up in Telangana

# Indian Navy to set up its second VLF communication transmission station in Vikarabad Telangana

- The Indian Navy is building its second Very Low Frequency (VLF) communication transmission station in the Vikarabad district of Telangana.
- The new station is expected to be completed by 2027.
- The Navy uses VLF communication transmission stations to communicate with ships and submarines.
- The first being the INS Kattabomman Radar Station at Vijayanarayanam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu, operational since 1990.

### Chief Of The Air Staff Inaugurates First-Ever Emergency Medical Response System Of IAF At CHAF Bengaluru



- An Emergency Medical Response System (EMRS)
  was inaugurated by Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari
  at Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore (CHAFB)
  on 21 May 2024.
- The EMRS is a first of its kind 24/7 telephonic medical helpline for serving IAF personnel and their families across India.

### Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 'Chola' Building At Naval War College, Goa



- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates new Administrative & Training building, named 'Chola' at Naval War College, Goa
- The modern edifice, named the 'Chola', pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India.

## Rajnath Singh inaugurated new Navy headquarters

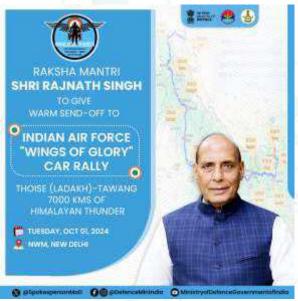


- The newly constructed 'Nausena Bhawan' is located at Delhi Cantonment was formally inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The foundation stone for a naval headquarters was laid by then Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on August 20, 2014

### Weapon Systems School Inaugurated By The Chief Of The Air Staff At Begumpet, Hyderabad

- A Weapon Systems School, was inaugurated in Hyderabad by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari at Air Force Station Begumpet in Hyderabad.
- With the new training facility offering four specialised streams to cadets to prepare them to handle surface-to-air weapons, remotely piloted aircraft, surface-to-surface weapon systems and space-based intelligence

### 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Indian Air Force: Raksha Mantri send-off 7,000-km 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally



- A mega 7,000-km long 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally from Thoise in Ladakh to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh is being organised to mark the 92nd anniversary of Indian Air Force (IAF) on October 08, 2024.
- The rally has been organised by IAF in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand War Memorial.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh gave a warm send-off to the rally from the National War Memorial, New Delhi on October 01, 2024, before it is formally flagged-off from Thoise, on 8th October.
- Thoise one of the world's highest altitude air force station at 3,068m above mean sea level
- The rally will culminate at Tawang on October 29, 2024.
- Fifty-two (52) air warriors, including women participating

## Indian Navy to embark on second edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama expedition on Oct 2





- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama extraordinary mission of circumnavigating the globe
- two women officers: Lieutenant Commander, Dilna K and Lieutenant Commander, Roopa

- onboard INSV Tarini
- Over a period of eight months, both officers will navigate more than 21,600 nautical miles (40,000 km) without any external assistance, relying solely on wind power.
- The <u>first Navika Sagar Parikrama</u> was an expedition in which six female officers of the Indian Navy circumnavigated the globe on the INSV Tarini
- The voyage was the subject of a documentary called Tarini, which was produced jointly by National Geographic and the Indian Navy
- The voyage inspired National Geographic to start the "Girls Who Sailed" campaign
- Dates: The voyage took place from September 10, 2017 to May 21, 2018.
- Distance: The crew covered 21,600 nautical miles (40,000 km).
- Crew: Lt Commander Vartika Joshi commanded the crew.

Raksha Mantri flags-in first-of-its-kind Open Water Swimming Expedition "Expedition Param Vir' to 21 Islands of Andaman & Nicobar



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had named 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar after the PVC awardees on January 23, 2023 on Parakram Diwas commemorating the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- To commemorate the first anniversary of the renaming, the Tri-service Andaman & Nicobar Command launched 'Expedition Param Vir'
- The 11-member expedition team was led by the acclaimed open water swimmer and Tenzing Norway National Adventure Awardee Wing Commander Paramvir Singh.

## Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth flags in successful expedition team of NCC Girl and Boy cadets to Mount Kang Yatse-II

- Kang Yatze or Kang Yatse (elevation 6,400 metres (21,000 ft)) is a mountain located at the end of the Markha valley in the Himalayas in the Ladakh region of northwest India.
- It is located in the Hemis National Park.

## INSV Tarini Returns Triumphant After Historic Transoceanic Expedition



- The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini has returned triumphant to her base port at Goa after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months duration.
- The expedition was Flagged off from Goa on 28 Feb 24. After 22 days of navigating through the Indian Ocean, INSV Tarini arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius, and then back to Goa.
- The expedition was undertaken in double-handed mode by Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, women officers of the Indian Navy. It marks a historic milestone as they become the first from India to accomplish such a feat.

### Rajnath Singh Launches Aditi 2.0 and DISC 12 Initiatives



At the DefConnect 4.0 event held at the
 Manekshaw Centre, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

- unveiled the second edition of Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI 2.0)
- and the 12th edition of Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 12).
- These initiatives aim to foster innovation and entrepreneurship within India's defence sector.
- A notable addition is the Medical Innovations and Research Advancement (MIRA) initiative, which is aimed at enhancing medical technologies for the Armed Forces.

## Indian Navy Sailing Championship (INSC) – 2024



- The Indian Navy's most awaited and the largest sailing regatta, the Indian Navy Sailing Championship (INSC), is set to take place at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala (Kerala) from 16 Oct to 19 Oct 24.
- INSC is an annual inter Command event conducted under the aegis of Indian Naval Sailing Association (INSA)

## Indian Navy Launches Its Flagship National Level Quiz Competition, THINQ2024

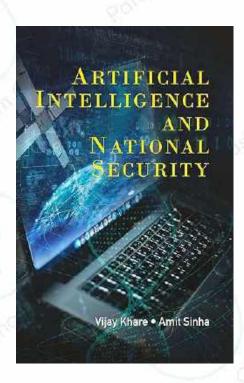


- The theme of THINQ2024 is 'Viksit Bharat'
- The contest is open to all students from Class 9 to
   12 across the country in hybrid mode in four stages

## Defense Literature Festival, "Kalam & Kavach,"

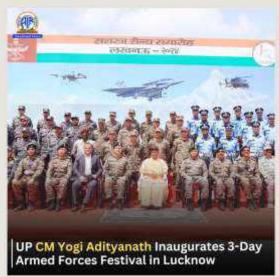


- Organised by the Pentagon Press in collaboration with the <u>Pune</u> headquartered Southern Command of the Indian Army.
- at the RSAMI Institute, in Pune
- The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan inaugurated the event
- The event, highlighted how ancient wisdom from texts like the Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita is relevant to today's strategic needs.
- Lt Gen AK Singh, Army Commander Southern Command
- The festival also celebrated the launch of significant books:
  - I. "Russia, Gaza, Taiwan... A World at War" by Ajay Singh,
  - II. "Al National Security" by Col Amit Sinha and Vijay Khare



### CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurates 3 day Armed Forces Festival in Lucknow

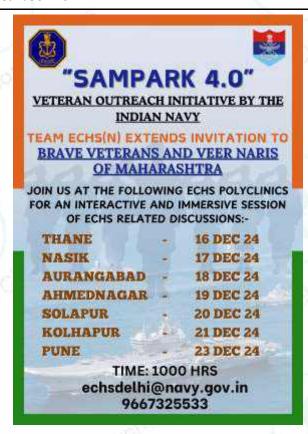




 Armed forces festival, showcasing latest weapon systems and equipment of Army, Navy and Airforce, to be held from September 3 to 5 in Lucknow Cantonment.

### Indian Navy Launches SAMPARK 4.0 Initiative in Maharashtra

- Launched on 16 Dec 24
- Aims to enhance healthcare access for Naval Veterans, Veer Naris, and their families in Maharashtra, particularly those residing in remote regions.
- Sampark 4.0 will focus on establishing direct communication channels between the veterans and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), promoting a sense of camaraderie and support within the veteran community.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Land Forces Summit held in Japan

- Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi participated virtually in the 2nd LAND FORCES SUMMIT held in Japan.
- The Summit brought together Army Chiefs and Senior Generals from several nations, including Japan, the United States, Australia, Indonesia, Philippines, and the Republic of Korea.
- to strengthen defence ties and promote a peaceful, stable and secure Indo-Pacific

## **Indian Navy Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> MAHASAGAR on Maritime Security Training**

- The Indian Navy conducted its third bi-annual interaction, 'MAHASAGAR', with the head of 10 foreign Navies on 5 November 2024.
- MAHASAGAR stands for Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region
- In the 3rd edition, 10 countries—Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania participated.
- theme was 'Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR(Indian Ocean Region)."
- The Indian Navy hosted the first high-level virtual interaction, MAHASAGAR, on 29 November 2023.

### Indian Coast Guard Hosts 26<sup>th</sup> National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan meeting (NOSDCP) in Delhi



- to review the nation's preparedness for responding effectively to oil spill contingencies in Indian waters.
- It was **chaired by Director General Paramesh Sivamani**, who is also Chairperson of NOSDCP.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Military Heritage Festival in New Delhi



- CDS Gen Anil Chauhan inaugurated
- November 8-9.
- The inauguration of the festival also witnessed the launch of Project 'Shaurya Gatha'.
- The project is an initiative of the Department of Military Affairs and the United Service Institute of India (USI) which aims to conserve and promote India's military heritage through education and tourism

#### book releases including:

- Because of This: A
   History of the Indo-Pak
   Air War December 1971
   by Air Marshal Vikram
   Singh (Retd);
- Valour and Honour a joint publication of the Indian Army and USI of India,





- War-wounded, Disabled Soldiers, And Cadets a joint publication of USI and War Wounded Federation.
- 4. Silent Weapons, Deadly Secrets: Unveiling the Bioweapons Arms Race by Dr. Mrinmayee Bhushan
- DRDO present a photo exhibition highlighting its journey and achievements in contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat

## Steel Cutting ceremony of first ship of NGMV for Indian Navy takes place at Cochin Shipyard



- The Steel Cutting ceremony of the first ship of the Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) being built for the Indian Navy was held at the Cochin Shipyard.
- It will be equipped with Surface-to-Surface Missile systems, Anti-Missile Defence Systems, Air Surveillance and Fire Control Radars.
- The Navy entered into a contract with the Cochin Shipyard for the construction of six NGMVs in March last year.
- The induction of these ships in the Navy is planned from 2027.

## **INCOIS Upgrades SARAT for Enhanced Sea Rescue Operations**

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has recently upgraded its Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT) to improve the effectiveness of sea rescue operations.
- Originally introduced in 2016, SARAT has become a vital tool for the Indian Coast Guard and other agencies.
- The upgraded version, SARAT 2, comes with advanced features that provide more accurate predictions for missing objects and individuals at sea, optimizing rescue operations.

### Navika Sagar Parikrama-II INSV Tarini Begins Second Leg of Global Voyage



- The Indian Naval Sailing vessel INSV Tarini sailed out from Fremantle, Australia on 24 Nov 2024 for the second leg of the NSP-II's expedition to Lyttelton, New Zealand.
- Navika Sagar Parikrama-II, which was flagged off by the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on
   Oct 24, from Ocean Sailing Node, INS Mandovi, Goa
- It is an Indian Navy expedition undertaking a dualhanded circumnavigation of the earth by two women officers (Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A) of the Navy onboard 56 ft INSV Tarini.
- Navika Sagar Parikrama II covering more than 21,600 nautical miles (approx 40,000 km) will unfold in five legs with stop overs at four ports for replenishment and maintenance, as required. The broad contour of voyage will be as follows:
  - a. Goa to Fremantle, Australia
  - b. Fremantle to Lyttleton, New Zealand
  - c. Lyttleton to Port Stanley, Falkland
  - d. Port Stanley to Cape Town, S Africa
  - e. Cape Town to Goa



### Open Sea Sailing Expedition named 'Konkan Ratna' was flagged off

- · from UltraTech Jetty, Ratnagiri.
- The expedition aims to create awareness on 'Samudri Swachhta, Taskari, and Suraksha'.
- The tagline "Hamara Samunder Hamari Shaan"

## Defence Ministry Launches Rashtraparv Website & App



- The Union Defence Ministry launched the Rashtraparv Website & Mobile App on 25 December 2024 on the occasion of Good Governance Day.
- The Rashtraparv Website & Mobile App was launched by Defence Secretary Rajesh Singh in New Delhi.

 Since 2014 the government of India has observed Good Governance Day on the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Rashtraparv Website & Mobile App will provide information to the users on:

- Information related to the organisation of national events organised by the ministry like Republic Day, Beating Retreat Ceremony, Independence Day, etc.
- It will also livestream such events, provide a facility to purchase tickets for such events, provide information related to seating arrangements & route maps of events, etc.
- It will host a Tableau Management Portal to facilitate States/ UTs and Union Ministries/ Departments in designing and finalizing their tableaux for the Republic Day event.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

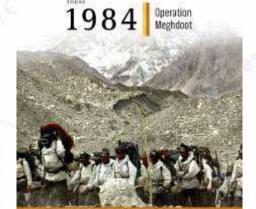
### Indian navy declares 2024 as 'YEAR OF NAVAL CIVILIANS'



- to improve administration, efficiency and wellbeing of Naval Civilians
- by addressing all facets of Civilian HR
   Management in a time bound manner.
- Navy Civilian Personnel (a person who is not on active duty with the navy) constitute about a third of the Indian Navy's total workforce
- Civilian personnel impact the overall performance of Naval formations such as Command Headquarters, Dockyards, Material Organisations, Naval Armament Depots, Naval Armament Inspectorates, Training Establishments and several other types of support units.

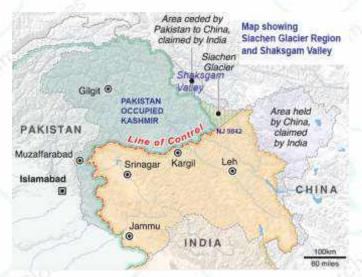
### **40 years of Operation Meghdoot**



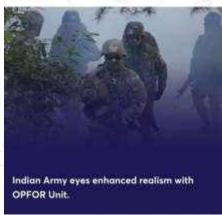


- Operation Meghdoot was a military operation launched by the Indian Armed Forces on April 13, 1984.
- Objective preventing Pakistan from taking control of the Siachen Glacier in the eastern Karakoram Range of the Himalayas - at the center of a disputed territory between India and Pakistan.

- Outcome: Indian forces successfully gained control of the glacier and the surrounding three main passes of Sia La, Bilafond La, and Gyong La.
- The operation was led by Captain Sanjay Kulkarni
- Prior to 1984, neither India nor Pakistan had any permanent presence on the glacier, which was not demarcated beyond a point called NJ9842 in the 1972 Shimla Agreement, which followed the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.
- Beyond this was an unchartered territory and Pakistan wanted to occupy this region to gain strategic advantage.



## Army looks at creating new unit 'OPFOR' to play role of enemy in military exercises



- The Indian Army is reportedly in the process of establishing a new unit called OPFOR, or "opposing forces," aimed at simulating adversarial roles during military exercises and wargame training.
- Similar concepts are already in use in countries like the United States.
- Plan for OPFOR unit awaits final approval from Army hierarchy
- The proposed OPFOR unit will be formed from existing military units and will mirror the

weapons, operating methods, and tactics of potential adversaries.

### 'INS Mysore' ship celebrates silver jubilee



- INS Mysore the front-line guided-missile destroyer of the Eastern Fleet, celebrated its silver jubilee , marking 25 years of service to the nation.
- The ship, indigenously designed and constructed, is the second of the Delhi class destroyers
- The ship fosters a strong bond between the Navy and Army through its affiliation with the Madras Regiment of the Indian Army.

### Indian naval ship INS Mumbai to make first visit to Sri Lanka



- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mumbai arrived at the port of Colombo on 26<sup>th</sup> August, for a three-day maiden visit to Sri Lanka
- INS Mumbai, the Indian Navy's frontline
   warship— the third of the Delhi class destroyers
- The Delhi class of destroyers in the Indian Navy includes the following ships:
- **INS Delhi**: The first ship in the class, commissioned in 1997.
- INS Mysore: Commissioned in June 1999.
- INS Mumbai (formerly Bombay): Commissioned in January 2001

# Indian Navy's INS Shalki Arrives in Colombo for Two-Day Visit



- Indian submarine INS Shalki is on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka in reflection of growing maritime security cooperation between the two countries.
- INS Shalki is Shishumar class diesel-electric submarine, commissioned into the Indian Navy on February 7, 1992.
- It is the first ever submarine to be built in India.

#### ICG Ship Samudra Paheredar Reaches Manila Bay, Philippines



- Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, a specialized Pollution Control Vessel has reached Manila Bay, Philippines as part of overseas deployment to ASEAN countries.
- The ICG ship is on an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries Philippines, Vietnam, and Brunei till 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- The visit of the Vessel is part of a broader initiative aimed at demonstration of Indian Coast Guard Marine Pollution Response capabilities and shared concern and resolve towards Marine Pollution in the ASEAN region.

# Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)





- It is a political and economic organization of 10 South-East Asian nations
- Formed in 8 August 1967 (in Bangkok, Thailand)
- HQ: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Members: 10 countries Malaysia, Myanmar, Brunei, Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (HINT: MBBS CLIP TV)
- Latest member to join ASEAN Cambodia
- India is a strategic partner of ASEAN.



#### INS KABRA arrives at Colombo, Sri Lanka



- INS Kabra Indian Navy's Fast Attack Craft
- in reflection of growing maritime security cooperation between the two sides. keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR.

#### Indian Navy Submarine INS Karanj Visits Colombo for Sri Lanka's Independence Day Celebration



- The visit symbolises the strengthened maritime relations between India and Sri Lanka. The submarine was welcomed by the Sri Lanka Navy in accordance with the naval customs.
- INS Karanj is a 67.5 metres long Kalvari class submarine

# INS SHARDA awarded 'On the Spot Unit Citation' for anti-piracy operations



- Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, during his visit to Southern Naval Command, Kochi, awarded 'On the Spot Unit Citation' to INS Sharda for successful conduct of anti-piracy operations.
- The ship was involved in the safe release of all 19 crew members (11 Iranian & 08 Pakistani) of

Iranian fishing vessel Omari which was held hostage by pirates off East coast of Somalia.

#### **About Somalia**



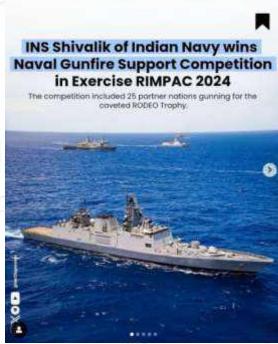
- situated in the Horn of Africa, bordered by the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, Kenya and Ethiopia to the west, and Djibouti to the northwes t
- Capital: Mogadishu is the capital
- Currency: Somali shilling
- President: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

#### INS Satavahana honours Olympian Jyothi Yarraji



- INS Satavahana, under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command, felicitated Olympian Jyothi Yarraji, who hails from Visakhapatnam
- for her groundbreaking achievement of being India's first woman Olympic hurdler.

# Shivalik wins Naval Gunfire Support Competition at RIMPAC 2024



- INS Shivalik of the Eastern Fleet has emerged victorious in the Naval Gunfire Support
   Competition at the Rim of the Pacific Exercise-2024 (RIMPAC-2024), held in Hawaii and won the coveted RODEO trophy.
- The event which featured 25 partner nations

#### About Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise:

- 29<sup>th</sup> biennial Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), a multinational exercise involving 29 nations and more than 25,000 personnel, held from June 27 to Aug. 1, in and around the Hawaiian Islands.
- It's one of the largest biennial multilateral Naval Exercises, which is led by US.
- The RIMPAC started in 1971 as an annual exercise by the US, Australia, and Canada. But from 1974, maritime exercise became a biennial event
- India first participated in RIMPAC in 2014 with INS Sahyadri.
- Theme 2024: "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."

#### **About INS Shivalik**

- It is the first stealth warship built by India.
- It is built at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), located in Mumbai.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 29, 2010.

# Indian Army's Tech Revolution: Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)



- STEAG aims to identify and implement the most suitable technologies to enhance the army's communication infrastructure.
- In line with the principles of Self-reliant India and Start Up India in the field of defence, the Indian Army has formed a specialized technology unit to conduct research and development of future communication technologies like Artificial Intelligence, 5G, 6G, Machine Learning, Quantum technologies for defence.

# 29 Agniveervayu Women From Indian Air Force To Form First-Ever All-Women Drill Team



- The team will perform at the India Gate complex on Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26.
- Indian Air Force has invited citizens to be a part of a performance that symbolises strength, unity and the breaking of new ground accompanied by the Air Force band.

# INS Teg Rescues Eight Indians From Capsized Oil Tanker Near Oman



- The Indian warship INS Teg has rescued nine sailors, including eight Indians and one Sri Lankan, who were on board the Comoros-flagged oil tanker, MT Falcon Prestige, that had capsized recently off the Oman coast.
- INS Teg (F45) is the first of three guided missile frigates of the modified INS Talwar-class under Project-17 A (the other two are INS Tarkash and INS Trikand).
- INS Teg was commissioned into Navy service on 27 April 2012.

# Indian Navy seizes 940kg drugs in Arabian Sea in 1st interdiction as CMF Member



- INS Talwar, in support of the Canadian-led Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, conducted its first drug interdiction since becoming a member of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in November 2023.
- CMF is the world's largest international naval partnership (43-nations) upholding the international rules-based order by promoting security and stability across 3.2 million square miles of water

#### **Combined Maritime Forces**





- multi-national naval partnership based in Bahrain
- which exists to promote security, stability, and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters
- focus areas are defeating terrorism,
   preventing piracy, encouraging regional
   cooperation, a safe maritime environment.
- **purely voluntary**. No nation is asked to carry out any duty that it is unwilling to conduct.
- Headquarters are co-located with US Naval Central Command and US Navy Fifth Fleet at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain.

# BSF : On-request posting, Airfare booking etc. in New Guidelines

- Five individual choices for posting, on-request posting, and booking of air tickets for all the personnel while proceeding on leave – these are some of the key decisions made by the BSF in a bid to improve 'satisfaction level' of its personnel.
- According to the data, provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, more than 46,000 personnel from

- six Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) took early retirement during the last five years (2019-2023).
- The maximum more than 21,000 men and women — who took early retirement were from the Border Security Force (BSF), which guards the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders

#### **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)**

- Assam Rifles (AR)
- Border Security Force (BSF)
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- National Security Guard (NSG)
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

# IAF conducted 'Bambi Bucket' Operation to douse Nainital forest fire





IAF Activates 'Bambi Bucket' Aerial Firefighting for Nainital Forest Fires: How Is This Being Done

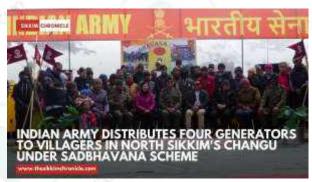
- The Indian Air Force had deployed its Mi-17 V5 helicopter to undertake Bambi Bucket operations to douse the forest fires near Nainital.
- The helicopter used a "Bambi Bucket", also known as a helicopter bucket or a helibucket, to collect water from Bhimtal lake, located near Nainital, and poured it over the burning forests.
- Bambi bucket is a specialised apparatus designed for aerial firefighting purposes and was introduced in 1983.
- It was invented by a Canadian man, Don Arney. In 2017, he was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame for this invention
- It allows the helicopters to transport volumes of water underneath the aircraft and disperse it.

# Indian Air Force tests BHISHM portable hospital for airdrop in Agra



- The Indian Air Force conducted field tests of the Arogya Maitri Cube- BHISHM portable hospital by performing an airdrop in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- This is the **first time the Indian Air Force** tested this portable hospital.
- This test was performed so that the portable hospital can be deployed to cater to emergencies anywhere.
- BHISHM portable cubes are a part of the broader initiative named "Project BHISHM" - Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri, which is tailored to treat up to 200 casualties, emphasising rapid response and comprehensive care.
- The whole unit contains 72 easily transportable components that can be conveniently carried by hand, cycle, or even drone
- These cubes are robust, waterproof, and light, designed for various configurations, making them ideal for diverse emergency scenarios.

# Operation Sadbhavana: Indian Army's Support For North Sikkim's Remote Communities



- Under Operation Sadbhavana, the Indian Army's
   Trishakti Corps demonstrated unwavering support
   for North Sikkim's remote communities in Naga
   and Rangrang villages.
- Following a devastating glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), the Corps distributed essential relief materials
- Additionally, a medical camp provided critical healthcare services to over 150 patients.

## India Registers Highest Ever Growth In Value Of Defence Production In 2023-24

- The country recorded its highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms during Financial Year (FY) 2023-24,
- The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was ₹1,08,684 crore.
- Of the total value of production (VoP) in 2023-24, about 79.2% has been contributed by DPSUs/other PSUs and 20.8% by the private sector.
- Defence exports touched a record-high of ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, reflecting a growth of 32.5%

# ICG Launches 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0' to Enhance Training Protocols



- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has launched 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0' during its inaugural 'Annual Operational Sea Training Conference' held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Suvidha Software Version 1.0 is a cutting-edge tool aimed at standardizing and streamlining training protocols across the ICG's diverse platforms.

#### Indian Army Launches E-SeHAT Tele-Consultancy for Veterans

- The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has introduced the Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT) module.
- This initiative allows ECHS beneficiaries to receive online medical consultations from their homes, eliminating the need to visit ECHS Polyclinics.
- The pilot phase of E-SeHAT has been initiated at 12 ECHS Polyclinics

#### Squadron Leader Mohana Singh becomes the first woman fighter pilot in LCA Tejas fighter fleet



- Squadron Leader Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to join the elite 18 'Flying Bullets' squadron, operating India's indigenously 'Made in India' LCA Tejas fighter jet's squadron.
- The officer was part of the recent exercise, 'Tarang Shakti' in Jodhpur
- Sqn Ldr Mohana Singh was part of the first group of three women who became fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force.
- Mohana Singh's other two female compatriots,
   Sqn Ldr Bhawna Kanth and Sqn Ldr Avni
   Chaturvedi are now flying the Su-30 MKI fighter jets in the western desert.

# Dassault Aviation Expands Footprint in India with New Military MRO Subsidiary



- French aerospace company, Dassault Aviation
  had decided to create a subsidiary company,
  Dassault Aviation MRO India (DAMROI),
  dedicated to its military maintenance, repair and
  overall (MRO) activities in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ownership: 100% owned by Dassault Aviation
- created under the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" policy.

### Indian Navy's submarine INS Vela arrives in Colombo



- on a three-day visit
- INS Vela is a 67.5m long submarine with a crew of 53 and it is commanded by Commander Kapil Kumar.
- The submarine is an indigenous Kalvari-class diesel-electric submarine and it was commissioned into the Indian Navy on November 25, 2021.

#### Army's South-Western Command Launches Defence Think Tank 'Gyan Shakti'



- As Rajasthan looks to expand the defence industrial base in the State, the Army's Jaipurbased South Western Command has established a think tank Gyan Shakti
- to provide a platform for debate and interaction between armed forces, industry, State government and the academia on defence and security related matters at regional and national level.
- Inaugural seminar titled 'Atmanirbharta in
   Defence Manufacturing: Opportunities in

   Rajasthan held in partnership with the FICCI
   (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry)
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan envision to turn the State into a \$350 billion economy by 2029.
- Lt. Gen. Manjinder Singh, the South Western Army Commander



### Home Ministry approves setting up of first all women battalion of CISF



- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- Presently, there are 7% women personnel in the CISF, which has a total strength of 1.77 lakh personnel. A battalion comprises around 1,000 personnel.
- <u>Central Industrial Security</u>
   <u>Force</u> <u>came</u> into existence in 1969 established under an Act of Parliament,
   "Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
- to provide integrated security cover to certain sensitive public sector undertakings with a strength of only three battalions.



R.S.Bhatti, IPS Director General

- Rajwinder Singh Bhatti is the Director General (DG) of CISF
- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) refers to seven security forces in India under the authority of Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Assam Rifles (AR)
- Border Security Force (BSF)
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- National Security Guard (NSG)
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)



# Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi presents President's Colours to Four Battalions Of Mechanised Infantry



- General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), presented the prestigious President's Colours to four battalions of the Mechanised Infantry during a solemn ceremony at the Mechanised Infantry Centre and School (MIC&S), Ahilyanagar.
- The President's Colours were awarded to the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Battalions of Mechanised Infantry Regiment and 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of Brigade of The Guards, marking a proud moment for the youngest battalions of the Arm.

#### **About President's Colours Award**

 It is the highest honour that can be awarded to any military unit, military training establishments, or state/UT Police Forces of India.

- It is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.
- It is also known as "Rashtrapati ka Nishaan" in Hindi.

#### **History:**

- The tradition began under colonial rule, but on November 23, 1950, the 'king's colour' of the erstwhile British Indian regiments was laid to rest in Chetwode Hall, Dehradun, to make way for the 'colours' of the President of the Republic of India.
- The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed
   Force to be awarded the President Colour by Dr.
   Rajendra Prasad on May 27, 1951.

# President Murmu awards President's Colours to College of Defence Management, Secunderabad

Since its establishment in 1970, CDM
 Secunderabad has trained officers of the Indian
 Army, Navy, and Air Force, equipping them with the managerial, leadership, and strategic expertise necessary to meet the challenges of modern warfare

President Murmu Receives Ceremonial Guard of Honour at INS Hansa; witnesses Indian Navy operations onboard INS Vikrant



- President Droupadi Murmu took to the seas aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS
   Vikrant, where she observed a series of advanced operational demonstrations by the Indian Navy.
- This marked her first visit to Indian Navy ships at sea.

- Upon her arrival at INS Hansa, the Naval Air Station in Goa, President Murmu was welcomed by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, and Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.
- A ceremonial Guard of Honour comprising 150 personnel was held in her honor.
- She applauded the Navy for becoming the first service branch to induct women Agniveers
- first woman commanding officer in a naval ship -Lt. Commander Prerna Deosthalee (took over command of warship INS Trinkat) on December 4, 2023

#### **About INS Vikrant**

- It is the first ever indigenously designed and constructed aircraft carrier which will strengthen the country's stand as a 'Blue Water Navy'.
- The ship has been designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design
   Bureau and constructed by M/s Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- Also, with a displacement of 43,000 tonnes when fully loaded

#### **About INS Hansa:**

- It is an Indian naval air station located near Dabolim in Goa.
- It is **India's biggest naval airbase** and is home to the Indian Navy's premier air squadrons.
- INS Hansa was commissioned on 5 September 1961 at Sulur near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- It was initially co-located with the Sulur Air Force Station of the Indian Air Force.
- Post the liberation of Goa, the Navy took over Dabolim airfield in April 1962, and the INS Hansa was moved to Dabolim in June 1964.

# 2025 Indian Army Day to be held in Pune, Maharashtra

- Pune, Maharashtra, will host the Indian Army's ceremonial annual 2025 Army Day on 15 January 2025.
- This was announced during the launch of the parade's promotional video, which features Bollywood stars R. Madhavan and Rakul Preet Singh, at the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.
- On 15 January 1949, an Indian General, K M
   Carriapa, took over as the Chief of the Army Staff
   from the British General Sir Roy Butcher. The last
   British Commander-in-Chief, in 1949 and became

- the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of Independent India.
- Third Army Day Parade outside New Delhi



Traditionally, the Army Day Parade was held in New Delhi, where the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force headquarters are located.

 In 2022, the Narendra Modi government decided to hold the annual Army Day, Air Force Day, and Indian Navy Day Parades outside New Delhi in other parts of the country.

#### **Rotation of the Army Day**

- The government has decided to rotate the annual Army Day parade among the Indian Army's six operational commands.
- First time in 2023, the Army Day Parade was held outside New Delhi, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- In 2024, it was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Command structure of the Indian Army**

| Command          | Headquarters            |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Western Command  | Chandimandir (Haryana)  |  |
| Eastern Command  | Kolkata (West Bengal)   |  |
| Southern Command | Pune(Maharashtra)       |  |
| Northern Command | Udhampur(Jammu )        |  |
| Central Command  | Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) |  |
| South -Western   | Jaipur (Rajasthan )     |  |
| Command          |                         |  |
| Army Training    | Shimla(Himachal         |  |
| Command          | Pradesh)                |  |

#### Navy Day

- The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day on 4
   December to commemorate the successful conclusion of Operation Trident of the Indian Navy during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, which crippled the Karachi port of Pakistan.
- 2022 Indian Navy Day Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- 2023 Navy Day Sindhudurg Fort off the Maharashtra coast. Maratha King Shivaji Maharaj built the Sindhudurg Fort in the 17th century.
- 2024 Indian Navy Day Blue Flag Beach, Puri,
   Odisha,

#### Air Force Day

- The Indian Air Force celebrates its foundation day, October 8, as Indian Air Force Day. On this day in 1932, the British established the Royal Indian Air Force, which, after independence, was renamed the Indian Air Force.
- Till 2021, the Air Force Day has been celebrated at the Hindon Air Base, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- 2022- Chandigarh Air Base.
- 2023- **Prayagraj**, Uttar Pradesh.
- 2024 Marina Beach Chennai, Tamil Nadu

# Surgeon Commander Diviya Gautam assumes command of INHS Kalyani



- Surgeon Commander Diviya Gautam assumed command of Naval Hospital INHS Kalyani in Visakhapatnam
- She has served on board a naval ship on the United States Navy Hospital Ship Mercy.
- Indian Naval Hospital Ship (INHS) Kalyani, the only hospital under the Eastern Naval Command., was officially commissioned on May 18, 1962

# **General Dwivedi Conferred Honorary General Rank by Nepali Army**



- The Indian Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General
  Upendra Dwivedi, was conferred with the
  honourary rank of the General of the Nepali Army
  on 21 November 2024.
- General Upendra Dwivedi is on an official visit to Nepal from 20 to 24 November 2024 at the invitation of his Nepali counterpart, General Ashok Raj Sigdel.

- Both the countries conduct a joint military exercise code-named Surya Kiran.
- Nepal will host the 18th edition of the Surya Kiran in Nepal in December 2024.

#### President Droupadi Murmu awards Honorary General Rank to Nepali Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel



- Suprabal Janasewashree General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of the Nepali Army was conferred with the Honourary Rank of General of Indian Army by Smt Draupadi Murmu, the Hon'ble President of India
- He is on India's visit from 11th to 14th December 2024,

# Indian Army launches 'Eklavya' online digital platform for officers training

- General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), launched an online learning platform for the Indian Army nicknamed as "Eklavya".
- This initiative aligns with the Indian Army propelling itself into the "Decade of Transformation" as envisioned by the COAS and also with Indian Army's theme for 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption."



#### 1 November Zozila Day

# THE FIRST HOSE ALTITUDE WAR. MOIAN CAVALRY CREATED HISTORY AND A WYSELD RECORD BY OPERATING TANKS AT HEIGHT OF 11500 IN FOR FIRST TIME.

- to honour the heroic deeds of Indian soldiers in Operation Bison in 1948
- Operation Bison was a military operation launched by the Indian Army on 1 November 1948 to recapture the Zoji La Pass from Pakistani raiders during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947-1948
- Zojila Pass connects the Kashmir Valley with Ladakh in India
- It is located on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway (NH-1) at a height of 11,650 feet.

# MoD inks contract worth ₹1207 Cr with Cochin Shipyard Limited for Short Refit and Dry Docking of INS Vikramaditya



 INS Vikramaditya is a 45,000-tonne aircraft carrier, built in Russia as the Admiral Gorshkov and commissioned into the Indian Navy in November 2013.

India has two aircraft carriers:

#### 1. INS Vikrant

- India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, built by Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi, Kerala.
- Commissioned into the Indian Navy on September 2, 2022. It's the fourth carrier in the Indian Navy.

#### 2. INS Vikramaditya

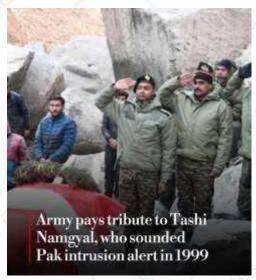
Purchased from Russia in 2013 for \$2.3 billion. It's a 45,000-tonne conventionally powered carrier with a ski-jump ramp for aircraft takeoffs

Both carriers are stationed in Karwar, Karnataka

# Russia wins 13th Edition of Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta

- The 13th edition of 'Admiral's Cup' Sailing Regatta concluded on 13 Dec 24 at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala (Kerala):
  - > Team Russia won the Admiral's Cup 24.
  - Team Italy Runners-Up
  - > Team India/ INA 'A' finished third.
- Participation from 25 countries
- Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta inception in 2010.

#### Indian Army pays condolences to Tashi Namgyal, first informant of 1999 Kargil War



- Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army extended condolences to the family of Tashi Namgyal, the Ladakhi shepherd who is credited with alerting Indian troops about Pakistan infiltration during the 1999 Kargil conflict.
- Namgyal passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 in central Ladakh's Aryan Valley
- The Kargil War was fought for more than 60 days and ended on July 26, 1999, with a gallant victory for India.
- The XIV Corps or The Fire and Fury Corps is the Army's Udhampur-based part of the Northern Command deployment in the Kargil-Leh area guarding the frontiers with China and Pakistan. It also guards the Siachen Glacier.

# Central Industrial Security force unveils new posting policy



- The new HR policy will be implemented from

  December 31 and is meant for non-gazetted
  personnel between the ranks of constable and
  inspector. It will impact over 98% of the 1.94-lakh
  strong force
- For the first time, choice-based posting has been introduced.
- Each personnel will have the opportunity to list ten preferred posting locations.
- CISF personnel retiring within two years will be given a posting out of three choices of location, and they will be given 1st priority.
- In the case of women and couples, after six years of non-choice posting, they will have the option of choice-based posting.
- The aim of this policy is to create a more resilient and satisfied force.

#### **About CISF:**

- It is a paramilitary force of India that provides security for critical infrastructure, government buildings, and other important facilities
- **Established in 1969** under the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- CISF's raising day March 10.

 The motto for the CISF raising day is "Service, Security, Brotherhood"

Indian Army unveils statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at eastern Ladakh's Pangong Tso



- The Indian Army has installed a statue of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji on the bank of Pangong lake at an altitude of 14,300 feet, a region that is close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the eastern Ladakh sector.
- The statue was unveiled by Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, the General Officer Commanding of the 14 Corps, widely known as Fire and Fury Corps.

# Index & Reports

#### **NATIONAL**

- 1. FSSAI's State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024
- 2. 4<sup>th</sup> edition of SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) India Index 2023-24
- 3. ISRO 'Landslide Atlas'
- 4. Women and Men in India 2023"
- 5. Start-up Ranking 2022
- 6. Multidimensional Poverty in India
- 7. 2023 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)
- 8. All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022
- 9. The Status Report of Snow Leopards
- 10. India State of Forest Report (ISFR)
- 11. First-ever tri-State synchronized vulture survey
- 12. Report on Status of Leopards in India, 2022
- 13. Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23
- 14. All-India Ayush Survey (July 2022 June 2023)
- 15. Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2024
- 16. India's 2nd Butterfly Diversity Hub
- 17. Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024

#### Kerala has secured top position in FSSAI's State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024 for second time in a row





- This annual ranking, started from 2018-19 is released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- It evaluates the food safety performance of Indian states and union territories.
- Top 5 Kerala Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, and Nagaland
- This index is based on performance on five significant parameters -
- Human Resources and Institutional Data,
- Compliance,
- Food Testing Infrastructure and Surveillance,
- Training & Capacity Building and
- · Consumer Empowerment.

# U.P., Rajasthan, M.P. Top in Cases of Atrocities on Dalits: Report



 According to the latest report under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of

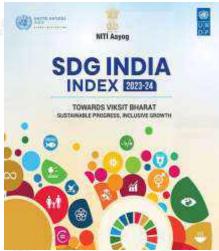
- Atrocities) Act by the Social Justice & Empowerment Ministry
- Nearly 97.7% of all cases of atrocities against
   Scheduled Castes in 2022 were reported from 13
   States, with Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh recording the highest number of such crimes
- The majority of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes (STs) were also concentrated in 13 states, which reported 98.91% of all cases in 2022.
- Of the 51,656 cases registered under the law for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022, Uttar Pradesh accounted for 23.78%

- Of the 9,735 cases registered under the law for STs
   Madhya Pradesh reported the highest (30.61%), followed by Rajasthan & Odisha
- Special police stations for registration of complaints of offences against SCs and STs have been set up by five states – Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

### Constitutional provisions are in place to safeguard SC/ST their rights, including:

- Article 15(1): Prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- Article 17: Abolishes untouchability.
- Article 23: Prohibits forced labor.
- Articles 16(4) & 16(5): Provide for reservations in public services.
- Article 21: Guarantees the right to life and liberty.
- Article 335: Ensures representation of SCs and STs in state services.

# NITI Aayog released 4<sup>th</sup> edition of SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) India Index 2023-24



- Launched by Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog
- It measures and tracks national progress of all States and Union Territories (UTs) on 113 indicators aligned to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's National Indicator Framework.
- Composite score for each State/UT was computed by aggregating their performance across 16 SDGs.
- Scores range between 0–100. Score of 100 means State/UT achieved targets set for 2030.
- States are divided into four categories: Achiever (100), Front runners (65-99), Performers (50-64), and Aspirants (0-49).

#### SUSTAINABLE GOALS











#### **Key findings**

#### **National Level**

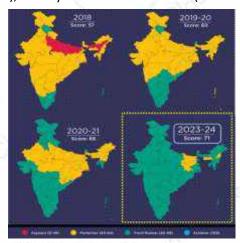
- Composite score for India improved from 66 in 2020-21 to **71 in 2023-24.**
- Between 2020-21 and 2023-24, significant progress observed in Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land) these goals are now in front runner category.
- Goal 13 records highest increase in score followed by Goal 1.

Targeted interventions by Government like
 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Goal 11), Swachh
 Bharat Mission (Goal 6), Ayushman Bharat (Goal 3),
 etc. had led to rapid improvement.



#### State/UT level

- 1. All States have shown an improvement in overall score.
- 2. **Top States: Uttarakhand and Kerala** with scores of 79 each.
- Top UT: Chandigarh. Followed by Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Delhi.
- 4. **Bihar** was ranked as the **worst performer**.
- 5. Front-runner category: 32 States and UTs.
- 6. **4 states in Performer category**:, Meghalaya (63), Nagaland (63), Jharkhand (62), Bihar (57).
- Between 2018 and 2023-24, fastest moving States are Uttar Pradesh (increase in score by 25), followed by J&K (21), Uttarakhand (19), Sikkim (18), Haryana (17), Assam, Tripura and Punjab (16 each), Madhya Pradesh and Odisha (15 each)





#### What is the SDG India index?

- First launched in December 2018, the index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in India.
- It has also fostered competition among the states and UTs by ranking them on the global goals.
- The index is developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India.

# Madhya Pradesh Tops in PM SVANidhi Scheme as Best Performing State

- Madhya Pradesh has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme, the Union housing and urban affairs ministry.
- Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar
   Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors, started by the government in June 2020 to help street sellers after COVID-19
- It provides collateral-free loans up to Rs 50,000
- After Madhya Pradesh, Assam has been ranked second in the 'Best Performing States- Innovation and Best Practices Award' category.
- Cities and towns were also rewarded for how well they handled loans, in addition to the state. In the 'Best Performing ULBs Loan Performance with mega and million plus cities' category, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has received the first place, followed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.
- The awards in the National Urban Livelihood
  Mission (DAY-NULM) was also announced, with
  Kerala topping the chart in the category of
  'Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time
  Ranking (SPARK), followed by Uttar Pradesh and
  Rajasthan,

# Rudraprayag in Uttaranchal was ranked first on ISRO 'Landslide Atlas'

- National-level database created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2023 based on exposure to landslides in terms of "key socio-economic parameters."
- In ranking 147 districts in India for their exposure to landslides in terms of key socio economic parameters, 13 of Kerala's districts feature in the top 50.



- Wayanad ranked 13th, while Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode ranked third, fifth, seventh and tenth respectively
- The ISRO database covered "seasonal, event-based and route-wise" landslide inventories for the 1998-2022 period.

## Release of Publication "Women and Men in India 2023"



Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Government of India, released the 25th issue of its publication titled "Women and Men in India 2023"

> India's population is projected to reach 152.2 crore by 2036, with an increase in the female percentage to 48.8% from 48.5% in 2011.

- The sex ratio is expected to rise from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036, indicating progress in gender equality.
- Fertility rates have decreased in younger women but increased for those aged 35-39, and adolescent fertility is significantly lower among literate women
- 2016 to 2020, Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) in the age group of 20-24 and 25-29 has reduced from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6 respectively.
- The ASFR for the age 35-39 increased from 32.7 to 35.6 which shows that after settling in life, women are thinking of expansion of family.
- Adolescent Fertility Rate was 33.9 for illiterate population whereas 11.0 for the literate in 2020.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has been decreasing over the years for both male and females.
- Female IMR had always been higher than that of male but in 2020, both were equal at the level of 28 infants per 1000 live births.
- The under-5 Mortality Rate data shows that it has decreased from 43 in 2015 to 32 in 2020. So is the case for both boys and girls and the gap between boys and girls has also reduced.

#### Start-up Ranking 2022



- released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- This was the fourth edition of the awards and saw participation from 33 states and union territories
- The states and union territories were ranked based on their performance on seven reform areas and 25 action points.

### Category A (Larger States & UT – Population above 1 crore)

| Best performers        | Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, and<br>Tamil Nadu                               |
|------------------------|---|
| Top performers         | Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab,<br>Rajasthan, and Telangana                    |
| Leaders                | Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya<br>Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and<br>Uttarakhand |
| Aspiring Leaders       | Bihar and Haryana   |
| Emerging<br>Ecosystems | Chhattisgarh, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir                                  |

### Category B (Smaller States & UT – Population below 1 crore)

| Best performers  | Himachal Pradesh             |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Top performers   | Arunachal Pradesh and        |
| 0                | Meghalaya                    |
| Leaders          | Goa, Manipur, and Tripura    |
| Aspiring Leaders | Andaman and Nicobar Islands  |
| _                | and Nagaland                 |
| Emerging         | Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar  |
| Ecosystems       | Haveli and Daman and Diu,    |
|                  | Ladakh, Mizoram, Puducherry, |
| W                | and Sikkim                   |

#### **GIFT City To Get First Hydrogen Price Index**

- The International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at <u>GIFT City</u> in Gandhinagar has collaborated with the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC).
- to jointly develop a Global Hydrogen Price Index.

GSPC, in conjunction with IGX, will create a
platform to enable global institutions to
trade <a href="hydrogen">hydrogen</a> contracts and derivatives within
the GIFT City Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

#### NSE Launches Nifty India Tourism Index to Track Travel & Tourism Stocks





thattom (6 of \$1.0)

- NSE Indices, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), launched a new thematic index the Nifty India Tourism Index.
- This index will track the performance of companies from the Nifty 500 that are directly linked to the travel and tourism industry.
- Travel and tourism are two of the largest industries in India, with a total contribution of about \$199.6 billion to the country's GDP.
- This new index will facilitate the creation of investment products specifically targeting the tourism industry, providing valuable tools for investors to capitalize on its growth potential.
- The Nifty India Tourism Index will have a base date of April 1, 2005, with a base value of 1000.
- The index will be reconstituted twice a year and rebalanced quarterly to reflect changes in the travel and tourism sector.

# Uttar Pradesh leads in Transmission line additions by State Utilities



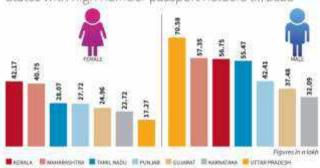
- According to statistics released by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA)
- UP has topped the list for adding transmission lines of 1,460 Circuit km by state transmission utilities in FY24
- Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd 898
   Circuit km, was in second place.
- At the third place was Tamil Nadu, added 753
   Circuit km

# Kerala tops chart of highest passport penetration among women in the country



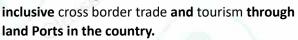
- Women from Kerala hold the highest number of passports issued in the country till 2023, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Gujarat.
- Though Kerala has the highest number of total passport holders in the country with 98.92 lakh (including male and female),
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of male passport holders with 70.58 lakh.
- According to a survey on "Youth Student Migration from Kerala" conducted in 2023 - found that more women from Kerala are pursuing overseas education.

States with high number passport holders till 2023



#### Land Ports Authority Releases Report on Gender-Inclusive Framework for Cross-Border Trade in India

- Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) released a report on 'Engendering Land Ports in India' in New Delhi.
- The main objective of the report is to develop a framework for gender





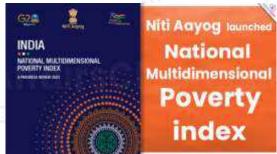
#### **Land Ports**

- Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) is a statutory body under Ministry of Home Affairs, established in 2012
- LAI Act of 2010 established the LPAI to develop and manage facilities for the cross-border

movement of passengers and goods at designated points along India's international borders.

- Land ports are also known as border stations for import and export.
- They house customs and border protection, and other inspection agencies that enforce the country's laws related to these activities.
- Functions:
  - Seamless passenger movement and Immigration facility
  - Hassle free international trade and goods handling
  - Security & safety; managing border infrastructure
- There are currently 11 Land ports operational in India

# 24.82 crore Indians escape Multidimensional Poverty in last 9 years – NITI Aayog Report



Findings of NITI Aayog's Discussion
Paper 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-

It shows an overall reduction in multidimensional poverty in India from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23.

Multidimensional poverty is measured by improvement in health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators

- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh registering the largest decline
- Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, U.P., M.P. remain the top five poor States
- The report said the recent National MPI was based on National Family Health Surveys 4 (2015-16) and 5 (2019-21).
- "Government has a goal to bring down multidimensional poverty to below 1% and all efforts are being made in that direction," NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam



# 2023 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

- The Report titled 'Beyond Basics' based on a household survey led by the Pratham
   Foundation has been released.
- Target Age Group: 34,745 rural students aged 14 to 18 years in 28 districts across 26 states
- Aim to assess:
  - the foundational reading and arithmetic abilities
  - Activities in which India's youth are currently engaged.
  - Awareness of digital technologies and platforms among the youth.
  - Aspirations of Indian youth
- ASER reports are usually referred to by the government while formulating policies.
- Overall (of those aged 14-18), a quarter (26.5%) could not read a Class 2-level textbook in their regional language, and a little less than half (42.7%) could not read sentences in English.
- Basic mathematics remains the big challenge. More than half of the surveyed students (56.7%) could not solve a simple 3-digit by 1-digit division problem.
- Around 89% of those surveyed had a smartphone
  in the household and 92% said they knew how to
  use it signalling a shift that has gathered force in
  the pandemic years and after.
- The report reveals that children continue to struggle with basic reading and arithmetic skills well into their teenage years, even after reaching Class 10 and higher secondary levels of education (Classes 11 and 12).
- The findings point to a huge skill deficit among adolescents, many of them only a few years away from entering the job market.

# TISS: State of Teachers, Teaching and Teacher Education Report 2023

 The Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE) at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) released a **report** "Right Teacher for Every Child: State of Teachers, Teaching, and Teacher Education Report 2023.

- Surveyed 8 states through questionnaires for over 6,000 teachers, principals, teacher colleges and analyzed government data on teachers.
- 35 to 41 per cent of mathematics teachers in both government and private schools did not have mathematics as a subject at the undergraduate level
- Despite certification requirements, only 46% of primary teachers possessed the diploma mandated to teach.
- Even among the certified, most scored low from 40-50% in exams. Similarly, just 32% passed the Teacher Eligibility Test, indicating subpar quality
- Mandated student ratios of 30:1 primary and 35:1 upper primary are not met
- While private schools often have better facilities, teachers face low, unequal pay and lack contracts.
   Over 50% of female teachers work without written agreements, earning half of public school teachers.
- In government schools, overworked teachers handle multiple classes and grades together.
   Declining student attendance and unsupportive parents add to difficulties in public education.

#### Ministry of Education releases All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022

 Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) initiated the AISHE in 2011 to build a database and assess the state of higher education in the country

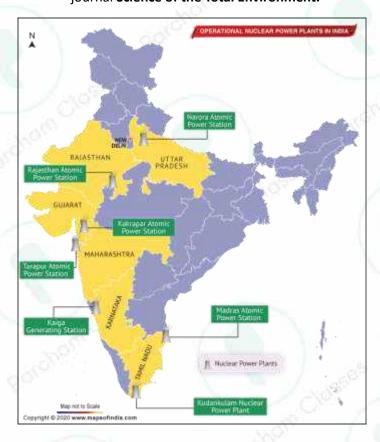
#### From 2014-15 to 2021-22:

- Total enrolment in higher education increased
   26.5%
- Female enrolment in Higher Education increased
   32%
- Significant 44% increase in enrolment of SC students
- Substantial increase of 65.2% in enrolment of ST students
- Increase of 45% in OBC Student enrolment
- Total Ph.D. enrolment has increased 81.2%
- 42.3 % increase in Female Minority Student enrolment
- 341 Universities/University level institutions have been established
- Female faculty/teachers have increased 22%

# Minimal radioactive discharges from Indian nuclear plants: study



- Based on an analysis of radiological data of 20 years (2000-2020) from six nuclear power plants based in India
- The period of study for the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Station (Tamil Nadu)** is from 2013 to 2020.
- Researchers at the Bhabha Atomic Research
  Centre (BARC), Mumbai have found that the
  radioactive discharges from the nuclear plants and
  the resultant potential environmental impact have
  been "minimal".
- The other six power plants studied are:
  - Tarapur Atomic Power Station (Maharashtra)
  - Madras Atomic Power Station (Kalpakkam, Chennai, TN)
  - Kaiga Generating Station (Karnataka)
  - Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (Rawatbhata, Raj.)
  - Narora Atomic Power Station (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Kakrapar Atomic Power Station. (Gujarat)
  - The results were published recently in the journal Science of the Total Environment.



### The Status Report of Snow Leopards in India





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- Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav released the report on the Status of Snow leopards in India during the National Board for Wildlife meeting held in New Delhi.
- The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Program is the first-ever scientific exercise that reports Snow leopard population of 718 individuals in India. (total count)
- SPAI systematically covered over 70% of the potential snow leopard range from 2019 to 2023
- A total of 241 new snow leopards were phothgraphed
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is the National Coordinator for this exercise that was carried out with support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru and WWF-India.
- Covering approximately 1,20,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Snow leopard habitat across the trans-Himalayan region, including UTs of Ladakh and J & K, and states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Based on data analysis, the estimated population in different states are as follows:
  - Ladakh (477),
  - Uttarakhand (124),
  - Himachal Pradesh (51),
  - > Arunachal Pradesh (36),
  - Sikkim (21),
  - Jammu and Kashmir (9).

The report also mentions the need and proposal for establishing a dedicated Snow Leopard Cell at WII under the MoEFCC

#### **Snow Leopard Protection**

- IUCN Red List- Vulnerable
- In India, the snow leopard is listed under Schedule
   I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which gives
   it the highest protection status under the
   country's laws.
- Snow Leopard capital of the world: Hemis, Ladakh
- International Snow leopard's Day 23 October

# Karnataka boasts highest number of EV charging stations in India

- According to statistics from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Union Ministry of Power - Karnataka tops the country in terms of public electric vehicle with 5,059 charging stations, followed by Maharashtra (3,079), Delhi (1,886), Kerala (958)
- In terms of the number of EVs, Uttar Pradesh is top with 7.45 lakh, followed by Maharashtra (4.15 lakh), and Karnataka (3.31 lakh).
- In 2017, Karnataka became the pioneer in India by introducing the first electric vehicle (EV) policy.

#### **India State of Forest Report (ISFR)**

- Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR).
- There has been an increase in forest cover of the country by 5516 km2 between ISFR 2017 and ISFR 2021
- States with Highest Forest Area/Cover:
  - Area-wise: Madhya Pradesh (largest forest cover in the country) followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Maharashtra.
  - Forest cover as a percentage of total geographical area: Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Nagaland.

#### Assessment of the black-necked cranes



- The Wildlife Institute of India and the Zoological Survey of India have been carrying out assessment of the black-necked cranes.
- As per the survey conducted by Wildlife Institute
  of India in 2016-2017 in Ladakh region, the
  population size of black necked crane was around
  66-69 individuals.
- Black-necked Crane (Grus nigricollis) is listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The species is also listed in Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of wild fauna and flora and the Convention on conservation of Migratory Species.
- The important habitats of Black-necked Crane have been notified as a Protected Areas, for example, Changthang Sanctuary, Ladakh.
- The Tso Kar Wetlands Complex, an important foraging and breeding ground for Black-necked Crane has been designated as a Ramsar Site in December 2020.

# First-ever tri-State synchronized vulture survey in India



 The three States used to conduct separate surveys, which often resulted in duplication of data as the surveys were conducted at different time periods

#### As per the data from the survey:

- A total of 320 individual vultures were counted in the seven-protected areas
- including 51 individual vultures in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

#### The seven protected areas:

- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala.
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve (TR), Nagarhole TR, Satyamangalam TR and Biligiri Ranganathan Swamy Temple Tiger Reserve in Karnataka.
- Nellai forest division and Mudumalai tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- Vultures faced a catastrophic population decline during the 2000s when the species was

- exposed to the anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac used as a painkiller for cattle.
- South Asia had about four crore White-rumped vultures until the end of the 1990s. But the population has come down to fewer than 10,000.
- The sighting of Himalayan griffon is only reported from Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

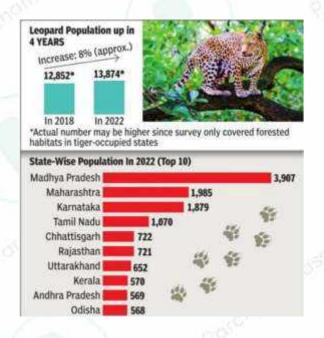
#### **Additional Fact:**

world's first conservation and breeding center
 for the critically endangered Asian king vulture
 Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre
 (JCBC) Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh

#### TYPES OF VULTURES



## Report on Status of Leopards in India, 2022



- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav released the report on Status of Leopards in India
- The fifth cycle leopard population estimation was carried out by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India
- as part of the quadrennial "Monitoring of Tiger, Co-predators, prey and their habitat" exercise in tiger range States

#### **Key Findings:**

- India's leopard (Panthera pardus fusca)
   population is estimated at 13,874 (Range: 12,616
   - 15,132) individuals, representing stable
   population in comparison to the similar area being
   sampled in 2018 with 12,852 (12,172-13,535)
   individuals.
- There is a 1.08% per annum growth
- This estimate represent population of 70% of leopard habitat, the Himalayas and semi arid parts of country which are not tiger habitat were not sampled.
- In Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains, there is a -3.4% decline per annum, while the largest growth rate was in Central India and Eastern Ghats of 1.5%.
- Madhya Pradesh houses the largest population of leopards in the country – 3,907
- followed by Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879), Tamil Nadu (1,070)
- Tiger Reserves or sites with highest leopard population are, Nagarajunasagar Srisailam (Andhra Pradesh), followed by Panna (Madhya Pradesh), and Satpura (Madhya Pradesh)

# India's golden langur population soars: estimated at 7,396



- The comprehensive population estimation of the endangered primate was carried out by the Primate Research Centre NE India (PRCNE), in association with Assam Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), and Conservation Himalayas.
- The entire distribution range of the golden langur (Trachypithecus geei) covers the Manas Biosphere Reserve and all fragmented forests in the western part of Assam.

 The previous population estimation in 2008-09, recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India.

#### India's golden langur

- Scientific Name: Trachypithecus geei
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Endangered
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix-I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

# Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23



- For the first time in about 11 years, the government released the broad findings of the All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey carried out between August 2022 and July 2023.
- The data will play a key role in reviewing critical economic indicators, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), poverty levels, and the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI).

#### As per the latest Survey

- The average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) in Indian households <u>rose</u> since 2011-12 by:
  - > 33.5% in urban households (to ₹3,510)
  - → 40.42% in rural households(to hit ₹2,008)
- The proportion of spending on food has dropped
  - ➤ 46.4% for rural households from 52.9% in 2011-12
  - 39.2% for Urban households from 42.6%.
- This reduction could translate into a lower weightage for food prices in the country's retail inflation calculations.
- The bottom 5% ranked by an average MPCE
  - India's rural population ₹1,373
  - India's urban population ₹2,001
- The top 5% ranked by an average MPCE
  - India's rural population ₹10,501
  - India's urban population ₹20,824

#### Food spending

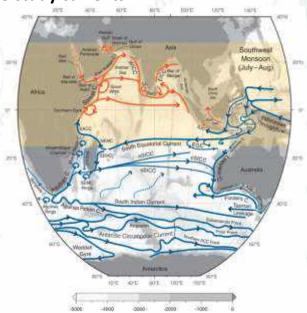
per capita consumption expenditure decreased in both rural and urban areas



| RU                        |                       | RAL             | UR                    | BAN             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Period % share of cereals | % share of<br>cereals | % share of food | % share of<br>cereals | % share of food |
| 1999-00                   | 22.23                 | 59.4            | 12.39                 | 48.06           |
| 2004-05                   | 17.45                 | 53.11           | 9.63                  | 40.51           |
| 2009-10                   | 13.77                 | 56.98           | 8.16                  | 44.39           |
| 2011-12                   | 10.75                 | 52.9            | 6.66                  | 42.62           |
| 2022-23                   | 4.91                  | 46.38           | 3.64                  | 39.17           |

- Among the States, the MPCE is the highest in **Sikkim** for both rural (₹7,731) and urban areas (₹12,105).
- It is the **lowest in Chhattisgarh** (₹2,466 for rural households and ₹4,483 for urban household).

#### **INCOIS scientists map Indian Ocean floor** to study currents



- A recent study of the Indian Ocean floor or the bathymetry was undertaken by the scientists of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
- Bathymetry It is the study and mapping of the depth of water in oceans, rivers, lakes, and **streams**. On bathymetric maps, the lines connect points of equal depth.
- The study 'Impact of bathymetry on Indian Ocean circulation in a nested regional ocean model' showed that the previously studied and used ocean modelling systems had underestimated the observed coastal currents around India.
- It is not just the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, even the Maldives islands have an influence on

- Indian Ocean currents significantly altering the direction and speed to a greater extent.
- The study highlights the importance of bathymetry in ocean models to understand ocean movements better.
- This understanding is crucial for improving forecasts related to ocean conditions, weather, and climate, especially for Indian ocean rim countries and subcontinent.

#### Over 4000 Gangetic Dolphins in India: Indian Wildlife Institute

Indian Wildlife Institute claims presence of 4,000 dolphins in Ganga and its tributaries



- The Namami Gange Mission to clean and purify the Ganga has led to an increase in the dolphin population in the river.
- According to the Wildlife Institute of India, there are currently about 4,000 dolphins in the Ganga and its tributaries.
- In Uttar Pradesh alone, the estimated number of Gangetic dolphins is around 2,000.
- The **UP** government has implemented a new tourism policy and declared a Dolphin Sanctuary area in Chambal Sanctuary.
- A goal has been set to stabilise the Gangetic dolphin population and double the number of the endangered species by 2030.
- They are being conserved in India, especially in the Ganga and its tributaries, including the Ramganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Ghaghra, Rapti, Son, Gandak, Chambal, and Kosi rivers.

#### **Gangetic Dolphins**

- It is a freshwater species
- It inhabits the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.
- Common Names: Blind dolphin, Ganges dolphin, Ganges susu, hihu, Scientific name: Platanista gangetica
- The Gangetic Dolphin has been recognized as India's National Aquatic Animal.

#### **Conservation status:**

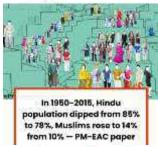
IUCN: Endangered

Wildlife (Protection) Act: Schedule-I

CITES: Appendix I



#### India's Majority Population Decline Second Only To Myanmar In South Asia: EAC PM Working Paper



- India has seen the second most significant decline of 7.82 % in the majority population, only next to Myanmar, within the immediate South Asian neighbourhood from 1950 to 2015.
- A working paper of the Economic Advisory Council
  to the Prime Minister, EAC PM, said India has
  witnessed an increase in the share of Minority
  groups Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Sikh and
  a decline in the share of Jain and Parsis.







 Hindu population share was 84.68 per cent in 1950, which came down to 78.06 per cent in 2015.

- Between 1950 and 2015, the Muslim population increased by 43.15 per cent, and the Christian population by 5.38 per cent.
- The share of the majority religious denomination for 167 countries has, on average, reduced by 22 per cent from 1950-2015.
- The paper provided a detailed cross-country analysis of the share of religious minorities in 167 countries.
- It said minority populations have shrunk substantially in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Afghanistan.

# **Urbanization Boosts Night-Time Warming** in Indian Cities: IIT Study



- As per the new research from the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar
- Urbanization has led to nearly 60% more nighttime warming in over 140 prominent Indian cities compared to non-urban areas surrounding them
- According to the research, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Rajkot had the highest urban effect, while Delhi-NCR and Pune were at the fourth and fifth position, respectively.
- Urbanization is known to be responsible for the urban heat island (UHI) effect, in which the concrete and asphalt (used in constructing roads and pavements) surfaces store heat during the day and release it in the evening, thereby raising nighttime temperatures.
- The study sought to determine how much urbanisation and local climate change each contributed to raising night-time temperatures over the past two decades (2003-2020) to analyse temperature trends in 141 cities
- "The mean urban effect for all these cities across India was found to be 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade.
- This leads to an estimate of 37.73 % of the total urban warming being linked to urbanisation -that is, nearly 60 % more to the surrounding nonurban areas.

# 64 Great Indian Bustard counted in National Desert Park, Jaisalmer



- For the first time, 64 Great Indian Bustards, also known as 'Godawan,' were spotted in Jaisalmer district during the annual waterhole survey, a method used for wildlife census.
- In 2022, a count using the waterhole method recorded 42 Great Indian Bustards.

#### **Great Indian Bustard**

- Scientific Name: Ardeotis nigriceps
- Habitat: It inhabits dry grasslands and scrublands.
- The state bird of Rajasthan

#### **Conservation Status:**

- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
- Wildlife (Protection)Act, 1972: Schedule 1
- CITES: Appendix 1

# Uttar Pradesh tops list of complaints with National Commission for Women



- Of the total 12,648
  complaints received for
  violence against women by
  the National Commission for
  Women (NCW) till now in
  2024, the highest (6,492)
  were from Uttar Pradesh,
  followed by Delhi and then
  Maharashtra.
- Manipur has recorded only three complaints of "crime against women" with the commission.
  - The highest number of 3,567 complaints were received in the "right to dignity" category that

Violence against women State wise number of complaints received by National Commission for Women so far

| State         | Complaints |
|---------------|------------|
| Uttar Predesh | 6,492      |
| Delhi         | 1,119      |
| Maharashtra   | 764        |
| Bihar         | 586        |
| M.P.          | 516        |
| Haryana       | 509        |
| Rajasthan     | 409        |
| West Bengal   | 307        |
| Kamataka      | 305        |
| Tamil Nadu    | 304        |
| Others        | 1.337      |

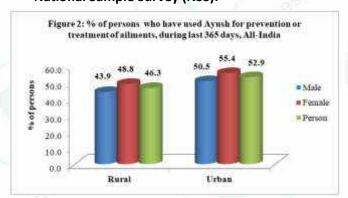
- involves harassment other than domestic violence.
- This was followed by 3,213 complaints of domestic violence.
- In 2023, a total of 28,811 complaints related to women were registered by the NCW.

# High installation cost barrier to adopting rooftop solar power in India: Survey

- High cost of installation and lack of skilled workforce are among the top three barriers to adoption of rooftop solar power in India.
- The survey was conducted by Luminous Power Technologies, involving 4,318 respondents from 5 metros and 8 non-metro cities.
- 45 per cent believed skilled labour is unavailable locally
- 59 per cent respondents have concerns over high initial installation costs.

# All-India Ayush Survey (July 2022 - June 2023)

- Around 46 per cent of rural and 53 per cent of urban individuals in India availed of Ayush for the prevention or treatment of ailments in the past year, according to findings of a survey released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Ayush refers to the six Indian systems of medicines, namely Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy are majorly prevalent in the country.
- The findings are a part of the first exclusive all-India survey on Ayush conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) from July 2022 to June 2023, as part of the 79th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS).



 The survey states that about 95 per cent of the rural population aged 15 years and above in India are aware of AYUSH, whereas the number stands at 96 per cent for urban India.

- 79 per cent and 80 per cent of the households in rural and urban India have at least one member aware of medicinal plants and home medicines.
- Around 24 per cent of the households have at least one member aware about folk medicine or local health tradition in both rural and urban India.
- This survey covers the entire country, with information collected from 1,81,298 households, including 1,04,195 in rural areas and 77,103 in urban areas.

# 730 Lion-tailed Macaque in Sharavathi Valley LTM Sanctuary: Report

 A report on the status of diurnal arboreal mammals in and around the forest of Sharavathi Valley Liontailed Macaque (LTM)



Sanctuary which has been submitted to the Karnataka Forest Department recently has revealed that there are 730 LTM in vicinity.

- The LTMs are being a habitat specialist confined to a narrow range of evergreen forests along the slopes and adjoining forests.
- The report has also called for initiatives and interventions which are required to manage the LTM and its habitat in the sanctuary.
- The Lion-tailed macaque (Macaca silenus) is an Old World monkey.
- In the wild, these are only native to India.
- It is a primate endemic to small and severely fragmented rainforests of the Western Ghats in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

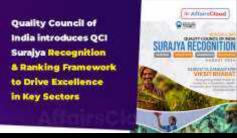
#### **Conservation status**

IUCN: EndangeredCITES: Appendix I

• The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 : Schedule

# QCI launched Surajya Framework to promote excellence

- An empowering initiative designed to drive excellence among states to improve quality of life of citizens for a Viksit Bharat.
- This framework is categorized under four pillars:
  - 1. Shiksha (Education)
  - 2. Swasthya (Health)
  - 3. Samriddhi (Prosperity)
  - 4. Sushasan (Governance)



| Category     | Region              | Details  |
|--------------|---------------------|--|
| Shiksha      | Uttar               | Leads with the   |
| (Education)  | Pradesh             | highest number of  |
|              |                     | accreditations,  |
|              |                     | assessments, and   |
|              |                     | ratings  |
|              | Delhi (UT)          | Ranks prominently  |
|              |                     | among union  |
|              |                     | territories  |
| Swasthya     | Chhattisgarh,       | Complete certification   |
| (Health)     | Karnataka,          | in Ayushman Arogya   |
|              | Kerala,             | Yojana (NABH)  |
|              | Rajasthan,          | 1 1  |
|              | Mizoram,            |  |
|              | Manipur             |  |
|              | Tamil Nadu,         | Lead in Medical Entry  |
|              | Maharashtra         | Level Testing Labs   |
|              | /-                  | (MELT) rankings  |
|              | 1                   | (NABL)   |
|              | Chandigarh          | 100% certification in  |
|              | (UT)                | Ayushman Arogya  |
|              |                     | Yojana   |
|              | Jammu &             | 71.43% certification in  |
|              | Kashmir (UT)        | Ayushman Arogya  |
|              |                     | Yojana, excels in MELT   |
|              | Delhi (UT)          | Excels in MELT,  |
|              |                     | followed by Jammu &  |
|              | /                   | Kashmir  |
| Samriddhi    | Gujarat,            | Lead with the highest  |
| (Prosperity) | Karnataka,          | number of ZED  |
|              | Rajasthan           | certifications (Micro  |
|              | 2                   | category)  |
|              |                     |  |
|              | Jammu &             | Achieved significant   |
|              | Jammu &<br>Kashmir, | Achieved significant certifications in ZED   |
|              |                     | Company of the Compan |
|              | Kashmir,            | certifications in ZED  |
|              | Kashmir,<br>Delhi   | Contract (1)   |

# Only 21% money in bank accounts belongs to women, shows NSO data

 Only a fifth of the total amount of bank deposits in the country belongs to women account holders, even though every third bank account is owned by a woman, according to the latest "Men and

- **Women" report** released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- This highlights the significant financial disparities that exist between men and women in the country.
- Data shows that as of March 2023, the share of accounts belonging to women stood at 36.4 per cent of the total individual accounts.
- Money deposited in the accounts belonging to women stood at 20.8 per cent of the total
- In metropolitan areas only 16.5 per cent of the total amount deposited belongs to women,
- while 30 per cent of the money deposited in rural areas belongs to women.
- only one in every four employees working in the banks is a female
- only **34,879 women held senior management positions** in 2023 as compared to 186,000 men.

#### IN MINORITY



# FINANCIAL DISPARITY (in ₹ trillion) 39,00,593 187,42,311 Money in Total 20.81 accounts money in of females accounts Share (%)

#### WORKFORCE DIVISION



# BHAVISHYA: ranked 3rd best in NeSDA, 2021

- The Department of Pension and Pensioners'
  Welfare (DOPPW) introduced 'Bhavishya', a
  centralized pension processing software aims to
  tackle delays and clerical errors in pension
  processing.
- This system also helps reduce financial loss and harassment for pensioners.
- Bhavishya streamlines pension processing across all central government Ministries and Departments.

- Since January 1, 2017, Bhavishya has been mandatory for all central civil Ministries and Departments.
- It unifies stakeholders on a single platform and follows the CCS Pension Rules, 2021.
- For Digital Government excellence, the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) initiative has been undertaken by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG).
- NeSDA was launched in August 2018

# Karnataka Leads Nation with 5,765 Public EV Charging Stations

- With 5,765 charging stations, Karnataka has the highest number of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the country, according to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Around 85% of these stations (4,462) are in Bengaluru Urban district.
- The data from BEE shows that Karnataka stands ahead of Maharashtra (3,728 stations), Uttara Pradesh (1,989 stations), and Delhi (1,941 stations) in the list.
- Karnataka was the first State in India to introduce an EV policy in 2017.
- The government also has plans to invest ₹35 crore to set up 100 EV charging stations in collaboration with electricity supply companies (escoms).

# NIRF Ranking 2024: IIT Madras bags top spot in overall category; IISC Bengaluru tops Universities category

| Category         | Institution              | Rank |
|------------------|--------------------------|------|
| University       | IISc Bengaluru           | 1st  |
| Management       | IIM Ahmedabad            | 1st  |
| Engineering      | IIT Madras               | 1st  |
| Engineering      | IIT Delhi                | 2nd  |
| Engineering      | IIT Bombay               | 3rd  |
| Law              | National Law School,     | 1st  |
|                  | Bangalore                |      |
| Medical          | AIIMS Delhi              | 1st  |
| State Public     | Anna University, Chennai | 1st  |
| University       | 36                       |      |
| Open             | Indira Gandhi National   | 1st  |
| University       | Open University (IGNOU)  |      |
| Skill University | Symbiosis School of      | 1st  |
|                  | Communications, Pune     | -3   |

# The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore ranked best institution in the country

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has been listed in the 401-500 rank globally while it topped in the list of Indian universities, according to the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2024.
- The Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has been ranked the second best institution and the first among private institutions in the country,
- The Shanghai ARWU ranked universities based on academic and research performance indicators,
- The ranking considers both quality and quantity of research outcomes.
- It has published a list of top 1,000 universities in the world this year. Fifteen universities from India are on the list.



# PM Narendra Modi hails record gas production in country



- Our self-reliance in the field of energy is very important in achieving the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'
- The gas production in 2020-21 was 28.7 BCM and increased to 36.43 BCM (Billion cubic meters) in 2023-24.

The country is expected to reach 45.3 BCM gas production by FY26, according to Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri.

### In a first, forest dept launches lesser florican census in Kutch





- Lesser Florican Census 2024: Gujarat Forest
  Department launched the first-ever census to
  estimate the population of lesser floricans in
  Kutch's grasslands.
- Area: Around 150 forest staff, NGO volunteers, and birdwatchers participated, covering areas like the Lala-Budiya Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Sanctuary and parts of Banni, one of Asia's largest grasslands.
- Significance: While population estimation of lesser floricans is regularly conducted in Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar), this is the first time it's being done in Kutch, which is unique for hosting three bustard species — GIB, lesser floricans, and Houbara bustards together.

# Hotter Kalahari desert may stop hornbills breeding by 2027



- In the Kalahari, air temperatures have already risen more than 2°C in a few decades.
- The effects of air temperature and drought on the breeding output of southern yellow-billed hornbills (Tockus leucomelas) in Africa's Kalahari Desert over a decade period, from 2008 to 2019.
- Without successful breeding, the population will not be able to persist and will quickly become locally extinct.
- These birds are still common across much of central and eastern southern Africa.

In India: India is home to nine species of hornbills



#### The Great Hombili

- Habitat: Western Ghats and Himalayas Largest of all hornbills in India, state bird of Aronachal Pradesh and
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I

Kerala.

Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972: Schedule I

#### Narcondam Hombil



- Endemic to the Indian island of Narcondam in Andamans.
- . IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix II
- WPA, 1972: Schedule I

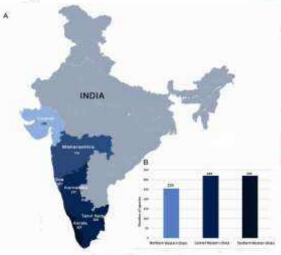
#### Commerce and Industry under the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)

- Kerala was the top performer, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Meanwhile, Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, and Puducherry were ranked the worst performers, the ranking showed.

#### Kerala secures first rank in Urban **Governance Index: study**

- Kerala has secured first rank in the Urban Governance Index (UGI), a two year-long study conducted across several cities in India by the Praja Foundation.
- The State scored 59.31 out of a possible score of 100 in various metrics, while Odisha came second with 55.10.

#### Kerala, T.N. host most number of butterfly species in Western Ghats



- The Western Ghats are home to 337 butterfly species, with Kerala hosting the highest (328), followed by Tamil Nadu (326) and Karnataka (317).
- A study published in the Journal of the Bombay **Natural History Society**



#### India's first 'teal carbon' study



- India's first study on 'teal carbon', undertaken at Keoladeo National Park (KNP) in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district
- Teal carbon refers to carbon stored in non-tidal freshwater wetlands, encompassing carbon sequestered in vegetation, microbial biomass, and dissolved and particulate organic matter.
- These ecosystems are considered to be **more** effective at carbon capture and storage than terrestrial forest ecosystems, and can store and sequester more carbon than any other type of terrestrial ecosystem.
- Threats: Though these wetlands play a crucial role in regulating greenhouse gases, they are vulnerable to degradation from pollution, land use changes, water extraction, and landscape modifications.

#### Kerala, Andhra Pradesh top ease of doing business reformers' ranking

Kerala, followed by Andhra Pradesh, were ranked as the top performers by the Ministry of

#### Kaziranga National Park Emerges as India's 2nd Butterfly Diversity Hub

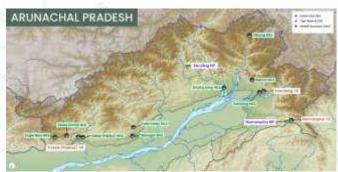
- more than 446 butterfly species have been reported from Kaziranga National Park making it the second highest in the country next to Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The first-ever "Butterfly Conservation Meet-2024," held from September 27 to 29, attracted approximately 40 butterfly enthusiasts from across India.





#### Kaziranga National Park

- Location: It is located in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.
- It was declared a national park in 1974.
- It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1985)
- houses two-thirds of the total world population of greater one-horned rhinoceros.
- Rattan Cane, a type of climbing palm, is also found here.
- one of the last remaining homes of the endangered and endemic western hoolock gibbon, the only species of apes found in India.
- last homes of the critically endangered Bengal florican.

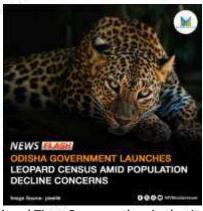


#### Namdapha National Park

- It is located in the Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, surrounded by Myanmar on the Southeast.
- It has a common boundary with Kamlang Wildlife
   Sanctuary (Lohit District)
- It is only park in the World to have the four Feline species of big cat namely the Tiger, Leopard, Snow

- **Leopard, and Clouded Leopard**, and numbers of Lesser cats.
- also home to the distinctive Hoolock Gibbons, highly endangered and only 'ape' species found in India.

# First-Ever State sponsored Leopard Census in Odisha Finds 696 Leopards



- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
  had conducted the last leopard census in Odisha
  in 2022, during which 568 leopards were found.
- Odisha's leopard population has increased by
   22%, rising from 568 to 696 in two years between
   2022 and 2024
- 200 leopards were located in the Similipal Tiger
   Reserve the highest in the state
- The Satkosia landscape second-highest leopard population in the state at 150
- Forty-five percent of the leopard population in Odisha is located outside the protected area network
- The population of leopards in the state was 760, as per the 2018 NTCA census

#### Release of Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024 on the Occasion of National Milk Day 2024



- Union Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh released the annual publication of 'Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024' of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on the occasion of National Milk Day celebrated in New Delhi
- The BAHS 2024 is based on the outcomes of the Integrated Sample Survey conducted for the period from 1st March 2023 to 29th February 2024.
- India is leading in milk production globally whereas
   2<sup>nd</sup> in Egg production.

#### Milk Production:

- As released in BAHS 2024, the total Milk production in the country is estimated as 239.30 million tons during 2023-24 registered a growth of 5.62% over the past 10 years which was 146.3 million tons in 2014-15.
- Further, production has increased by 3.78% during 2023-24 over the estimates of 2022-23.
- The top five milk producing States during 2023-24
   Uttar Pradesh (16.21 %), followed by Rajasthan (14.51 %), Madhya Pradesh (8.91 %), Gujarat (7.65 %), and Maharashtra (6.71 %).
- In terms of annual growth rate (AGR), the highest AGR recorded by West Bengal (9.76%) followed by Jharkhand (9.04%), Chhattisgarh (8.62%) and Assam (8.53%) over the previous year.

#### **Egg Production:**

- The total Egg production in the country is estimated as 142.77 billion nos. during 2023-24 and registered a growth of 6.8% growth over the past 10 years as compared to the estimates of 78.48 billion numbers during 2014-15.
- Production has increased annually by 3.18% during 2023-24 over 2022-23.
- The major contribution in the total Egg production comes from Andhra Pradesh (17.85 %), followed by Tamil Nadu (15.64 %), Telangana (12.88%), West Bengal (11.37%) and Karnataka (6.63 %).
- In terms of AGR, the highest growth rate was recorded by Ladakh (75.88%) and followed by Manipur (33.84%) and Uttar Pradesh (29.88%).

#### **Meat Production:**

 The total Meat production in the country is estimated as 10.25 million tonnes during 2023-24 and registered a growth of 4.85 % over the past 10 years as compared to the estimates of 6.69 million tonnes in 2014-15.

- Further, the production was increased by 4.95 % in 2023-24 over 2022-23.
- The Major contribution in the total meat production comes from West Bengal with 12.62 % share and followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.29%), Maharashtra (11.28 %), Telangana (10.85 %) and Andhra Pradesh (10.41 %).
- In terms of annual growth rate, the highest Annual Growth Rate (AGR) has recorded in Assam (17.93%) followed by Uttarakhand (15.63%) and Chhattisgarh 11.70(%).

#### **Wool Production:**

- The total Wool production in the country is estimated as 33.69 million kg during 2023-24 registered a slight growth of 0.22% over last year.
- It was 36.76 million kg during 2019-20 and 33.61 million KG in previous year.
- The Major contribution in the total Wool production comes from Rajasthan with a share of 47.53% followed by Jammu & Kashmir (23.06%), Gujarat (6.18%), Maharashtra (4.75%) and Himachal Pradesh (4.22%).
- In terms of annual growth rate, the highest AGR has recorded by Punjab (22.04%) followed by Tamil Nadu (17.19%) and Gujarat (3.20%).

# India has over 11.5 lakh children vulnerable to child marriage: NCPR report

 The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) recently released a "Report on Vulnerable Children to Child Marriage in India"



- revealed that more than 11.5 lakh children across the 27 states and seven Union territories were vulnerable.
- These children, mostly girls, were school dropouts or had been irregular or absent from school for long without any intimation to authorities.
- Uttar Pradesh topped the list with more than 5
  lakh vulnerable children, Assam followed with 1.5
  lakh children and Madhya Pradesh has close to 1
  lakh such children.
- The Union territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands reported no vulnerable children.

 The report stated that many districts did not conduct the exercise, while Goa and Ladakh did not share data.

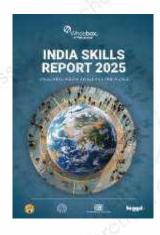
# Many children remain out of school despite RTE Act: Report

- The report titled "Implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009: Where do we stand."
- Released by the Right to Education Cell (RTE Cell) and the Council for Social Development (CSD)
- Data of the Rajya Sabha in February 2023 that there are about 9.3 lakh out of schoolchildren at the elementary level and about 3.2 lakh at the secondary level, wherein the highest number of out of school children at the elementary level was found to be in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, Gujarat and Assam,
- A higher proportion of dropouts are at the upper primary level in comparison to the primary levels.
- Over 90% of schools have drinking water facilities and boys' and girls' toilets, although functionality of the same is still a question in some of the schools, it said.
- about 2,469 private schools were closed between 2015-2018 and notices for school closure were issued to about 13,546 private schools for noncompliance of RTE norms and standards
- The 2016-17 data of U-DISE indicates that about 5 lakh schools did not have the requisite number of teachers as per the RTE norm, which was to the extent of 34.4%.
- Despite the overall increase in teacher numbers, there are still about 7.4 lakh vacant teacher positions against a sanctioned strength of 48.1 lakh.
- According to a UNESCO report, 15% of teachers in government schools and 30% in private unaided schools are still unqualified," it added.
- Since the time of the Kothari Commission report, it has been recommended that government spending on education should be 6% of GDP.
- By 2021-22, Union spending had dropped to 0.34% of GDP and for the year 2024-25, it stands at 0.37%.
- The funding ratio between the Union government and States was 65:35 until 2014-15, which then changed to 60:40 and the ratio was 90:10 for the north-eastern and Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

#### **India Skills Report 2025**

Published by Wheebox in collaboration with esteemed organizations such as the All India
 Council for Technical
 Education (AICTE),
 Confederation of Indian Industry
 (CII), and Association of Indian
 Universities, highlights
 India's growing potential

as a global talent hub.



- The India Skills Report is an annual initiative designed to Assess Employability, Track Skill Trends, Promote Global Mobility
- Nearly 55 per cent of Indian graduates are expected to be globally employable in 2025, up from 51.2 per cent in 2024
- India's National Employability stands at 54.8% indicating a significant pool of talent scoring above 60% on the Wheebox Global Employability Test (GET) with
- Maharashtra leading with 84% employability followed by Delhi (78%), Karnataka (75%)
- Male employability is slightly higher (53.47%) than female (46.53%)
- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh emerging as top states with male employable resources
- Rajasthan leads in female employability followed by Gujarat and Kerala.
- Kerala is one of the top States favoured for employment, alongside Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.
- 93.22% of users expressed strong interest in internships with Tamil Nadu showing the highest preference for internships, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and Karnataka.

#### **Smuggling in India Report 2023-24**

 The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has released the annual 'Smuggling in India – Report 2023-24' report.

#### **Key Highlights of report**

- **DRI seized 1319 kg of gold,** with land and air route contributing 55% and 36% of seizures respectively.
- Quantity of cocaine smuggled into India, primarily through airports, increased by 9%.
- DRI seized illegal wildlife products, particularly elephant tusks (~53 kg).

#### Why India is prone to Smuggling?

- Geographical location: Proximity to major drugtrafficking routes e.g. Death crescent (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan), Death triangle (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand) etc.
- Extensive border: porous land boundaries, difficult terrain, and presence of ~7500 km coastline, makes them difficult to monitor.
- High domestic demand: Cultural affinity for Gold, rising youth population and demand of narcotics etc. makes India a lucrative market.
- Economic factors: Differences in tax structures, pricing, etc. encourage smuggling. E.g. cheaper Gold in Dubai, Bangkok

#### NITI Aayog releases Report on 'SAFE' for Affordable Worker Housing to Boost Manufacturing Growth

- NITI Aayog released a report on "S.A.F.E. Accommodation - Worker Housing for manufacturing growth".
- This comprehensive report explores the crucial role of secure, affordable, flexible, and efficient (S.A.F.E.) accommodations for industrial workers in boosting India's manufacturing sector.
- It identifies key challenges, offers actionable solutions, and highlights the pivotal interventions required to scale up such housing facilities across the country.
- In the Union Budget 2024-25, the Hon'ble Finance Minister emphasized the importance of rental housing with dormitory-style accommodations for industrial workers.
- This initiative, to be executed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support and commitments from anchor industries, underscores the government's commitment to addressing a critical component of India's manufacturing ecosystem.
- India is poised to elevate its manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP from the current 17% to 25% as part of its long-term vision of achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047
- According to the Economic Survey 2023-24, India needs to generate 7.85 million jobs annually until 2030 to sustain its economic growth trajectory.

#### Why S.A.F.E. Accommodation Matters?

The report identifies several benefits:

- Enhancing Workforce Productivity and Retention
- Attracting Global Investments
- Aligning with Global Labour Standards

# **Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav** releases India State of Forest Report 2023

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav released the 'India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR 2023) at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.
- The ISFR is brought out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since 1987.
- The India State of Forest Report 2023 is 18<sup>th</sup> such report in the series.

#### **MAJOR FINDINGS**

- As per the present assessment, the total Forest and Tree cover is 8,27,357sq km, which is 25.17 percent of the geographical area of the country.
- The Forest Cover has an area of about 7,15,343sq km (21.76%) whereas the Tree Cover has an area of 1,12,014 sq km (3.41%).
- As compared to 2021, there is an increase of 1445 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country which includes- 156 sq km increase in the forest cover and 1289 sq km increase in tree cover.
- Top four states showing maximum increase in forest and tree cover are Chhattisgarh (684 sq km) followed by Uttar Pradesh (559 sq km), Odisha (559 sq km) and Rajasthan (394 sq km).
- Top three states showing maximum increase in forest cover are Mizoram (242 sq km) followed by Gujarat (180 sq km) and Odisha (152 sq km).
- Area wise top three states having largest forest and tree cover are Madhya Pradesh (85,724 sq km) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km) and Maharashtra (65,383 sq km).
- Area wise top three states having largest forest cover are Madhya Pradesh (77,073 sq km) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (65,882 sq km) and Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km).
- In terms of percentage of forest cover with respect to total geographical area, Lakshadweep (91.33 percent) has the highest forest cover followed by Mizoram (85.34 percent) and Andaman & Nicobar Island (81.62 percent).
- 8 states/UTs namely Mizoram, Lakshadweep, A & N Island, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Manipur have forest cover above 75 percent.
- The total mangrove cover is 4,992 sq km in the country.
- The extent of bamboo bearing area for the country has been estimated as 1,54,670sq km.

- In the present assessment total carbon stock in country's forest is estimated to be 7,285.5 million tonnes.
- There is an increase of 81.5 million tonnes in the carbon stock of country as compared to the last assessment.
- Regarding status on achievement of target under NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) related to carbon sequestration - as compared to the base year of 2005, India has already reached 2.29 billion tonnes of additional carbon sink as against the target of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes by 2030.

#### EC Releases Comprehensive Data on 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, Female Participation Leads at 65.78%

- The Election Commission of India has released a comprehensive statistical reports for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 and each of the simultaneous assembly elections held in four states namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim.
- As per the data, Lok Sabha Elections created world record with 646.4 million voters exercising their franchise.
- **8,360 candidates contest elections** as against 8,054 in 2019.
- Female voters stood at 65.78 per cent as compared to 65.55 per cent for male electors.
- A massive 46.4 per cent increase in third-gender electors from 2019.
- Over 10.58 lakh votes were not counted or rejected in the Lok Sabha election
- Only one Parliamentary constituency of Surat (Gujarat) was uncontested. BJP's Surat Lok Sabha seat candidate Mukesh Dalal was elected unopposed
- NOTA got 63,71,839 (0.99%) in 2024 compared to 1.06% in 2019.

# Annual report: Crime in Telangana jumps by 22% in 2024

- Overall crime in Telangana jumped by 22.53% with a net increase of 31,165 cases, according to the annual report released by Director General of Police (DGP) Jitender
- This 22.5% rise compared to 2023 highlights both increased reporting and rise in crimes such as cyber fraud, thefts, and crimes against women.
- Cyber crimes surged dramatically in Telangana during 2024 - 43.33%.

# **Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2024**

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri CR Patil released the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report for the entire country for the year 2024
- As per the assessment, the total annual groundwater recharge in the country has been assessed as 446.90 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM).
- For natural discharge the annual extractable ground water resource has been assessed as 406.19 BCM.
- The annual groundwater extraction for all uses is 245.64 BCM.
- The average stage of groundwater extraction for the country stands at 60.47 %.
- Out of the total 6746 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas) in the country, 4951 (73.4 %) assessment units are categorized as 'Safe.
- 711 (10.5 %) assessment units are categorized "Semi-critical", 206 (3.05 %) assessment units, have been categorized as 'Critical' and 751 (11.1%) assessment units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited'.
- Apart from these, there are 127 (1.8%) assessment units, which have been categorized as 'Saline' as major part of the ground water in phreatic aquifers in these units is brackish or saline.

#### **Key Highlights:**

- Total Annual GW Recharge has increased (15 BCM) substantially and Extraction has declined (3 BCM) in 2024 from 2017 assessment.
- Recharge from Tanks, Ponds and WCS has shown a consistent increase in the last five assessments.
- In the year 2024, it has increased by 0.39 BCM w.r.t. 2023.
- With respect to the year 2017, there is an increase of 11.36 BCM in recharge from Tanks, Ponds & WCS (from 13.98 BCM in 2017 to 25.34 BCM in 2024).
- The percentage of Assessment Units under Safe Category have increased from 62.6% in 2017 to 73.4 % in 2024 (The percentage of Safe assessment units was 73.14 % in 2023).
- The percentage of Over Exploited Assessment units have declined from 17.24 % in 2017 to 11.13 % in 2024 (The percentage of OE Assessment units was 11.23% in 2023).

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

- 1. Rule of Law Index 2024
- 2. Global Nature Conservation Index 2024
- 3. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2024
- 4. Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024
- 5. Corruption Perceptions Index 2023
- 6. Global Intellectual Property Index 2024
- 7. Global Cybersecurity Index 2024
- 8. World Press Freedom Index 2024
- 9. Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024
- 10. DHL Connectedness Index
- 11. UN World Happiness Report
- 12. Global Intellectual Property Index 2024
- 13. Gender Inequality Index 2022
- 14. Global Gender Gap index
- 15. Global Efficiency Index
- 16. Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024
- 17. Sustainable Development Report 2024
- 18. Network Readiness Index 2024
- 19. Adaptation Gap Report 2024
- 20. World Talent Ranking 2024
- 21. QS World University Rankings
- 22. World University Rankings 2024
- 23. Henley Passport Index 2024
- 24. Global Cities Index Report 2024
- 25. World's Best Company of 2024
- 26. B-Ready Index
- 27. World Wildlife Crime Report 2024
- 28. World Migration Report 2024
- 29. FATF Grey List
- 30. Women, Business and Law Report 2024
- 31. Air Quality Report 2023:
- 32. India Employment Report 2024
- 33. Global Electricity Review 2024
- 34. Arctic Ice Giant Viruses
- 35. world's second largest emitter of nitrous oxide
- 36. India's Most Valued Celebrity Brand
- 37. Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2024
- 38. UNCTAD report
- 39. 2024 An Eye on Methane Report

# India Ranks 79<sup>th</sup> out of 142 in World Justice Project's 'Rule of Law' Index 2024



- The 2024 WJP Rule of Law Index finds rule of law fell globally for the 7th consecutive year
- It declined in 57% of countries surveyed.
- · Progress emerges in the fight against corruption
- However, India is among the minority of countries where the score increased this year.
- India's overall rule of law score increased by less than 1% in this year's Index.
- Published annually since 2009
- Globally, the top-ranked country is Denmark, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Germany.
- The country with the lowest score is Venezuela, followed by Cambodia, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Myanmar.



- It ranks 79th out of 142 countries worldwide.
- Regionally, India ranks 3rd out of 6 countries in South Asia.
- The region's top performer is Nepal (ranked 69th out of 142 globally), followed by Sri Lanka and India.
- The three countries with the lowest scores in the region are Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan (140th globally).



### India Ranks 176th in the first Global Nature Conservation Index 2024



- The first Global Nature Conservation Nature Index have jointly prepared and released by Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and the non-profit website BioDB.com
- India ranked 176th among 180 countries
- India has been ranked as one of the five worst performer countries
- The European country of Luxembourg ranked on top
- The Pacific Island country of Kiribati ranked at the bottom

The countries were ranked on four key pillars:

- Land Management,
- Threats to Biodiversity
- Capacity and Governance, and
- Future Trends.
- These pillars were assessed using 25 performance indicators
- The data for the Index has been from the World Bank and the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

#### **Best Performing Countries**

| RANK | COUNTRY                   |
|------|---------------------------|
| 1    | Luxembourg -score of 70.8 |
| 2    | Estonia-70.5              |
| 3    | Denmark- 69               |
| 4    | Finland-66.9              |
| 5    | United Kingdom- 66.6      |

#### Worst performing countries

| RANK | COUNTRY                 |  |
|------|-------------------------|--|
| 180  | Kiribati- score of 41.2 |  |
| 179  | Türkiye- 41.5           |  |
| 178  | Iraq-43.3               |  |
| 177  | Micronesia-43.8         |  |
| 176  | India-45.5              |  |

# Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2024



- Measures acute multidimensional poverty across more than 100 developing countries
- The theme Poverty Amid Conflict.
- The report was jointly published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
- First launched in 2010
- MPI uses 10 indicators to track deprivation across three dimensions: health, education, and living standards:
  - ➤ **Health**: Child mortality and nutrition
  - **Education**: Years of schooling and attendance
  - Living standards: Water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, housing, assets

#### Key findings

- According to the report, approximately 1.1 billion people live in acute multidimensional poverty, with 455 million residing in conflict-affected regions.
- Over half of those in poverty are children under the age of 18 (584 million)
- Many poor individuals lack essential resources, including adequate sanitation, housing and cooking fuel
- The report underscores that countries
   experiencing conflict show significantly higher
   deprivation across all ten MPI indicators.
- 83.7 percent of poor people live in rural areas.
- 83.2 percent of the world's 1.1 billion multidimensionally poor people live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- The five countries with the largest number of people living in poverty are India (234 million), Pakistan (93 million), Ethiopia (86 million), Nigeria (74 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (66 million).

#### **India's National MPI (NMPI)**

- It was introduced in 2021 by NITI Aayog
- Retained the 10 original indicators of the global MPI model and has added two indicators, viz., Maternal Health and Bank Account.

## Global Hunger Index 2024 ranks India under 'serious' category



- · 19th edition
- has ranked India 105th, which places it under the "serious" category of the analysis - across 127 countries
- India is among 42 countries that fall within the "serious" category, alongside Pakistan and Afghanistan,
- other South Asian neighbours such as Bangladesh,
   Nepal and Sri Lanka showing better GHI scores to be listed under the "moderate" category.
- Theme: The theme for the 2024 Global Hunger Index (GHI) is "How gender justice can advance climate resilience and zero hunger".
- Based on the values of the four indicators, a GHI score is calculated for each country on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger
- where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.

#### How the GHI Is Calculated

Each country's GHI score is calculated based on a formula that combines four indicators that together capture the multidimensional nature of hunger:



Undernourishment: the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient:



Child stunting: the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition;



Child wasting: the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition; and



Child mortality: the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, reflecting in part the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy

- India's GHI Score is based on the values of four component indicators:
  - > 13.7% of the population is undernourished
  - > 35.5% of children under five are stunted

- 18.7% of them being wasted
- and 2.9 per cent of children die before their fifth birthday
- Created in 2006, the GHI was initially published by the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Germany-based 'Welthungerhilfe'.
- In 2007, the Irish NGO 'Concern Worldwide' also became a co-publisher.



#### GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES BY 2024 GHI RANK 2000 2008 2016 2024 Country Belarus < 5 < 5 < 5 < 5 Bosnia & Herzegovina 9.4 5.4 935 < 5 <5 Chile ≈5 €5 China 13.4 < 5 Costa Rica 5.6 <5 < 5 < 5 Croatia 5.5 < 5 < 5 4.5 Estonia ₹5 < 5 < 5 < 5 Georgia 12.0 6.6 5.4 Hungary e 5 ≥ 5 et 5 «5 Kuwait × 5 ranked < 5 Latvia < 5 < 5 < 5 c 5 < 5 5.7 Montenegro < 5 < 5 North Macedonia 7.6 5.3 5.1 < 5 Romania 5.0 7.9 < 5 Russian Federation 10.4 5.9 5.4 < 5 Serbia 5.9 €5 < 5 Slovakia 6.0 25 e5 < 5 6.5 5.4 < 5 63 United Arab Emirates 5.1 25 < 5 Unuguay 7.6 5.3 ×5 <5 **Hzbekistan** 5.9

#### WIPO's Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024



- Co-published by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School.
- include institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, credit, investment, linkages; creation, absorption and diffusion of knowledge; and creative outputs.
- It is considered a reliable tool for governments to assess innovation-led social and economic changes in their countries.
- Switzerland maintained its top position
  (14th consecutive year), followed by Sweden, US, and Singapore.
- India rises to 39th position (from 40<sup>th</sup> position in 2023) among 133 global economies. 81st position in 2015
- India ranked first among lower middle-income economies
- India ranked first in 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia region
- India has also secured the 4th position in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
   Science and Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking.
- the country has achieved the 7th rank globally in intangible asset intensity
- India's strengths lie in key indicators like ICT services exports, venture capital received, and intangible asset intensity.
- China, Türkiye, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines are the

## India ranks 93 out of 180 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index 2023



- Released by Transparency International.
- The index ranks countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- India slips 8 places since 2022. India's rank in 2022 was 85.
- India's overall score was 39 in 2023, while it was 40 in 2022.

- Ranks of India's neighbours Pakistan (133), Sri Lanka (115), Bangladesh (149), China (76)
- Top 3 countries Denmark at the top, followed by Finland, New Zealand.
- Bottom 3 Somalia (bottom), Venezuela, Syria
- In the Asian region, Singapore ranked at the top, overall ranked 5<sup>th</sup>

## India ranked 42 in the Global Intellectual Property Index 2024



- 12th edition of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center's International IP Index.
- India ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the International IP Index for 2024, out of 55 countries, using 50 distinct criteria.
- India's overall score also remained at 38.64 %, unchanged since 2022
- The report highlighted concerns over India's IP regime
- The United States emerged at the top of the list followed by the United Kingdom and France.

#### State of Global Air Report 2024



- Released by the Health Effects Institute (HEI), an independent U.S.-based nonprofit research organization, in partnership with UNICEF.
- The report provides an analysis of data for air quality and health impacts for countries around the world.

#### Highlights of the Report 2024:

- Air pollution has become the secondleading global risk factor for death, surpassing tobacco and diabetes. Top - hypertension.
- Non-communicable diseases, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, accounted for nearly 90% of the disease burden from air pollution.
- 6 out of 10 deaths worldwide attributed to air pollution are caused by the tiny PM2.5 particle
- India and China together account for 54% of the total global disease burden due to air pollution in 2021
- India recorded the highest number of deaths among children under five due to air pollution worldwide in 2021.

## India jumps to Tier 1 in Global Cybersecurity Index 2024



- Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024 released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- The 'GCI 2024' used a new five-tier analysis, a shift that allows a greater focus on each country's advances with cybersecurity commitments.
- The report placed 46 countries in Tier 1, the highest of the five tiers, reserved for "role modelling" countries that demonstrate a strong commitment in all five cybersecurity pillars.

## World Press Freedom Index 2024, India Ranked 159th Out of 180 Countries



 An annual report released by the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF for Reporters sans Frontières), RSF.

- It ranks 180 countries on the ability of journalists to work and report freely and independently.
- Norway topped the ranking, while Denmark was on the second rank.
- Eritrea was at the bottom of the list, with Syria just ahead of it.
- The Maghreb and Middle East regions performed the worst in terms of restrictions on press freedom by government forces.

#### India's Ranking:

- India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024, but this was because other countries had slipped in their rankings.
- India's score in the World Press Freedom Index fell over the last year, from 36.62 to 31.28
- India is ranked behind Turkey, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which are ranked at positions 158, 152, and 150, respectively.
- The press freedom questionnaire covers five categories: political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context, and security.
- Scores for India dropped (worsened) in all except the security indicator.

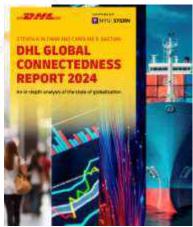
# India Climbs To 39<sup>th</sup> Position In World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024



- The biennial index, which was compiled in collaboration with the UK-based University of Surrey, analysed the travel and tourism sectors of 119 countries around a range of factors and policies.
- India also ranks the highest in South Asia among the lower-middle-income economies.
- Earlier, India was ranked 54th in 2021 published index
- US, Spain, Japan, France and Australia top five
- On an overall index score of 7, where 1 is the worst, and 7 the best, India scored 4.25.
- According to the index,, India demonstrates high price competitiveness (18th) and possesses

- competitive air transport (26th) as well as ground and port (25th) infrastructure.
- India's robust natural (6th), cultural (9th), and non-leisure (9th) resources contribute to its travel appeal, with the country being one of only three to secure a top 10 ranking across all resource pillars

## India ranked 62 on the DHL Connectedness Index



- DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024 released by DHL and New York University's Stern School of Business.
- The report ranks countries based on their connectedness to the world through the flow of trade, capital, information, and people.
- India has improved its global connectedness rank by 5 positions to reach 62 out of 171 countries from the previous 67.
- Globalisation reached a record high in 2022 and remained close to that level in 2023.
- Singapore is the world's most globally connected country, followed by the Netherlands and Ireland.

## India ranks 126 in UN World Happiness Report



- The findings published annually on the United Nations' International Day of Happiness
- The World Happiness Report considers factors such as social support, income, health, freedom,

- generosity, and absence of corruption to create a global ranking of happiness around the globe
- India ranked 126 out of 143 countries, the same as last year.
- Finland as the happiest country for the seventh consecutive year
- Followed by Denmark, Iceland, Sweden and Israel
- Despite ongoing conflicts, Israel secures the fifth position in the report. The report attributed this to the three-year averaging method used in the rankings
- Afghanistan remained at the bottom



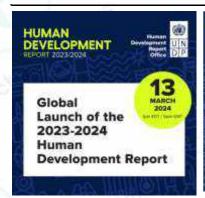
## India ranked 42 in the Global Intellectual Property Index 2024

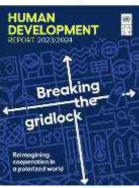


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- India's overall score also remained at 38.64 %, unchanged since 2022
- The report highlighted concerns over India's IP regime
- The United States emerged at the top of the list followed by the United Kingdom and France.

## India ranks 134<sup>th</sup> in Global Human Development Index

India rank on the United Nations Human
 Development Index (HDI) improved by one position in 2022 in the just released 2023/24
 Human Development Report (HDR).





- In 2022, India ranked 134 out of 193 countries ranked compared to 135 out of 191 countries in 2021.
- The data was published in the UNDP's report titled "Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World".
- In 2022, India saw improvements across all HDI indicators — life expectancy, education, and gross national income (GNI) per capita, life expectancy rose from 67.2 to 67.7 years
- The Gross National Income (GNI) per capita also improved from \$6,542 to \$6,951
- With an HDI value of 0.644, the latest HDR places India in the medium human development category.
- Between 1990 and 2022, the country saw its HDI value increase by 48.4 per cent, from 0.434 in 1990 to 0.644 in 2022.
- · Switzerland has been ranked number one.
- China ranked 75
- Sri Lanka ranked 78
- Bhutan 125
- Bangladesh 129
- Nepal (146) and Pakistan (164) have been ranked lower than India.
- India's life expectancy at birth has slightly improved from 67.2 years in 2021 to 67.7 years in 2022.
- There is an overall increase (5.88%) in expected years of schooling (EYS) from 11.9 years to 12.6 years
- The UNDP report notes that inequality across the world is rising again. After 20 years of convergence, the gap between the richest and poorest countries has started to widen from 2020

## India ranks 108 In Gender Inequality Index 2022: UNDP Report



- The Gender Inequality Index 2022 has been released by UNDP in their Human Development Report 2023/2024.
- On the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022, India stands at rank 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437.
- India stood at rank 122 out of 191 countries with a score of 0.490 in the Gender Inequality Index 2021.
- This shows a significant jump of 14 ranks on GII 2022 vis-à-vis GII 2021.
- The GII measures gender inequalities in three key dimensions — reproductive health, empowerment and labour market.
- Over the last 10 years, India's rank in GII has become consistently better, indicating progressive improvement in achieving gender equality in the country. In 2014, this rank was 127.

## World Cybercrime Index: India Ranks 10<sup>th</sup> Globally in Cybercrime Study



- An international team of researchers has compiled the 'World Cybercrime Index' that ranks roughly 100 countries and identifies key hotspots according to various categories of cybercrime, including ransomware, credit card theft and scams
- According to the global survey published in the journal PLoS ONE:
- India is ranked 10th worldwide in cybercrime, which commonly involves scamming people by forcing them to make advanced payments being the most common type

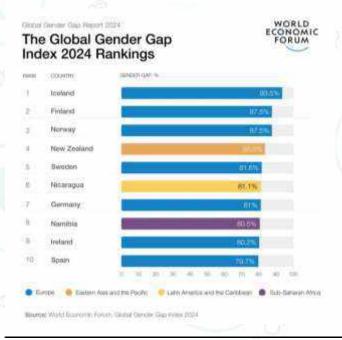


- Russia topped the list, and was followed by Ukraine, China, the US, Nigeria and Romania.
- North Korea was at the seventh position,
- The UK and Brazil were at the eighth and ninth positions
- Russia and Ukraine are highly technical cybercrime
- Romania and the US were found to specialise in both high-tech and low-tech crimes.
- India was found **specialising** in mid-tech crimes.
- India was found to specialise in scams.

#### India ranks 129 on Global Gender Gap index: WEF



- According to the Global Gender Gap Index released by the World Economic Forum, India has slipped two places to the 129th position out of 146 countries.
- Iceland retained its top spot, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden in the top five.
- The U.K. was ranked 14th, while the USA was at 43rd place.
- Globally, Sudan was ranked last on the index of 146 countries, while Pakistan slipped three places to 145th.



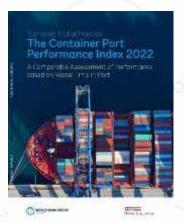
- Within South Asia, India was ranked fifth after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, while Pakistan was ranked last.
- India figured among the economies with the lowest levels of economic parity, alongside Bangladesh, Sudan, Iran, Pakistan, and Morocco. All of them registered less than 30% gender parity in estimated earned income.
- However, India showed the best gender parity in terms of enrolment in secondary education, while it scored well on political empowerment of women at 65th rank globally.
- The WEF said India's economic parity score has trended upwards for the past four years.

South Asian nations on Global Gender Gap Index 2024

| Bangalesh | 1   | 99  |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| Nepal     | 2   | 'nr |
| Sri Lanka | 3   | 122 |
| Bhutan    | 4   | 124 |
| indle     | - 5 | 129 |
| Maldives  | 6   | 132 |
| Pakistan  | 7   | 145 |
|           |     |     |

- India's overall gender gap closure stands at 64.1 per cent in 2024, a slight decline from 64.2 per cent last year.
- the world has closed 68.5% of the gender gap, but at the current pace it will take another 134 years equivalent to five generations — to achieve full gender parity.
- Since last year, the gender gap has closed by 0.1 percentage points.

## Visakhapatnam Port Ranks 19th in Global **Efficiency Index**



- The fourth edition global Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) reveals that East and Southeast Asian ports excelled in 2023, accounting for 13 of the top 20 places.
- Developed by the World Bank and S&P Global **Market Intelligence**

- The top-ranked container port in CPPI 2023 was Yangshan Port (China), followed by the Port of Salalah (Oman) in second place
- The major Indian port, Visakhapatnam Port, made it into the top 20

#### Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024



- Published by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), provides a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness, evaluating 163 independent states and territories.
- The average degree of global peacefulness fell by 0.56% in 2024. This is the fifth consecutive year of deteriorating peacefulness.
- Over the last year, 65 countries improved their peacefulness, while 97 countries deteriorated. This is the most countries to have declined in a single year since the index's introduction.
- Most Peaceful Countries- Iceland has been the most peaceful country since 2008, followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- Yemen is now the least peaceful country, followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.
- Europe- It is the most tranquil region, despite a minor decline in peacefulness over the last year.
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA)- The region remains the least tranquil, with major crises in Yemen and Sudan contributing to its poor rating.
- North America- It experienced the greatest regional decline, led by rising violent crime and perceptions of criminality in both Canada and the United States.

| Rank | Country     |
|------|-------------|
| 1    | Iceland     |
| 2    | Ireland     |
| 3    | Austria     |
| 4    | New Zealand |
| 5    | Singapore   |
| 6    | Switzerland |
| 7    | Portugal    |
| 8    | Denmark     |
| 9    | Slovenia    |
| 10   | Malaysia    |
| 116  | India       |
| 163  | Yemen       |

## India ranks 63<sup>rd</sup> on Energy Transition Index, Sweden on top: WEF



- India has been ranked 63rd out of 120 countries on Global Energy Transition Index released by the World Economic Forum.
- · In 2023 India had ranked 67th
- Sweden topping the index, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland and France in the top five.
   China was ranked 20th.
- India has shown significant improvement across energy equity, security and sustainability.
- The improvement shown by India and other
  developing countries such as China and Brazil
  assumes significance as 83% of countries have
  moved backwards from last year in at least one of
  the three energy system performance dimensions
   security, equity and sustainability.
- Globally, the energy transition to a more equitable, secure and sustainable energy system is still progressing but has lost momentum in the face of increasing uncertainty worldwide.
- The WEF also lauded the strides made by India in its clean energy infrastructure, with renewable energy and biomass comprising 42% of its power generation capacity, making it the fourth-largest renewables market globally.
- With annual investments nearing USD 10 billion, India is driving the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and the production of green hydrogen.
- India's per capita emissions, at 1.7 tonnes of CO2, are already 60% lower than the global average of 4.4 tonnes of CO2 per capita.
- Countries like China and India are leading in developing new energy solutions and technologies

#### India at 176 among 180 countries in Environment Performance Index 2024

- According to the 2024 Environment Performance Index (EPI), India is ranked 176th out of 180 countries with an EPI score of 27.6
- Surpassing only Pakistan, VietNam, Laos, and Myanmar (BOTTOM 4)



- Estonia tops the 2024 EPI with an EPI score of 75.3 followed by Luxembourg and Germany at 2nd and 3rd spot.
- Note: Previously, India was ranked 180th in the EPI 2022 and 168th in the EPI 2020.
- The 2024 EPI compares and analyses
   environmental performance across 180 countries
   using 58 indicators across three main categories:
   Ecosystem Vitality; Environmental Health; and
   Climate Change.
- 2024 index includes 2 new categories-
  - <u>Biodiversity</u> and habitat, which assess protection efforts and reveal encroachments in many countries
  - Projected greenhouse gas emissions, which track progress towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.



#### **India's Performance:**

- India ranks poorly in air quality (177th), projected emissions (172nd), and Biodiversity & Habitat (178th), mainly due to heavy reliance on coal, contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and high air pollution levels.
- In South Asia, it is the largest emitter of transboundary pollution, impacting neighbouring countries like Bangladesh.
- Despite its low overall rankings, India has made strides in climate change efforts (133rd), driven by investments in renewable energy and a goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

#### About EPI:

- EPI is a biennial index released by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network Earth Institute, Columbia University with support from The McCall MacBain Foundation.
- This index was first published in 2002.
- EPI assesses countries based on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement 2015, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2022.

#### **Sustainable Development Report 2024**



- Released by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- Published by SDSN since 2016
- It reviews progress made each year on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 193 UN Member States.
- SDSN was established in 2012 & works under the UN Secretary-General
- Adoption: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.
- Focus: It identified 17 Sustainable Development
   Goals with 169 specific targets to be achieved by
- Mandate: The programme is internationally nonbinding, but all countries have committed to work towards these goals



#### **Key Highlights of Report**

- On average, only 16% of the SDG targets are on track to be met globally by 2030
- 84% show limited progress or regression.
- SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) are particularly off track.
- SDG progress varies significantly across countries with Nordic countries leading, BRICS countries making significant progress and Poor & Vulnerable countries lagging far behind.
- Leading Regions: Finland ranked first, followed by Sweden (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Germany (4th), and France (5th).



India is ranked 109th, with on track performance in Poverty reduction and Quality Education targets while decreasing progress in Sustainable Cities and Climate Action targets



## Vienna Tops EIU's 2024 Global Liveability Index



- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) assessed 173 cities worldwide, revealing their findings in Global Liveability Index 2024.
- The index ranked the liveability across five key categories, including stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.
- Vienna in Austria, has been crowned the world's best city to live in.
- Damascus, Syria, is still at the bottom of the list.
- Pakistan's Karachi, and Bangladesh's capital Dhaka are amongst the least liveable cities in the world in the bottom 10 of the list.



| City         |       | Location Ra | nk | Index | Stability He |                 | ulture &<br>ronment i | Education Infra    | structure    |
|--------------|-------|-------------|----|-------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Vienna       | =     | Austria     | £  | 98.4  | 100.0        | 100.0           | 93.5                  | 100.0              | 100.0        |
| Copenhages   |       | Denmark     | 2  | 96.0  | 100,0        | 95.8            | 95.4                  | 100.6              | 100.0        |
| Zurich       |       | Switzerland | 3  | 97.1  | 95,0         | 100,0           | 96.3                  | 100.0              | 96,4         |
| Melbourne    | e All | Australia   | 4  | 97.0  |              | 0.000           | 95.8                  | 100.0              | 96.4         |
| Colgary      | 1-1   | Canada      | 5  | 96.8  | 100,0        | 100,0           | 90.0                  | 100.0              | 96.4         |
| Geneva       |       | Switzerland | 5  | 96.8  | 95,0         | 100.0           | 94.9                  | 100.0              | 96.4         |
| Sydney       | -     | Australia   | 7  | 96,6  | 95.0         | 100.0           | 94.4                  | 100.0              | 96.4         |
| Vancouver    | 1-1   | Canada      | 7  | 96,6  | 95,0         | 100.0           | 97.2                  | 100,0              | 92.9         |
| Osaka        | •     | Japan       | 9  | 96.0  | 100.0        | 100.0           | 86.8                  | 100.0              | 96.4         |
| Auckland     | e.    | New Zealand | 9  | 96.0  | 95.0         | 95.8            | 97.9                  | 100.0              | 929          |
| Source Elit. |       |             |    |       | Capyingst ©  | The Extremist i | rod Sporce I          | iyri 2004, Ali ngh | ta reporced. |

Four cities in the Asia-Pacific region—Melbourne and Sydney in Australia, Osaka in Japan, and Auckland in New Zealand—have made it into this year's top ten most livable cities globally.

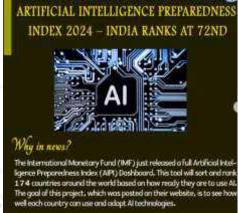
#### Top 5 worldwide

- Vienna, Austria (most liveable)
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Zurich, Switzerland
- Melbourne, Australia
- Calgary, Canada (tied with Geneva)
- Geneva, Switzerland (tie)

#### **Bottom 5 worldwide:**

- Karachi, Pakistan
- Lagos, Nigeria
- Algiers, Algeria
- Tripoli, Libya
- Damascus, Syria (least liveable)

## IMF Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index 2024



- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a full Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI)
   Dashboard.
- This tool will sort and rank 174 countries around the world based on how ready they are to use AI.

- There are three main groups of countries that the AIPI looks at:
  - 1. Low-Income Countries (LIC)
  - 2. Emerging Market Economies (EM)
  - 3. Advanced Economies (AE)
- Singapore, Denmark, and the United States are at the top of the list of AE, with scores of 0.80, 0.78, and 0.77, respectively.
- India, which is an Emerging Market Economy, got a score of 0.49 and is now ranked 72nd in the world.
- Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and China, which are all close by, were ranked 113th, 92nd, and 31st, with scores of 0.38, 0.43, and 0.63, respectively.

#### **Evaluation Criteria:**

 Four main areas are used to judge a country's Al readiness: its digital infrastructure, its human capital and labor market policies, its creativity and economic integration, and its rules and regulations.

#### Inference:

- Al could threaten about 40% of jobs around the world.
- However, AI can boost productivity and help new industries and jobs grow.

| Rank | Top Countries | Index |  |
|------|---------------|-------|--|
| 1    | Singapore     | 0.800 |  |
| 2    | Denmark       | 0.778 |  |
| 3    | United States | 0.771 |  |
| 4    | Netherlands   | 0.766 |  |
| 5    | Estonia       | 0.754 |  |
| 6    | Finland       | 0.754 |  |
| 7    | Switzerland   | 0.754 |  |
| 8    | New Zealand   | 0.753 |  |
| 9    | Germany       | 0.753 |  |
| 10   | Sweden        | 0.747 |  |
| 72   | India         | 0.492 |  |

## India Joins Top 50 in Network Readiness Index 2024



- India rises to 49<sup>th</sup> rank in the Network Readiness Index 2024, up 11 spots (60th in the 2023 report) with a score of 53.63.
- This remarkable leap of eleven positions reflects India's growing role as a leader in digital transformation, driven largely by robust government initiatives.
- The NRI 2024 evaluates the network readiness of 133 economies based on four key pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact, and uses a wide range of 54 variables to determine rankings.
- The report has been published by the Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC.
- The country leads in AI publications and ICT services exports, while aiming for leadership in next-gen telecom technologies like Bharat 6G.
- India has not only improved its ranking, but also improved its score from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024.
- India has ranked 2nd in the group of lowermiddle-income countries after Vietnam.
- India secured 1st rank in 'Al scientific publications',
   'Al talent concentration' and 'ICT services exports',
- 2nd rank in 'FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions', 'Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country' and 'International Internet bandwidth',



#### **Top 5 Countries**

- 1. United States of America
- 2. Singapore
- 3. Finland
- 4. Sweden
- 5. Republic of Korea

#### **India's Neighbouring Countries**

- China 17th Rank
- India 49th Rank
- Bangladesh 89th
- Sri Lanka 95th
- Pakistan 97th

## India among top 10 in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2025) Report

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2025) report, released at the annual UN climate conference in Baku
- Published by think tanks Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International, the CCPI tracks the progress of the world's largest emitters in terms of emissions, renewables, and climate policy.
- leaves the first three places empty
- Denmark ranks at the top (but technically fourth place), followed by the Netherlands and the U.K.
- India ranked 10th on a list of over 60 countries assessed for efforts to fight climate change despite dropping two spots compared to last ago, due to its low per capita emissions and rapid deployment of renewables
- The largest two emitters, China and the U.S., remain very low at 55th and 57th place, respectively.

# Ranking A THAILAND THAT THAILAND

- The 63 countries, along with the European Union, assessed in the CCPI are responsible for 90% of global emissions.
- India and the U.K. are the only two G20 countries among the high performers in the CCPI.
- Argentina (59th), which withdrew from COP29
   and may pull out of the Paris Agreement of 2015, is
   one of this year's biggest losers.
- The four lowest-ranked countries in the CCPI are Iran (67th), Saudi Arabia (66th), the United Arab Emirates (65th), and Russia (64th), all four among the world's largest oil and gas producers.

#### Sustainable Trade Index 2024

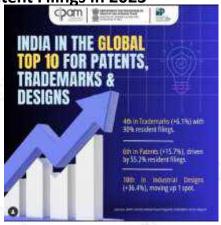


- The Sustainable Trade Index 2024, developed by the Hinrich Foundation and IMD
- The STI measures 30 economies' readiness and capacity to participate in the global trading system in a manner that supports the long-term goals of economic growth, environmental protection, and societal development
- The index evaluates economies based on three key pillars: economic resilience, societal advancement, and environmental sustainability.
- New Zealand has topped the Sustainable Trade
   Index 2024 ranking for the third consecutive year.
- The United Kingdom has ranked second
- Third place Australia
- With an overall score of 24, India ranks 23rd globally

| Run | k Economy                   | Overall | Economic | Societal | Environmental |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|---------------|
| 1   | New Zealand                 | 100     | 86       | 100      | 100           |
| 2   | United Kingdom              | 97.7    | 87.8     | 93.7     | 99.4          |
| 3   | Australia                   | 87.4    | 75.4     | 99.6     | 83.2          |
| 4   | Singapore                   | 85.7    | 92.4     | 87       | 75.2          |
| 5   | Japan                       | 81.5    | 72.2     | 81.9     | 91.2          |
|     | South Korea                 | 81.4    | 92.2     | 85.4     | 67.4          |
| 70  | Hong Kong                   | 81.4    | 100      | 65.8     | 79.2          |
|     | Canadia                     | 80      | 81.1     | 99.8     | 67            |
| 9   | Taiwan                      | 72.3    | 76.7     | 97.1     | 61.2          |
| 10  | United States of<br>America | 72.2    | 90       | 69.4     | 65.3          |

Source: IMD and Hinrich Foundation

India ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world in WIPO Global Patent Filings in 2023

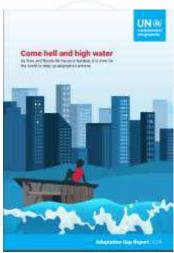


- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has published the World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2024, underscoring global trends in intellectual property (IP) filings
- India has secured a spot in the global top 10 for all three major intellectual property (IP) rights patents, trademarks, and industrial designs.
- China (1.64 million), the US (518,364), Japan (414,413), the Republic of Korea (287,954) and Germany (133,053) led global patent filings.

# Delhi-NCR 6th most expensive office market in Asia Pacific with monthly rent of ₹340/sq ft: Knight Frank

- Real estate consultant Knight Frank, in its latest edition of the Asia-Pacific Prime Office Rental Index for Q3 (July-September) 2024, said Delhi-NCR is the 6th most expensive office space rental market across the APAC region.
- Mumbai ranked 8th in the list
- Hong Kong SAR continues to be APAC's most expensive office market during the third quarter of this calendar year.

#### **Adaptation Gap Report 2024**



United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2024: Come hell and high water finds that nations must dramatically increase climate adaptation efforts, starting with a commitment to act on finance - especially through committed financial support at COP29.

The report finds that progress in **adaptation financing** is **not fast enough** to close the enormous gap between needs and flows.

#### **Key Highlights of the Report**

International public adaptation finance flows to developing countries increased from US\$22 billion in 2021 to US\$28 billion in 2022: the largest year-on-year increase since the Paris Agreement (COP21).

#### **About Adaptation Gap Report**

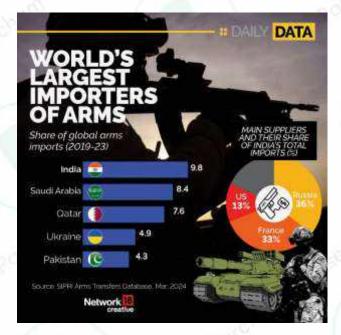
- It is annually published by the United Nations Environment\_Programme (UNEP) since 2014.
- The **aim** of the reports is **to inform** national and international **efforts to advance adaptation**.
- It provides an update on the global status and progress of the adaptation process across three elements: planning, financing, and implementation.
- It complements the Emissions Gap Report series, and explores the implications of failing to close the emissions gap.
- It is co-produced by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) and the World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP).

#### **COP29 of UNFCCC**

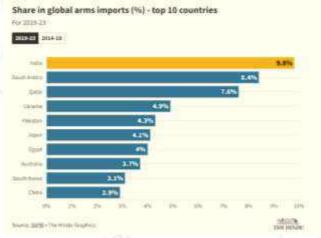


- COP29, the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11th to 22nd, 2024.
- It will bring together world leaders, policymakers, scientists, and activists to discuss solutions and strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and build a sustainable future.

## India Remains World's Largest Arms Importer: SIPRI Report

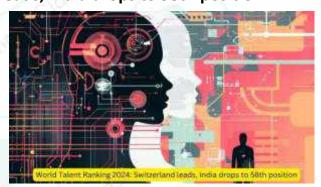


- Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- India was the world's top arms importer for the period 2019-23
- Imports having gone up by 4.7% compared to the period 2014-18
- At the same time, arms imports by European countries increased by 94% between 2014–18 and 2019–23.



- Russia remained India's main arms supplier (36% of India's arms imports), followed by France (33%) and the US (13%)
- This was the first five-year period since 1960–64
   when deliveries from Russia [or the Soviet Union
   prior to 1991] made up less than half of India's
   arms imports.
- 9 of the 10 biggest arms importers in 2019–23 were in Asia and Oceania or the Middle East.
- The top 5 arms exporting countries are USA (42% of global arms exports), followed by France (11%), Russia (11%), China (5.8%), German (5.6%)

## World Talent Ranking 2024: Switzerland leads, India drops to 58th position



• The International Institute For Management Development (IMD) recent World Talent Ranking 2024 assesses nations based on their ability to develop, retain, and attract highly qualified domestic and international talent, thereby gauging their long-term value-creation capabilities.

- Switzerland ranks first, followed by Singapore and Luxembourg
- India ranked 58th globally, out of 67 economies in the eleventh edition - with a talent score of 40.47.
- A decline from last year's 56th position and a significant drop from 52nd in 2022.

## The QS Global MBA and Business Master's Rankings 2025



- Three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian School of Business, Hyderabad have figured in world's top 100 for their MBA courses, according to QS rankings
- The three IIMs are IIM Bangalore (48), IIM Ahmedabad (53) and IIM Calcutta(59).
- Also, the three B-schools have been ranked among top 50 for employability.
- 14 Indian full-time MBA programmes have secured a spot in QS' global list for 2025, including three new entries.

| 보통하는 경기는 경기 전투 보통 보통 (1982년 19                      | V ISVANCES | 1179984875 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Business School                                     | 2024       | 2025       |
| IIM Bangalore                                       | 53         | 48         |
| IIM Ahmedabad                                       | 60         | 53         |
| IIM Calcutta  | 65         | 59         |
| Indian School of Business                           | 86         | 78         |
| Indian Institute of Management<br>(IIM) - Kozhikode | 151-200    | NEW        |
| Indian Institute of Management<br>Indore            | 201-250    | 151-200    |
| Indian Institute of Management<br>Lucknow           | 201-250    | 151-200    |
| Indian Institute of Management<br>Udaipur           | 201-250    | 151-200    |
| XLRI- Xavier School of<br>Management                | 201-250    | 201-250    |
| Institute of Management<br>Technology, Ghaziabad    | 251+       | NEW        |
| International Management<br>Institute – Delhi       | 251+       | 201-250    |
| International Management<br>Institute - Kolkata     | 251+       | 251+       |
| Management Development<br>Institute Gurgaon         | 251+       | 201-250    |
| Somalya Vidyavihar University                       | 251+       | NEW        |

| Business School                         | Country        | 2025 Rank | 2024 Rank |
|---|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Stanford Graduate School<br>of Business | United States  | 1         | 1         |
| Penn (Wharton)                          | United States  | 2         | 2         |
| Harvard Business School                 | United States  | 3         | 3         |
| MIT (Slean)                             | United States  | 4         | 6         |
| London Business School                  | United Kingdom | 5         | 4         |
| HEC Paris                               | France         | 6         | 5         |
| Cambridge (Judge)                       | United Kingdom | 7         | 9         |
| Columbia Business School                | United States  | 8         | 7         |
| IE Business School                      | Spain          | 9         | 8         |
| IESE Business School                    | Spain          | 10        | 9         |
| INSEAD:                                 | France         | 11        | 11        |
| Northwestern (Kellogg)                  | United States  | n         | 12        |
| UC Berkeley (Haas)                      | United States  | 13        | 13        |
| UCLA (Anderson)                         | United States  | 14        | 15        |
| Chicago (Booth)                         | United States  | 15        | 14        |
| Yale School of Management               | United States  | 16        | 16        |
| NYU (Stern)                             | United States  | 17        | 17        |
| Imperial College Business School        | United Kingdom | 18        | 20        |
| Oxford (Said)                           | United Kingdom | 19        | 18        |
| SGA Bocconi School of<br>Management     | Italy          | 20        | 21        |

- Stanford School of Business in the US continues to be at the top spot among B-schools for the fifth consecutive year.
- The QS Global MBA and Business Master's Rankings 2025 spans 58 countries and territories, analysing the world's 340 best global MBAs

# JNU, IIMs Among Top Institutes In QS World University Rankings By Subject 2024



- 69 Indian universities have made it to QS World University Rankings by subject
- The rankings comprise a record 1,559 institutions
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is the renowned higher education analytics firm based in London
- JNU has emerged as the India's highest-ranked university, in 20th spot globally for development studies.
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad
   is among the top 25 institutions around the globe

- for business and management studies with IIM-Bangalore and Calcutta in the top 50.
- Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Chennai, grabbed the 24th position globally for dentistry studies
- India is the second most represented country in Asia for the number of ranked universities (69), after mainland China with 101.
- India holds the fourth position in the total number of ranked entries (454) after China (1,041), Japan (510) and South Korea (499).
- There has been a 16% growth in the International Research Network indicator.
- According to QS, India stands as one of the world's most rapidly expanding research centres. From 2017 to 2022, its research output surged by an impressive 54%.
- India is now the world's fourth-largest producer of research, generating 1.3 million academic papers in this period, trailing only behind China's 4.5 million, the United States' 4.4 million, and slightly less than the United Kingdom's 1.4 million

## **Indian Universities Climb in QS 2025 Global Rankings**



- IIT Bombay has secured the top spot in India in the latest QS World University Rankings 2025.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)
  has risen from 149th in 2024 to 118th in the 2025
  rankings, marking an improvement of 31 places.
- The global university ranking agency said that 61 per cent of Indian universities have improved their standings as compared to last year.
- As in the previous year, IIT Bombay is followed by IIT Delhi and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, which are ranked second and third in India, respectively.
- IIT Delhi advanced 47 positions, from 197 last year to 150 this year, while IISc improved 14 places, from 225 to 211 in the world rankings.
- IIT Indore is the only institute that recorded a decline, falling from 454 in 2024 to 477 in 2025.
- For the 13th consecutive year, MIT has secured the top rank, followed by the United Kingdom's Imperial College London.
- The third rank is jointly held by Harvard University.

## Delhi rated best student city in India in QS Best Student Cities 2025



- A total of four Indian cities Delhi, Mumbai,
   Bengaluru and Chennai have found a spot in this year's edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds
   Best Cities Rankings.
- These cities rankings have also improved with Delhi climbing 21 places to secure the 111th spot and is named the second most affordable city for students.
- Bengaluru has made a significant leap of 17 places to 130th spot and is the 7th most affordable city for students.
- All four Indian cities are among the top 30 for affordability.
- Additionally, all Indian cities appear in the top 100 for Employer Activity.
- London retained its spot for the sixth consecutive edition, followed by Tokyo in second and Seoul in third.
- China (Mainland) has the highest number of ranked cities, followed by Taiwan with five, and India and Indonesia with four each.

## Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024



- The rankings list the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger.
- This year the ranking included over 670 universities from across the globe.
- The 2 Indian universities have ranked in the top 100 list.
- Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala 81st
- Anna University, Chennai 96th
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore tops the league table for the 2nd year in a row.

## India's Rise in the Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings



#### 2025

- Times Higher Education (THE) on November 22
  released the new Interdisciplinary Science
  Rankings (ISR) 2025 in which India has emerged as
  the most represented country in the table with 65
  universities ranked.
- However, India has failed to secure a rank in the top 10.
- The top ranked institute in India is the <u>Anna</u> <u>University</u>, ranked at 42nd spot,
- followed by VIT University at 65th spot,
- SRM Institute of Science and Technology at 84th
- KIIT University at the 92nd spot and Delhi University at the 98th spot
- DU is followed by the Lovely Professional University at 99th spot
- Amity University (Noida) at 101
- Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences at 102
- Jamia Millia Islamia at 103, Jawaharlal Nehru University at 105

#### **Global rankings**

| Name of Institution             | Country     | Rank |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Massachusetts Institute of      | United      | 1    |
| Technology                      | States      |      |
| Stanford University             | United      | 2    |
|                                 | States      | -    |
| National University of          | Singapore   | 3    |
| Singapore                       | 0,0         |      |
| California Institute of         | United      | 4    |
| Technology                      | States      |      |
| Duke University                 | United      | 5    |
|                                 | States      |      |
| University of Minnesota         | United      | 6    |
| - de                            | States      |      |
| Wageningen University &         | Netherlands | 7    |
| Research                        |             |      |
| University of California, Santa | United      | 8    |
| Barbara                         | States      | 1000 |
| Nanyang Technological           | Singapore   | 9    |
| University, Singapore           | 1.017       |      |
| University of Michigan-Ann      | United      | 10   |
| Arbor                           | States      |      |

# IIM Ahmedabad Tops India's Educational Institutions in Center for World University Rankings 2024

- According to a report issued by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR)
- Indian universities showed signs of downfall in terms of performance at the face of intensified global competition from well-funded institutions
- In the 2024 edition of the Global 2000 list, 64
   Indian universities and institutions were featured
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad secured the top rank among the best performing institutes across India
  - IIM Ahmedabad climbed 9 spots to secure 410th rank.
  - The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) dropped 7 places to rank 501.
  - Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay plunged 14 spots and stood at 568th rank.
- Harvard University secured top positions for the
   13th year in a row despite global competition.

#### The top-5 Indian higher education institutions are:

- Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad 410
- 2. Indian Institute of Science -501
- 3. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay -568
- 4. Indian Institute of Technology Madras -582
- 5. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Hyderabad -606

#### FT Global MBA Ranking 2024



- Indian School of Business (ISB) has been ranked
   1st in India and 31st globally in the Financial
   Times (FT) Global MBA Ranking 2024.
- The best B-school in India, the global ranking is a substantial rise from 39 in 2023.
- At the Asia level, the ranking has gone up to 5, up from the 6th spot last year.
- The University of Pennsylvania (Wharton), Insead, and Columbia Business School have been named as the top three business schools globally.



## India surpasses Japan to become 3rd largest power in Asia power index



- The Index was launched by the Lowy Institute in 2018
- It evaluates 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.
- The index uses eight core measures such as Economic Capability, Military Capability, and Diplomatic Influence
- The Sydney-based Lowy Institute has put the U.S. at the top of its Asia Power Index with a score of 81.7, followed by China with a score of 72.7, India (39.1) and Japan (38.9), Australia (31.9) and Russia (31.1).

## Mumbai Ranks 2nd, New Delhi 3rd In Global Property Price Index

- among 44 cities globally
- in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the June quarter, Knight Frank report.
- Manila ranked first with a 26 per cent annual rise during the quarter.

- Mumbai, with an annual price rise of 13 per cent in prime residences, ranked second
- New Delhi third during the quarter under review.
- Bengaluru ranking remained same at 15th.
- Wellington ranked last in the list, 44th



| Rank | City          | 12-month % change |  |
|------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| 1    | Manila        | 26,0              |  |
| 2    | Mumbai        | 13.0              |  |
| 3    | Delhi         | 10.6              |  |
| 4    | Los Angeles   | 8.9               |  |
| 5    | Miami         | 7.1               |  |
| 6    | Nairobi       | 6.6               |  |
| 7    | Madrid        | 6.4               |  |
| 8    | Lisbon        | 4.7               |  |
| 9    | Seoul         | 4.6               |  |
| 10   | San Francisco | 4.5               |  |
| 15   | Bengaluru     | 3.7               |  |
| 42   | Vienna        | -3.2              |  |
| 43   | Bangkok       | -3.9              |  |
| 44   | Wellington    | -5.9              |  |

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

## Indira Gandhi International Airport Ranked 24th Among Top 'Megahub' Airports globally, Mumbai Airport at 44th: OAG



- IGIA has improved its position to the 24th spot from last year's 25<sup>th</sup>
- The only other Indian airport among the top 50 megahub airports—Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)—however dropped 10 spots from last year to the 44th position.

#### India Becomes World's Top Plastic Polluter



- India has secured the top spot as biggest plastic polluter in the world, releasing 9.3 million tonnes (Mt) annually
- The country's official waste generation rate, approximately 0.12 kilogrammes per capita per day
- second and third spots Nigeria and Indonesia

## 2024 Economic Freedom of the World report



- 29th edition compiled by Canada's Fraser
- Hong Kong ranked No 1 out of 165 jurisdictions
- India: 84th (last year's 87th position)
- China (104th), and Russia (119th)
- measures the degree to which people are allowed to make their own economic choices - based on five areas of assessment.
- It provides a comprehensive view of how economic policies affect individual freedoms and overall economic performance.
- In the year with the most recent data (2022), the most-economically free jurisdictions were Hong Kong (1st), Singapore (2nd), Switzerland (3rd), New Zealand (4th), the United States (5th)
- Global economic freedom has declined in each of the three years since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, erasing more than a decade of gains.
- the GDP per capita in the freest countries is 7.6
   times greater than in the least free countries.

 Additionally, individuals in the freest countries enjoy longer life expectancies, better satisfaction with life, and lower rates of poverty and infant mortality.

India drops to 85<sup>th</sup> in February on global passport index



- India has slipped to the 85th spot on the Henley Passport Index.
- India had gone up to 80th position in January when the rankings for 2024 were unveiled.
- The Henley Passport Index is updated monthly.
- Six countries still jointly hold the top position in the 2024 Henley Passport Index - France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and Singapore.
- The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.

## Henley Passport Index 2024: Indian passport ranked 82<sup>nd</sup>



- The Henley Passport Index is based on data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA)
   (JULY)
- Singapore clinched the top spot as the world's most powerful passport as citizens of this city-state enjoy visa-free access to an impressive 195 countries.
- France, Italy, Germany, Spain and Japan have the second most powerful passport, each providing visa-free access to 192 destinations.

#### **Henley Passport Index 2024**

- In contrast, India ranks 83rd, providing its citizens with visa-free access to 58 countries
- In the latest Henley Passport Index released in October 2024.

- Singapore has once again emerged as the world's most powerful passport. visa-free access to an impressive 195 countries.
- In contrast, India ranks 83rd, providing its citizens with visa-free access to 58 countries.
- The United States ranked 8th, giving its citizens visa-free entry to 186 countries.
- Released By Henley & Partners, a United Kingdom-based immigration consultancy.

| Rank | Country   | Visa-Free Access |
|------|-----------|------------------|
| 1st  | Singapore | 195              |
| 2nd  | France    | 192              |
| 2nd  | Germany   | 192              |
| 2nd  | Italy     | 192              |
| 2nd  | Japan     | 192              |
| 2nd  | Spain     | 192              |
| 3rd  | Austria   | 191              |
| 3rd  | Denmark   | 191              |
| 3rd  | Finland   | 191              |
| 3rd  | Ireland   | 191              |

#### The World's Weakest Passports

| Rank  | k Country Visa-Free Access |    |  |  |
|-------|----------------------------|----|--|--|
| 102nd | Pakistan                   | 33 |  |  |
| 102nd | Yemen                      | 33 |  |  |
| 103rd | Iraq                       | 31 |  |  |
| 104th | Syria                      | 27 |  |  |
| 105th | Afghanistan                | 26 |  |  |

## Mumbai & Delhi Among 50 Wealthiest Cities of World: Henley & Partners



- 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report released by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth.
- Mumbai (24th) and Delhi (37th) have secured positions among the top 50 wealthiest cities in a global survey of wealth distribution
- Bengaluru found a spot in the top 10 most promising 'cities to watch' list for future growth
- New York City leads the global ranking
- The **United States, with 11 cities securing positions** in the top 50, is at the **top of the charts.**



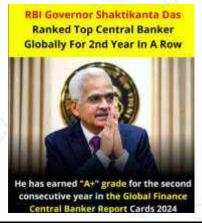
## Delhi Ranks 350 In Oxford Global Cities Index Report 2024

Delhi ranks 350 in Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index Report 2024



- New York ranks first on the index, followed by London, San Jose, Tokyo, Paris.
- Delhi has scored the 350th rank in the Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index, which has compared the world's 1000 largest cities spread across 163 different countries
- The index contains five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance, which are aggregated to create an overall score for each city.
- In India, Bengaluru is ranked 411, Mumbai 427,
   Chennai 472, Kochi 521
- However, no Indian city could make the Top 300.

## RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das ranks top central banker by US magazine



- By the US-based Global Finance magazine.
- This is the second consecutive year that he has been ranked as the top central banker globally.
- for success in inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability and interest rate management

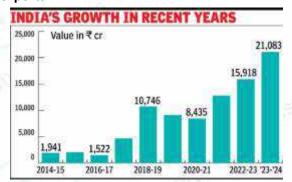
## SBI Named Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine



- State Bank of India (SBI) was recognised as the Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine of the US at its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das ranks top central banker
- SBI Chairman CS Setty
- Headquartered Mumbai
- Establishment of the Bank of Calcutta in Calcutta on 2 June 1806.

## **Armenia Becomes India's Leading Defence Export Destination**

- Armenia has emerged as the largest client for India's finished weapon systems, which include the Akash air defence missile systems, Pinaka multi-launch rocket systems, and 155mm artillery guns.
- India's military sales reached ₹21,083 crore (approximately \$2.6 billion) for the 2023-24 fiscal year, with Armenia, the United States, and France being the top three destinations for these exports.



## Global wildlife numbers declined 73% since 1970, says WWF



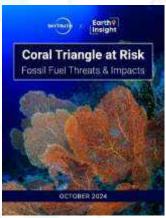
- There has been a 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife populations from 1970-2020, according to the Worldwide Fund (WWF) for Nature's Living Planet Report (LPR) 2024
- A biennial compilation of the threats faced to wildlife.
- In the 2022 edition of the report, the measured decline was 69%.
- The sharpest decline is reported in freshwater ecosystems at 85%,
- followed by terrestrial ecosystems at 69%
- and marine ecosystems at 56%.
- The report, released said that significant "collective effort" will be required over the next five years to tackle the dual climate and nature crises.

#### 'Most Dangerous Bird in the World' Faces Extinction Threat



- The cassowary (flightless bird) is often called the world's most dangerous bird because of its powerful legs, sharp claws, and ability to deliver a strong kick
- native to northeastern Australia, New Guinea, and nearby islands
- Targeted hunting, habitat loss and fragmentation have left less than 5,000 birds in Australia, danger of becoming extinct.
- The loss of the cassowary could be dangerous for Australia and New Guinea's rainforests as the bird disperses seeds through its scat.
- World Cassowary Day is observed on September
   26

## Fossil Fuel Expansion Threatens Coral Triangle Biodiversity



- The report, titled Coral Triangle at Risk: Fossil Fuel Threats and Impacts, is produced by Earth Insight and SkyTruth
- The Coral Triangle, often referred to as the 'Amazon of the seas', is a huge marine area spanning over 10 million square kilometres.
- It includes countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, and the Solomon Islands.
- This region is home to 76 per cent of the world's coral species and supports more than 120 million people who rely on its resources for their livelihoods.



- Since 2020, 793 oil slicks have been detected in the Coral Triangle, mainly due to ships, with 98 per cent caused by bilge dumping from traveling vessels.
- The total area affected by these oil slicks is over 24,000 square kilometres, almost enough to cover the land of the Solomon Islands.
- most serious events mentioned in the report is the Princess Empress oil spill, which occurred in 2023 near the coast of the Philippines.
- Lastly, the Coral Triangle should be classified as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) to provide it with special protection from harmful maritime activities.

## Nvidia Overtakes Apple As New Leader in Market Value



- Nvidia dethroned Apple as the world's most valuable company, following a record-setting rally in the stock powered by an insatiable demand for its new supercomputing AI chips.
- Nvidia's stock market value briefly touched \$3.53
   trillion, while that of Apple was \$3.52 trillion.

## **Shillong Tops Travel Destinations for Indian Travellers in 2025**

- Meghalaya's capital Shillong pips Azerbaijan's historic capital city Baku as the most popular destination for Indian travellers in 2025, reveals the new 'Travel Trends Report' by global travel app Skyscanner.
- The report, based on a survey of 1,000 Indian respondents
- Shillong, known as the "Scotland of the East", tops the list, followed by Baku, Azerbaijan, and Langkawi, Malaysia.

## India tops list of oral cancer cases caused by smokeless tobacco and areca nut in South Asia, says Lancet

- India has the largest number of oral cancer cases caused by smokeless tobacco (chewed, sucked on or sniffed) and areca nut (also called betel nut) use in South Asia
- Smokeless tobacco accounts for over 30 per cent of all oral cancer cases globally
- The largest numbers of oral cancers caused by smokeless tobacco and areca nut use were South-Central Asia, followed by South-East Asia and East Asia

## Zepto ranks first in LinkedIn's 2024 list of India's top startups



- Zepto, the e-grocery platform, topped the LinkedIn Emerging Indian Startups Startups 2024 List for a second consecutive year
- India is the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world (after US & China), experiencing year-onyear growth rate of 15% in 2018.

| Ran<br>k | Startu<br>p  | Industry                           | Headquarte<br>rs | Year<br>Founde<br>d |
|----------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1        | Zepto        | E-grocery                          | Mumbai           | 2021                |
| 2        | Sprint<br>o  | Compliance                         | Bengaluru        | 2019                |
| 3        | Lucidit<br>y | Cloud<br>Storage<br>Manageme<br>nt | Bengaluru        | 2021                |

## Hurun's India Under 35: Top 10 young Indian entrepreneurs in 2024

Isha, Akash Ambani, Alakh Pandey among entrepreneurs in Hurun's under-35 list



- The 2024 Hurun India Under-35 list acknowledges
   150 under-35 entrepreneurs, with 123 (82%) of total entrants being first-generation leaders
- Parita Parekh of Toddle and Isha Ambani of Reliance Retail, 32 years old, are the youngest women entrepreneurs.

| Ran<br>k | Name of<br>the<br>Entreprene<br>ur | Ag<br>e | Industry                     | Company<br>Name              |  |  |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1        | Ankush<br>Sachdeva                 | 31      | Media &<br>Entertainme<br>nt | Sharechat                    |  |  |
| 2        | Neetish<br>Sarda                   | 31      | Real Estate                  | Smartwor<br>ks               |  |  |
| 3        | Akshit Jain                        | 31      | Consumer<br>Goods            | Goldmeda<br>I<br>Electricals |  |  |

## Hurun India Rich List 2024: Mumbai Named as Asia's Billionaire Capital

- Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani replaced
  Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing
  Director Mukesh Ambani to become the richest
  Indian, as per the 2024 Hurun India Rich List.
- India's financial capital Mumbai has become the 'billionaire capital' of Asia, more billionaire individuals than China's capital city of Beijing
- Mumbai's billionaire count: 386 (increase of 58)
   Rich List Entries 2024
- Beijing's billionaire count: 91 (decrease of 18)

#### Top 5 countries with the most billionaires

| Rank | Country          | No. of Billionaires |  |  |
|------|------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 1    | United States of | 813                 |  |  |
|      | America          | 1 1155              |  |  |
| 2    | China            | 406                 |  |  |
| 3    | India            | 271                 |  |  |
| 4    | Germany          | 132                 |  |  |
| 5    | Russia           | 120                 |  |  |

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies is India's most influential woman leading a family-owned business, according to the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses report.



## '2023 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' list





- Axis Bank's Burgundy Private and Hurun India release the 3rd edition of the '500 Most Valuable Private Companies in India'
- To qualify for inclusion in the list, companies are required to have a minimum value of Rs 6,700 crore
- Big 3: With a value of INR 15.6 lakh crore, Reliance Industries is India's most valuable company, followed by Tata Consultancy Services with INR 12.4 lakh crore and HDFC Bank with INR 11.3 lakh crore.
- 437 companies in the 2023 Burgundy Private
   Hurun India 500 list have women's representation
   on their boards.
- 26% of companies featured in the 2023 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 are unlisted (not listed on any stock exchange)
- Serum Institute of India is India's most valuable unlisted company.

## Hurun list: Mumbai has Asia's most billionaires



- Hurun Research's 2024 Global Rich List
- Mumbai now has more billionaires than Beijing as it became Asia's billionaire capital for the first time
- Mumbai hosts 92 billionaires against 91 in Beijing, while China has 814 billionaires overall compared to India's 271.

- Globally, Mumbai now ranks third in terms of billionaires after New York, which has the most billionaires- 119.
- Mumbai's total billionaire wealth stands at \$445 billion- a 47% increase from the previous year

## Hurun Unicorn Index 2024: Unicorn creation pace slows down in India



 The Global Unicorn Index is compiled by the Hurun Research Institute (based in Shanghai, China) and includes unlisted companies founded in the 2000s with a current valuation of \$1 billion.

According to the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024:

 The US continued to lead the unicorn tally with 703 unicorns followed by China with 340 unicorns and India with 67 unicorns.

| Rank | Countries      | No. of unicorns |  |  |
|------|----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| 1    | United States  | 703             |  |  |
| 2    | China          | 340             |  |  |
| 3    | India          | 67              |  |  |
| 4    | United Kingdom | 53              |  |  |
| 5    | Germany        | 38              |  |  |

- According to Hurun Research, there were 1,453 unicorns globally
- India for the first time recorded a decline in unicorn creation since 2017.
- India in 2023 had 67 Unicorns, which was one less than 68 unicorns in 2022
- However, Indian founders produced more offshore unicorns than any other country. Indian founders co-founded 109 unicorns outside of India in comparison to just 67 in India.
- According to the Hurun report, the Food delivery platform Swiggy and fantasy sports-focused
   Dream11 are the most valuable unicorns from India. They were valued at \$8 billion each 83rd rank in the world
- Edtech company Byjus emerged as the most value destroyer unicorn in the world. It also dropped from the list of unicorns.

- By city, New York with 133 unicorns and Beijing with 78 unicorns were the leading unicorn hubs in the world.
- Bengaluru was ranked seventh with 32 unicorns and Mumbai ranked 19<sup>th</sup> with 14 unicorns

| Rank | Rank<br>Change | Unicum     | Valuation<br>(USShn) | Change<br>(USShn) | Country   | Settle          | Year<br>Femaded |
|------|----------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Æ    | (0)            | ByseDance  | 220                  | 20                | China     | Secul<br>Media  | 2012            |
| 2    | .0             | SpaceN     | 180                  | 43                | DSA       | Аспокрана       | 2002            |
| 3+   | 14             | OpenAl     | 100                  | 80                | USA       | At              | 2015            |
| 41   | 4              | Aust Group | 90)                  | -40               | China     | FinTech         | 2014            |
| 300  | 3300           | Short      | 65                   | 9.                | China     | E-<br>Community | 2012            |
| 61   | 4              | Stripe     | 61                   | 11                | USA       | FinTech         | 2010            |
| 7-   | 0              | Databrocky | 43                   | 12                | USA       | Big Data        | 2013            |
| ge.  |                | Cartya     | 39                   | 195               | Australia | SaaS            | 2012            |
| ge   | <b>K</b>       | Binance    | 34                   | 14                | Matra     | Blockchain      | 2017            |
| 101  | 4              | Welliank   | 33                   | 6                 | China     | FinTech         | 2014            |

#### **Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024**



- top philanthropists in India.
- Shiv Nadar and family retained the top spot, with a significant donation of Rs 2,153 crore
- followed by Mukesh Ambani Rs 407 crore.
- The Bajaj family has climbed three ranks to secure third place

## Mukesh Ambani in 1st Fortune 100 Most Powerful Person in Business List

- The influential American Fortune magazine has released its first 100 Most Powerful People in Business list.
- Elon Musk, the chief executive officer (CEO) and founder of Tesla and SpaceX tops the list
- Mukesh Ambani, CMD of Reliance Industries
   Limited (RIL) ranked 12th with an estimated \$100
   billion of wealth, is the only Indian businessman on the list.

#### MUKESH AMBANI BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN TO FEATURE ON FORTUNE'S 100 MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE LIST

#### # NAME COMPANY 7 Elon Musk Tesla, SpaceX 2 Jensen Huang Nvidia 3 Satya Nadella Microsoft 4 Warren Buffett Berkshire Hathaway 5 Jamie Dimon JPMorgan Chase 6 Tim Cook Apple 7 Mark Zuckerberg Meta 8 Sam Altman OpenAl 9 Mary Barra General Motors 10 Sundar Pichai Alphabet (Google) 17 Jeff Bezos Amazon 12 Mukesh Ambani Reliance Industries

- Number 1. Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX (American)
- Number 2- Jensen Huang, CEO and founder of Chip-making company NVIDIA (American)
- Number 3- Satya Nadella, CEO and Chairman of Microsoft (Indian-born American).
- Number 4- Warren Buffett, CEO and Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway (American)
- Number 5- Jamie Dimon, CEO and Chairman of JP Morgan Chase (American)

Mukesh Ambani tops Brand Guardianship Index 2024 among Indians



- Mukesh Ambani, CMD of Reliance industries Ltd., ranked first among all the Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024 compiled by Brand Finance.
- Huateng Ma of China based Tencent, ranked first in index
- The Brand Guardianship Index is a global recognition of CEOs, who are building business value in a sustainable manner by balancing the needs of all stakeholders - employees, investors, and the wider society.

- Mukesh Ambani was at second position globally in 2023 ranking as well.
- This year Ambani was ranked at the first position in Brand Guardianship Index 2024 among the 'Diversified' conglomerates.
- Recently, Jio was recognized as the strongest brand from India in the latest report 'Global 500 -2024' published by Brand Finance
- Jio had topped India's strong brands in Brand Finance's 2023 rankings as well.

## RIL top-ranked Indian Company on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List



- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) secured the 86th spot globally
- 9 Indian companies were included in the 2024 list
- HDFC Bank was included for the first time this year.
- American company Walmart retained its top position on the list for the 11th consecutive year.

The top 5 Fortune Global 500 List

| Rank | Company      | Country       |  |  |  |
|------|--------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| 1    | Walmart      | United States |  |  |  |
| 2    | Amazon       | United States |  |  |  |
| 3    | State Grid   | China         |  |  |  |
| 4    | Saudi Aramco | Saudi Arabia  |  |  |  |
| 5    | Sinopec      | China         |  |  |  |

#### Indian Companies on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List

| S.NO | Company                                | 2024 rank |
|------|--|-----------|
| 1    | Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)      | 86        |
| 2    | Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)       | 95        |
| 3    | Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)           | 116       |
| 4    | State Bank of India (SBI)              | 178       |
| 5    | Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) | 180       |

| 6 | Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) | 258 |
|---|---|-----|
| 7 | Tata Motors                                 | 271 |
| 8 | HDFC Bank                                   | 306 |
| 9 | Rajesh Export                               | 473 |

# Angkor Wat Named Most Photogenic UNESCO World Heritage Site in Asia by Times Travel



 The world's largest religious structure Angkor Wat, is a Hindu-Buddhist temple complex in Cambodia.

The list includes notable landmarks such as:

India: Taj Mahal and Hampi

China: Great Wall

Myanmar: Ancient city of Bagan

Indonesia: BorobudurVietnam: Ha Long Bay

- It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the first half of the 12th century, around the year 1110-1150
- It was originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu before becoming a Buddhist temple by the end of the 12th century.
- In 1992, the temple complex was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

# I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Named by TIME Magazine as one of most influential People in Technology and AI



- Ashwini Vaishnaw has been named by TIME
   Magazine, as one of the most influential people in
   the field of Technology and Artificial Intelligence.
- Mr Vaishnaw's name figures under the "Shapers" category of the list.
- under his leadership, India is hoping to become one of the top five countries for semiconductor manufacturing in the next five years.

# Apple emerged at the top in the TIME magazine's World's Best Company of 2024.



| Rank | Company name | Headquarters  |  |
|------|--------------|---------------|--|
| 3.5  | Аррін        | United States |  |
| 2    | Accenture    | Ireland       |  |
| 3    | Microsoft    | United States |  |
|      | BMW Group    | Germany       |  |
| 18   | Ameron       | United States |  |

- The ranking is based on a formula of employeesatisfaction surveys; revenue growth; and environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) data.
- The list consists of 1000 companies among which
   22 this year are Indian born.
  - HCL Tech- Rank 112
  - Infosys- Rank 119
  - Wipro- Rank 134
  - Mahindra Group Rank 187
  - Axis Bank Rank 504
  - State Bank of India Rank 518
  - ICICI Bank Rank 525

## India Becomes World's Second-Largest 5G Smartphone Market.



 India has surpassed the US to become the world's second-largest market for 5G handsets, trailing only China.

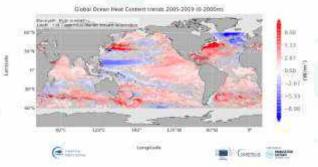
The research highlights a reshuffling of the global 5G device market:

 China maintains its leadership with a dominant 32% market share

- India second place, capturing a substantial 13% share
- The United States third position, holding 10% of the market

## UN chief issues 'SOS' for Pacific Islands worst hit by warming ocean

- SOS Save Our Seas on rising sea levels
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio
   Guterres said that ocean temperatures are rising in
   the Pacific Islands at three times the rate
   worldwide, and its population was "uniquely
   exposed" to the impact of rising sea levels.
- The report released by the World Meteorological Organization showed ocean temperatures in the Southwest Pacific are increasing at up to three times the rate worldwide.



- The Pacific Islands can expect additional sea level rise of 15 cm (5.9 inches) by 2050 and 30 days a year of coastal flooding
- A "loss and damage" fund to help poor nations cope with costly climate disasters was approved at last year's U.N. climate summit

#### About Loss and damage fund

- It was first announced during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.
- The formal agreement at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations
   Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, led to the establishment of the L&D fund.
- The World Bank will oversee the loss and damage fund in the beginning, with the source of funds being rich nations, such as the US, the UK and the EU, as well as some developing countries.

#### What is B-Ready Index?



- Business Ready (B-READY) is the World Bank's new flagship report benchmarking the business environment and investment climate in most economies worldwide.
- The report assesses the regulatory framework and public services directed at firms, and the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice.
- The first B-READY report will be launched on October 3, 2024.

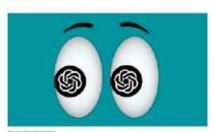
## **Amul Tops Global Food Brand Rankings in 2024**

- Amul ranked as the world's strongest food brand with a BSI score of 91/100 and an AAA+ rating.
   (Global Food & Drinks Report 2024)
- Nestlé retained the title of most valuable food brand and leads in Sustainability Perceptions
   Value
- Coca-Cola topped the non-alcoholic drinks sector.
- Valio emerged as the fastest-growing dairy brand.

#### **ChatGPT Hits 200 Million Weekly Users**

OpenAl says ChatGPT usage has doubled since last year





- The AI research company OpenAI created ChatGPT and launched it in November 2022.
- OpenAI was founded in 2015 by a group of entrepreneurs and researchers, including Sam Altman and Elon Musk.

## Youth around the world find it tough to get a job: ILO report

- Young people around the world are unable to find secure work and their chances of finding a job decrease as the income level of the country they reside in decreases, the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024 report
- The number of 15- to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is concerning and that the post-COVID-19 pandemic employment recovery has not been universal.

## Global and Regional Youth Employment Trends

| Topic         | Key Points                       |  |  |  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Global Youth  | Youth struggle with secure       |  |  |  |
| Employment    | employment, worsening in lower-  |  |  |  |
| 1             | income countries.                |  |  |  |
| Youth NEET    | High NEET rates persist post-    |  |  |  |
| (15-24 years) | COVID; recovery uneven globally. |  |  |  |
| Low vs. High- | Secure jobs: 20% in low-income   |  |  |  |
| Income        | vs. 76% in high-income countries |  |  |  |
| Countries     | (2023).                          |  |  |  |
| Temporary     | Rising temporary employment in   |  |  |  |
| Work          | all income levels.               |  |  |  |
| Gender        | Men recovered better than        |  |  |  |
| Disparities   | women; women's unemployment      |  |  |  |
| /             | still high (13.4%).              |  |  |  |

#### **Asia-Pacific and South Asia Specific Trends**

| Topic              | Key Points                           |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Asia-Pacific       | Decline since 2019; South Asia's     |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>NEET Trends</b> | female NEET rate very high           |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | (42.4%).                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| South Asia         | Largest global gender gap in NEET    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Gender Gap</b>  | rates (31 percentage points).        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2025               | Youth unemployment to drop to        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Projections        | 13.7%; NEET rate to slightly rise to |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 20.5%.                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary          | Increased from 1 in 5 to 1 in 4      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jobs in Asia-      | since 2000.                          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pacific            | - Ittis                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| South Asia         | Largest employer for youth at        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agriculture        | 35%.                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Employment</b>  | 16/                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (2021)             | 60.                                  |  |  |  |  |  |

## US has become Second Largest Supplier of LNG in India

- In 2023, the United States emerged as India's second-largest supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), surpassing the United Arab Emirates, delivering 3.09 million tonnes (MT) in 2023.
- Qatar remained the largest supplier with shipments in 2023.

## India Retains Eighth Position in Global Agricultural Exports: WTO's World Trade Statistics 2023

- As per WTO's World Trade Statistics 2023
- Despite a drop in its agriculture exports in 2023 to \$51 billion from \$55 billion in 2022,



- India maintained its position as world's eighth largest exporter of agriculture products in the year as seven of the top ten exporting nations witnessed a decline
- The EU maintained its top position in 2023 by exporting agriculture produce valued at \$836 billion compared to \$799 billion in 2022.
- The US second spot
- Brazil third spot.
- China was the fourth largest agriculture exporter in 2023
- Among the leading exporters of agricultural products, Brazil, the European Union and Thailand increased their exports by 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively in 2023.
- Collectively, the top ten exporters represented a
   71.9 per cent share in world exports in 2023.

## Nearly a quarter of adolescent girls suffer partner violence, WHO study

- Around a quarter of adolescent girls who have been in relationships have endured physical or sexual violence, a World Health Organization study, calling for more prevention actions.
- The WHO analysis published in the Lancet medical journal was based on surveys from thousands of adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 from 154 countries and areas.
- It showed that 24% of them had been subjected to intimate partner violence at least once, with 16% reporting it in the past year.
- The data was based on surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018.
- The data, broken down by country and region, showed a high correlation between violence and women's rights, with states where girls and women had limited access to education and unequal inheritance laws showing higher violence levels.
- Rates were highest in Oceania followed by Africa, with 49% of girls reporting intimate partner

**violence in Papua New Guinea** and 42% in Democratic Republic of Congo, the analysis showed.

 The lowest rate was Europe where 10% reported incidents.

## India ranks third-most polluted country globally: World Air Quality Report

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), air pollution causes approximately seven million premature deaths each year.
- As per the World Air Quality report Most polluted country and region ranking 2023 based on annual average PM2.5 concentration (μg/m³)
- Africa and Central and South Asia –most severe air pollution, with population-weighted annual average PM2.5 concentrations reaching alarming levels.
- Oceania maintained its status as the world's cleanest region.

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| *       | Tarrens     | 100   |       | 1000  | 71     |      | -      | 6,750,004   |
| c       | Market Face | 100   | 100   |       |        |      |        | 311,100,041 |

- India ranks third-most polluted country globally, after Bangladesh & Pakistan
- In 2023–24, the annual average PM2.5 concentrations in India increased to 54.4 μg/m3, up from 53.3 μg/m3 in 2022.
- About 11.5% of deaths in Delhi every year can be attributed to air pollution. This is the highest for any city in India

#### The top 10 most polluted cities in the world:

| Rank | City          | Country         | AQI |
|------|---------------|-----------------|-----|
| 1    | Kinshasa      | Democratic      | 169 |
|      | \ \           | Republic of the | 130 |
|      |               | Congo           |     |
| 2    | Beijing       | China           | 160 |
| 3    | Lahore        | Pakistan        | 159 |
| 4    | New York City | USA             | 152 |
| 5    | Jakarta       | Indonesia       | 137 |
| 6    | Delhi         | India           | 133 |
| 7    | Sao Paulo     | Brazil          | 128 |
| 8    | Chicago       | USA             | 125 |
| 9    | Ho Chi Minh   | Vietnam         | 123 |
|      | City          | 1.0             |     |
| 10   | Santiago      | Chile           | 114 |

#### The top 10 cleanest air Cities in the world:

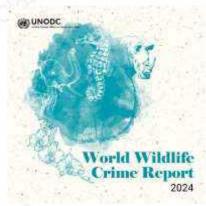
| City          | Country  | AQI  |
|---------------|--|--|
| Sydney        | Australia  | 10   |
| Auckland      | New Zealand  | 12   |
| Bratislava    | Slovakia   | 14   |
| Stockholm     | Sweden   | 17   |
| Oslo          | Norway   | 17   |
| San Francisco | USA  | 20   |
| Berlin        | Germany  | 21   |
| Budapest      | Hungary  | 22   |
| Vancouver BC  | Canada   | 22   |
| Dublin        | Ireland  | 22   |
|               | Sydney Auckland Bratislava Stockholm Oslo San Francisco Berlin Budapest Vancouver BC | Sydney Australia Auckland New Zealand Bratislava Slovakia Stockholm Sweden Oslo Norway San Francisco USA Berlin Germany Budapest Hungary Vancouver BC Canada |

## China, Australia and India made the most gains in forest area: FAO report



- India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest area annually from 2010 to 2020, securing the third spot among the top 10 countries with the most significant forest area gains during this period, according to a new report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- China led the world with the maximum forest area gain of 19,37,000 hectares, followed by Australia with 4,46,000 hectares, and India.
- Other countries in the top 10 include Chile,
   Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.
- The report highlighted a significant reduction in deforestation in some countries.
- The FAO report also said the rate of gross global mangrove loss decreased by 23% during the periods — 2000 to 2010 and 2010 to 2020.
- However, the FAO stressed that climate change is increasing the vulnerability of forests to various stressors, including wildfires and pests.
- In 2023, wildfires emitted more than double the carbon dioxide emissions from the European Union due to fossil fuel burning that year

#### **World Wildlife Crime Report 2024**



- 3rd edition of the UN World Wildlife Crime Report 2024 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Earlier editions were published in 2016 and 2020
- The report provides an updated focus on trends in the illegal trade in wildlife species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- The seizure data in the report documents illegal trade in 162 countries and territories during 2015–2021
- The report noted that the intercepted illegal wildlife trade as a proportion of all wildlife trade saw an increase from 2017 onwards.
- According to the findings, the proportion of wildlife crimes peaked in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Worst Affected Rhino horns comprised the largest share of the illegal wildlife market, constituting 29 percent. Following closely were pangolin scales at 28 percent and elephant ivory at 15 percent.

## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):

- CITES was signed on 3 March 1973 and entered into force on 1 July 1975.
- With 184 Parties (183 countries + the European Union), it remains one of the world's most powerful tools for wildlife conservation through the regulation of international trade in over 40,900 species of wild animals and plants.

#### **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):**

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that was established in 1997 as part of the UN reform.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- The UNODC is mandated to assist member states in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism.

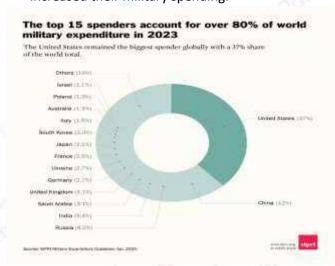
## India received \$111 billion in remittances in 2022: World Migration Report 2024



- The World Migration Report, 2024, prepared by the United Nations International Organisation for Migration, was released in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- India became the first country in the world to receive over \$100 billion in inward remittance.
- India received \$111.22 billion in 2022 as remittance, while Mexico dethroned China to take the number two spot
- **Inward remittance** refers to the money sent by the Indians working abroad to their relatives in India.
- It is biennially published report since 2000
- In 2022, India, Mexico, China, the Philippines and France were the top five remittance recipient countries.
- 3 countries in Southern Asia India, Pakistan (6<sup>th</sup>) and Bangladesh (8<sup>th</sup>), rank among the top ten recipients
- India's receipts from 2010 till 2022 have more then doubled.
- India has an estimated 1.8 crore international migrants travelling abroad to work (largest source of international migration)
- The migrant workers include both skilled and unskilled workers.
- Recently, the proportion of skilled and qualified professionals like software engineers, Doctors, Chartered Accountants, etc, among Indian international migrants has been increasing.
- The maximum migration of the Indians was to the UAE, where there were an estimated 3.47 million Indians, followed by 2.7 million in the US and 2.5 million in Saudi Arabia.
- According to the report, West Asia, particularly Gulf countries, was the largest destination for migrant workers.
- Around 88 per cent of the UAE population consists of migrants, 73 per cent in Kuwait, and 77 per cent in Qatar.

## India fourth-largest military spender, overall global spending accelerates: SIPRI report

- **Latest report by Stockholm International Peace** Research Institute (SIPRI).
- India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023
- At \$83.6 billion, India's military expenditure was 4.2% higher than in 2022.
- Meanwhile, global military expenditure rose by 6.8% to \$2443 billion in 2023, the steepest annual rise since 2009
- As per the report, the 10 largest spenders in 2023, led by the United States, China and Russia, all increased their military spending.



- The largest percentage increase in military spending by any country in 2023 was seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (+105%), where there has been protracted conflict between the government and non-state armed groups.
- South Sudan recorded the second largest percentage increase (+78 %) amid internal violence and spillover from the Sudanese civil war.

#### India second worst country in WADA's 10year global study

study of positive doping cases by minors conducted by the World **Anti-Doping Agency.** 



- Russia topped the list, followed by India and
- most reported sports, globally, were aquatics and
- The report is published by the WADA on the findings of 'Operation Refuge', a broad analysis and examination of doping amongst minors in sport.

A minor is defined by the WADA Code as a person under the age of 18 years.

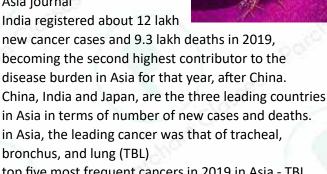
#### 'Operation Refuge'

- It examined the doping activities of minors with a view to identifying any patterns of offending, any deficiencies in governance, and any possible strategies on how better to address the issue of doping amongst minors.
- World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee based in Canada to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against drugs in sports
- President of WADA Witold Bańka

## India Records 9.3 Lakh Cancer Deaths, Ranking Second Highest in Asia: LANCET Study

According to a new study published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal

India registered about 12 lakh



Cancer

top five most frequent cancers in 2019 in Asia - TBL, breast, colon and rectum cancer (CRC), stomach and non-melanoma skin cancer

## "World Employment and Social Outlook: **Trends 2024" ILO Report**

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) projects worldwide joblessness will increase through 2024 as declining economic growth combines with persistent inflation and stagnant wages
- Real wages declined in the majority of G20 countries as wage increases failed to keep pace with inflation
- In India, real wages are "positive" compared to other G20 countries
- ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo

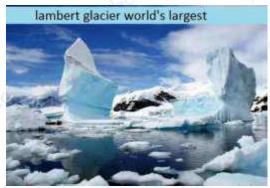
## 2023 is the hottest year on record; likely warmest in 100,000 years

As per the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)



- 2023 was 1.48 degree Celsius warmer than the average of the 1850-1900 pre-industrial level and 0.17 degree Celsius warmer than 2016.
- It is also the first year with all days over 1°C warmer than the pre-industrial period.
- In 2023, the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane also reached record levels.
- Carbon dioxide concentrations were 2.4 parts per million higher than in 2022, and methane concentrations increased by 11 parts per billion
- The El Niño weather phenomenon, which warms the surface waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean, also contributed to the higher global temperatures in 2023
- Countries agreed in the 2015 Paris Agreement to try to prevent global warming surpassing 1.5C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), to avoid its most severe consequences.

## Lambert Fisher Glacier - World's Largest Glacier 2024



- · Location: Antarctica
- Size: About 80 km wide, over 400 km, and about 2,500 m deep
- Lambert Fisher Glacier is visible from space, showcasing evidence of glacial activity.
   Boasting dimensions of 400 km in length and 100 km in width, it constitutes 8% of the Arctic Ice Sheet.
- The Lambert Glacier is also one of the fastestmoving ice streams in the world

## TCS ranked second most valuable IT brand in Global list

- According to the latest Brand Finance 2024 report on World's Top 10 Most Valuable IT Services Brands
- Accenture remains the world's most valuable IT services brand, with a brand value of \$40.5 billion
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) secured the second spot with a remarkable 11% rise in its brand value, reaching \$19.2 billion.

- Infosys maintained its third spot on the ranking.
   With a brand value of \$14.2 billion
- HCL Tech has emerged as the fastest-growing IT services brand with 15.9% YoY growth in brand value

#### World's Top 10 Most Valuable IT Services Brands BRAND VALUE BRAND VALUE Accenture 40.502 1.6% 635 TCS 19.165 11.5% 971 Infasys 7.9% 14.041 1.032 **IBM Consulting** 12.097 4.5% 520 Cappemini 10.213 4.6% 448 NTT DATA 8,932 0.2% 16 Cognizant 8.643 0.1% 10 HCL Tech 7.574 15.9% 1.036 5.756 -7.6% Wipro Fujitsu (jT Services) 4,328

## Apple Surpasses Samsung as Top Smartphone Seller

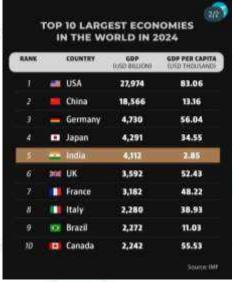


- Apple Inc.'s iPhone has outpaced Samsung Electronics Co. devices, securing the title of the best-selling smartphone series in 2023.
- This marks the first time since 2010 that Samsung has conceded the top spot in the smartphone market.

## Japan slips to the world's fourth-largest economy



Japan loses its spot as world's 3rd-largest economy to Germany



- According to government data released in February 2024, Japan's economy is the world's fourth largest, behind Germany.
- This is due to a contraction in Japan's economy in the last quarter of 2023, as well as a slowdown in consumer and business spending.
- The government reported the economy shrank at an annual rate of 0.4% in October to December and it contracted 2.9% in July-September. Two straight quarters of contraction are considered an indicator an economy is in a technical recession.
- A weaker Japanese yen was a key factor in the drop to fourth place, since comparisons of nominal GDP are in dollar terms. But Japan's relative weakness also reflects a decline in its population and lagging productivity and competitiveness

## India is the 80<sup>th</sup> most targeted country worldwide in cybercrime

- India was placed on the 80th position in a report focusing on local threats in the year 2023.
- The position is based on the malicious programmes found directly on users' computers or removable media connected to them (flash drives, camera memory cards, phones, external hard drives) or that initially made their way onto the computer in non-open form, including programmes in complex installers or encrypted files.
- nearly 34% of users in India were targeted by local threats
- India's cybersecurity market reached USD 6.06 billion in 2023.
- Almost 67% of Indian enterprises are reportedly looking to outsource key areas of security landscape to managed security service providers in the next three years.

## Prime Minister Modi once again emerges as most popular global leader

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi has again emerged





as the most popular global leader with 78 percent approval rating.

- survey conducted by US-based global decision intelligence agency Morning Consult.
- President of Mexico Andrés Manuel López Obrador has secured second place with 65 percent approval rating
- followed by Argentina President Javier Milei at the third with an approval rating of 63 per cent.
- US President Joe Biden is on the 11th position among the world leaders,
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 17th
- UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on 20th position.

## PM Modi Becomes Most Followed World Leader On X, With Over 100 Million Followers



 PM Modi is far ahead of other world leaders like US president Joe Biden (38.1 million followers)

#### **UAE Removed from FATF Grey List**



- The UAE has been on the grey list since 2022
- UAE is no longer subject to additional scrutiny by Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- The grey list is a list of countries that are actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation.
- Barbados, Gibraltar and Uganda were also removed from grey list
- while Kenya and Namibia were placed on it.

#### **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**



- FATF is an inter-governmental policymaking and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- It was established in 1989 during the G7
   Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.

- Headquarters: Paris, France.
- India became a member of FATF in 2010.
- <u>FATF Black List</u>: Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) - These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.
- Three countries North Korea, Iran, and Myanmar are currently in FATF's blacklist.

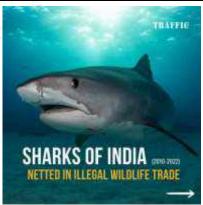
#### Japan records lowest births in 2023



- The number of babies born in Japan in 2023 fell for 8th straight year to a new low: 5.1% decline from the previous year.
- It was the lowest number of births since Japan started compiling the statistics in 1899.
- The number of marriages fell by 5.9% (one of the key reasons for the declining births)
- Bleak job prospects, the high cost of living that rises at a faster pace than salaries and corporate cultures that are not compatible with having both parents work.
- Japan's population of more than 125 million is projected to fall by about 30% to 87 million by 2070
- with 4 out of every 10 people at age 65 or older
- For the **first time ever, more than 1 in 10** people in Japan are now **aged 80 or older.**
- It has the world's oldest population, measured by the proportion of people aged 65 or up, the United Nations says.
- Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has called the low births "the biggest crisis Japan faces," and put forward a package of measures that have included more support and subsidies mostly for childbirth, children and their families.

## The factsheet released titled 'Netted in illegal wildlife trade: Sharks of India'

 TRAFFIC and WWF-India have released a factsheet titled "Netted in illegal wildlife trade: Sharks of India", which presents findings on the illegal trade of sharks in India spanning from January 2010 to December 2022.



- Tamil Nadu accounted for almost 65% of the illegal trade in shark body parts. About 16,000 kg of shark fins were seized from 2010 to 2022
- Followed by Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, and Maharashtra
- Sharks are crucial to our ecosystem. Being top predators in the oceanic food web
- Demand for shark meat & fins is a global driver of global shark fishery
- Shark fins are the most sought-after shark product used to make 'shark-fin soup,' a delicacy
- 160 shark species reported in India, only 26 sharks and rays species have been given the highest protection status under the amended Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 by listing them in Schedules I and II.

#### **TRAFFIC**





- The TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is a leading non-governmental organisation working on wildlife trade.
- It is a joint program of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Headquarters: Cambridge, United Kingdom

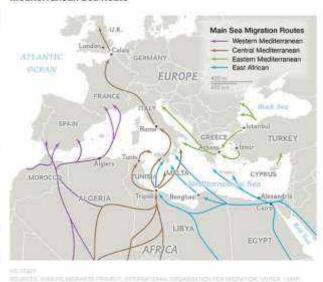
#### 2023 Deadliest Year for Migrants: UN-IOM



## According to the **UN's International Organization for Migration:**

- ➤ 2023 saw **8,565 migrant deaths**, making it the deadliest year since 2014.
- ➤ The **2023 death toll** represents a tragic increase of **20% compared to 2022**:
- ➤ The Mediterranean route from North Africa to Europe remains the riskiest for migrants.
- So far this year, 512 deaths have already been recorded.

#### Mediterranean Sea Route



- A high number of migrant deaths were recorded across Africa (1,866) and Asia (2,138) in 2023.
- In Asia, hundreds of deaths of Afghan and Rohingya refugees were recorded last year.
- The IOM's Missing Migrants Project was established in 2014 as an open-access database on migrant deaths and disappearances.

**UN - International Organization for Migration** 





**Established in 1951**, out of the chaos and displacement of Western Europe following the Second World War. Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland** Head: Director General - **Amy E. Pope** 

nead. Director General - Arriy E. Pope

India is a member of IOM.

Ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

## Methane emissions from energy sector near record high in 2023, IEA Report

- Planet-heating methane released by the fossil fuel industry rose to near record highs in 2023 despite technology available to curb this pollution at virtually no cost: The International Energy Agency
- The production and burning of fossil fuels resulted in close to 120 million tonnes of methane emissions in 2023.
- Two thirds of the emissions were from just 10 countries — including China, the United States and Russia



- Large methane emissions events detected by satellites also rose by more than 50% in 2023 compared with 2022.
- Methane is responsible for around 30% of the global warming
- It second only to carbon dioxide for its contribution to global warming
- While some 40% of methane is released from natural sources, mainly wetlands, human activities are responsible for the rest.
- Agriculture is the main source methane is burped out by livestock such as cows and sheep and emitted during rice cultivation.
- Oil and gas firms have pledged to slash methane emissions by 2050.

#### **International Energy Agency**

- Inter-governmental organisation
- Founded in 1974
- India joined this organization in 2017 as an Associate member.

#### Reports published by IEA:

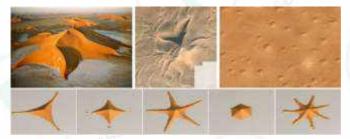
- · World Energy Outlook,
- · World Energy Balances,
- Energy Technology Perspectives,
- World Energy Statistics
- Net Zero by 2050.



#### First in-depth study of a star dune



Star dunes are the **vaguely pyramid-shaped sand formations** up to about 1,000 feet (300 meters) tall with arms stretching out from a central peak to give them a star-like appearance when viewed from above.



- The study focused upon a star dune in eastern Morocco called Lala Lallia, meaning "highest sacred point"
- situated within the Sahara Desert, close to Algeria border how long Lala Lallia has taken to form, a method based on the amount of energy trapped inside the grains of sand - The answer: about 900 years

- Star dunes make up just under 10% of the dunes in Earth's deserts and are the tallest ones.
- They also have been spotted on Mars and on Saturn's large moon Titan.
- Star dunes are formed in areas with complex wind regimes
- means winds blowing from different directions, and net sand accumulation, points within the desert where big piles of sand can be blown around to form giant dunes
- Earth's largest star dunes are found in the Badain Jaran desert in western China.

#### Women, Business and Law Report 2024

- India's ranking improved to 113 out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index. In 2023, India ranked 126.
- It is a World Bank index measuring the enabling environment for women's economic opportunity in 190 economies.
- The index measures how laws and regulations affect women's economic opportunity on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 means equal legal rights for men and women.
- The report covers eight related areas: Mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets, and pension.
- Highlights of 2024 Index:
  - > It is the 10th edition of the report.
  - Globally, none of the countries has a full score in the new index, indicating that women did not enjoy equal rights in any of the countries.
  - Indian women enjoyed 60% of the legal rights given to men as per the new report, lower than the global average of 64.2%.

#### **World Bank**

- The WB is the collective name for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA)
- Headquarter Washington, DC, the U.S.
- President Ajay Banga
- It was established along with the IMF at the 1944
   Bretton Woods Conference.
- The WB is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low and middle-income/developing countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

#### **UNITAR Global E-waste Moniter report**

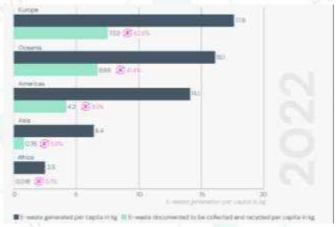
United Nation's 4th Global E-waste Monitor (GEM)
 report from the International Telecommunications

Union (ITU) and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)



- The world's electronic waste generation is increasing five times faster than documented ewaste recycling
- Around 62 million tons of "e-waste" was generated in 2022.
- Enough to fill tractor-trailers that could be lined up bumper to bumper around the globe.
- It's on track to reach 82 million tons by 2030.
- The U.N. says 22% of the e-waste mass was properly collected and recycled in 2022. It is expected to fall to 20% by the end of 2030.
- Recycling and collection rates top 40% in Europe, where per-capita waste generation is highest: nearly 18 kilograms (39 pounds).
- In Africa, which generates the least of any of the five big global regions, recycling and collection rates hover at about 1%,

# 2023-24 El Nino among five strongest on record, will continue fuelling heat in 2024: WMO

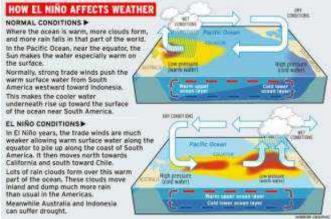


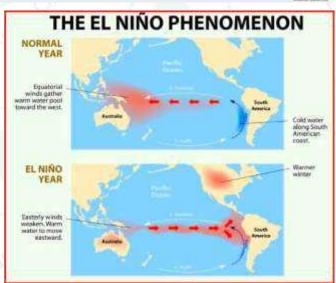
 As per World Meteorological Organisation - The 2023-24 El Nino has peaked as one of the five strongest on record and will continue to impact global climate in the coming months despite a weakening trend.

- The current El Nino event, which developed in June 2023 and peaked in December, was at its strongest between Nov and Jan
- It displayed a peak value of about 2 degree Celsius above 1991-2020 average sea surface temperature for the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean, though it was weaker than the 1997/98 and 2015/2016 events.
- El Nino typically has the greatest impact on the global climate in the second year of its development - in this instance 2024," said WMO.
- According to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, for the first time, the global mean temperature breached the 1.5degree Celsius threshold for an entire between February 2023 and January 2024

#### What is El Nino

- The development of El Niño events is linked to the trade winds.
- El Niño occurs when the trade winds are weaker than normal, and La Niña occurs when they are stronger than normal.
- Both cycles typically peak in December.
- In turn, the changing ocean alters rainfall patterns.





- During El Niño (means Little Boy in Spanish), trade winds weaken. Warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of the Americas.
- Warm water builds up along the equator in the eastern Pacific.
- The warm ocean surface warms the atmosphere, which allows moisture-rich air to rise and develop into rainstorms.
- The disruption in the atmosphere impacts rainfall throughout the world **low rainfall in India.**
- El Nino occurs on average every two to seven years, and typically lasts nine to 12 months.
- La Niña's (means little girl in Spanish) impacts are opposite those of El Niño.
- During La Niña events, trade winds are even stronger than usual, pushing more warm water toward Asia (more rainfall in India). Off the west coast of the Americas, upwelling increases, bringing cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface.
- the cycle swings back and forth every 3-7 years.
- Often, El Niño is followed immediately by La Niña, as if the warm water is sloshing back and forth across the Pacific.

# The world experienced the warmest February on record: Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)

- With an average temperature of 13.54 degrees
   Celsius, February 2024 was 0.12 degrees Celsius
   warmer than the previous warmest February in
   2016: the European Union's climate agency
- The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) also said that every month since June 2023 has been the warmest such month on record.
- Scientists attribute the exceptional warming to
  the combined effects of El Nino a period of
  abnormal warming of surface waters in the central
  Pacific Ocean and human-caused climate
  change.
- As per European climate agency World breached 1.5° Celsius limit for entire year for first time in Jan 2024. The global mean temperature from February 2023-January 2024 was the highest on record and 1.52° Celsius above the 1850-1900 preindustrial average
- Countries need to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change.

- It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016.
- Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to preindustrial levels.

# February 2024 hottest on record Global average February temperature by year, compared with the pre-industrial average for February, 1850-1900 +1.5C +1.0C Warmer than pre-industrial 1940 1960 1980 2000 2020 Source ERAS, C3S/ECMWF

#### Air Quality Report 2023: New Delhi World's Most Polluted Capital City For 4<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

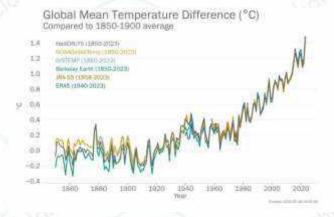


- As per the report titled, 'World Air Quality Report 2023' by the Swiss organisation IQAir.
- India was the world's third most air polluted country in 2023 out of 134 countries, after Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- In **2022, India ranked 8th** out of 131 countries
- New Delhi is ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year since 2018.
- Delhi's PM2.5 levels worsened in 2023 than 2022.
- Bihar's Begusarai has emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area.

#### Climate change indicators reached record levels in 2023: WMO



- According to the WMO State of the Global Climate
   2023 report.
- The WMO report confirmed that in 2023 the global average near-surface temperature was at 1.45
   \*Celsius (with a margin of uncertainty of ± 0.12 °C) above the pre-industrial baseline.
- 2023 was the warmest year in the 174-year observational record.
- This rapid rise in temperature from 2022 to 2023 can be partly explained by the shift from La Nina to El Nino conditions in the middle of 2023.
- It was the warmest ten-year period on record.



#### LIC: World's Strongest Insurance Brand



- As per the report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is termed as the strongest insurance brand with a steady brand value of \$9.8 billion, a brand strength index score of 88.3, and an associated AAA brand strength rating,
- Cathay Life Insurance is the second strongest brand, followed by NRMA Insurance
- Chinese insurance brands maintain dominance in the global rankings of most valuable insurance brands led by Ping An.
- Allianz from Germany and AXA from France are holding on to their positions in the top 5 rankings.

#### **India Employment Report 2024**



 Released by the Institute for Human Development (IHD) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

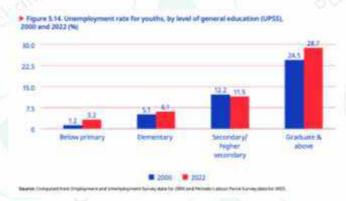
#### **Key findings:**

- The 'Employment Condition Index' of the states have improved between 2004-05 and 2021-22.
- States such as Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, and UP have remained at the bottom throughout this period.
- Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, and Gujarat have stayed at the top.

#### The report has shown concerns about poor employment conditions:

- Almost 82% of the workforce is engaged in the informal sector, and nearly 90% is informally employed.
- 2. The slow transition to non-farm employment has reversed
- 3. **youth employment is of poorer quality** than employment for adults
- 4. Wages and earnings are stagnant or declining.
- 5. **Self-employment and unpaid family work** has also **increased**, especially for **women**.
- The Labor force participation rate (LFPR) in India for individuals aged 15 years and older was 55.2% in 2022, which was lower than the world average of 59.8%.
- It consistently declined over the past two decades, from 61.6% in 2000 to 50.2% in 2019, before increasing to 55.2% in 2022
- The open unemployment rate between 2012 and 2019 substantially increased primarily due to the growth of the labour force without a corresponding increase in employment. But the increase in the labour force from 2019 to 2022 was

- accompanied by significant growth in the workforce and a decrease in unemployment.
- The gender distribution shows that the female LFPR declined sharply (by 14.4 percentage points) when compared with the male counterparts (by 8.1 percentage points) between 2000 and 2019. But this trend reversed between 2019 and 2022, with a much greater increase in the female LFPR (by 8.3 percentage points) than in the male LFPR (by 1.7 percentage points)
- There is a considerable gender gap in the Indian labour market, with the women's LFPR (32.8 per cent) in 2022 around 2.3 times lower than the rate for men (at 77.2 per cent). India's low LFPR is largely attributed to the low female LFPR, which is much lower than the world average for 2022, of 47.3 per cent, but higher than the South Asian average of 24.8 per cent (ILO 2023).
- The dominant category of employment in India remains self-employment, followed almost equally by regular and casual employment.
- In 2022, self-employment accounted for 55.8 per cent of employment while casual and regular employment accounted for 22.7 per cent and 21.5 per cent, respectively
- The share of casual employment consistently declined, from 33.3% in 2000 to 22.7% in 2022.
- The unemployment rate increased among youths with a high level of education and was highest among youths with a graduate degree or higher in 2022.
- In 2022, the unemployment rate among youths with a graduate degree was significantly higher, at 28.7 per cent, than among youths with less than a primary education, at 3.2 per cent – almost nine times greater



## UNFPA report: 24% of India's 144 crore population under 14 years old

 The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) -State of World Population - 2024 report titled
 "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights"



- India leads globally with an estimated population of 144.17 crore, followed by China at 142.5 crore, according to the report.
- India's population was recorded at 121 crore during the last census, conducted in 2011.
- India's population is estimated to double in 77 years.
- The report further detailed that an estimated 24% of India's population is aged 0-14 while 17% is within the 10-19 age range.
- The segment aged 10-24 is estimated to constitute 26%, with the 15-64 age group making up 68%.
- Additionally, 7% of India's population is aged 65
  years and above, with men having a life
  expectancy of 71 years and women 74 years.
- The child marriage percentage in India was at 23 between 2006-2023.
- The report noted that maternal deaths in India have fallen considerably, accounting for 8% of all such fatalities worldwide.
- However, the report noted that India continues to see dramatic inequities in maternal death risk.
- Improvements in healthcare access have primarily benefited wealthier women and those who belong to ethnic groups that already had better access to health care.
- Globally, millions of women and girls remain far behind, and progress is slowing or stalled on key measures -- 800 women die every day giving birth, unchanged since 2016.
- a quarter of women cannot say no to sex with their partner and nearly one in 10 women cannot make their own decisions about contraception.

## India has second-most hepatitis B, C cases after China: WHO report



- According to the WHO's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report
- India accounted for the second-highest number of cases of hepatitis B and C in 2022 after China
- With a total of 3.5 crore cases, India accounted for 11.6% of the total disease burden globally that year.
- Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that can cause a range of health problems and can be fatal.
- There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E.
- While they all cause liver disease, they differ in important ways including modes of transmission, severity of the illness, geographical distribution and prevention methods.
- In particular, types B and C lead to chronic disease
  in hundreds of millions of people and together are
  the most common cause of liver cirrhosis, liver
  cancer and viral hepatitis-related deaths.

#### **Plastic Overshoot Day Report**



- Plastic Overshoot Day marks the point when the amount of plastic waste generated exceeds the world's capacity to manage it, resulting in environmental pollution.
- In 2024, the global Plastic Overshoot Day is projected to occur on **September 5th.**
- As per the Plastic Overshoot Day report by Swiss non-profit EA Earth Action:
  - In 2024, 220 million tonnes of plastic waste will be created.
  - ➤ In 2024, nearly 70 million tons of plastic will end up in nature
  - Plastic waste has risen by 7.11% since 2021.
- The report comes ahead of the 4th meeting of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Negotiating

Committee (INC) in Ottawa, Canada, as the world leaders attempt to develop a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

- India is among the 12 countries responsible for 60
  % of the planet's mismanaged plastic waste
  though India's per capita plastic waste production
  is among the lowest in the world
- The 12 countries: China, India, Russia, Brazil,
   Mexico, Vietnam, Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan,
   the United States and Turkey
- The report classifies India as a "low-waste-producing" polluter due to its low per capita plastic waste production (8 kg per capita per year), it said the country's expected mismanaged waste in 2024 will be 7.4 million tons, which is "very high".
- Still, India's mismanaged plastic waste will be less than one-fifth of China and one-third of the US.
- People living in Belgium are the top generators of plastic waste, with a yearly waste production of 147.7 kg per person.
- This is 16 times higher than in India.
- Oman tops the list of countries in terms of mismanaged plastic waste, with a projected 111 kg of mismanaged plastic per person in 2024.
- Each country has its own "Plastic Overshoot Day", determined by the amount of plastic waste generated and the country's capacity to manage it.
- India will reach its Plastic Overshoot Day on April
   23

## Reliance Jio emerges world's largest mobile operator in data traffic



- Reliance Jio has become the world's largest mobile operator in data traffic consumption, surpassing China Mobile.
- According to global analytics firm Tefficient, the Indian telecom operator's total traffic reached 40.9 exabytes in the January-March quarter, marking a 35.2% year-on-year increase.

 Mukesh Ambani - Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance

#### Forbes richest list 2024:Mukesh Ambani tops in India, Gautam Adani at 2



- On the Forbes' 2024 list of the World's Billionaires, there are 2781 people worldwide.
- 200 Indians featured- up from 169 last year.
- The combined wealth of these Indians is a record total of \$954 billion—up 41% from \$675 billion last year
- Mukesh Ambani retained his position as the 9th richest person in the world is both India's and Asia's richest person.
- Gautam Adani is the second richest Indian, Overall in the list, he is at No.17

Bernard Arnault and his family are at number one, followed by Elon Musk then Jeff Bezos

US has the most billionaires (813)

#### Who is the wealthiest woman on the list?

 Francoise Bettencourt Meyers, the granddaughter of the founder of L'Oreal

## SBI, ICICI & HDFC Banks in top 50 Asia Pacific Bank: S&P Global



- Three Indian lenders made it to the list of top 50 banks by assets in the Asia-Pacific region in 2023, up from two in 2022, according to a report by S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- These Indian banks are the State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank.

## Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport is the 10th busiest airport



Top 10 airports in the world in 2023.

| Ranking | Airport                  |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 1       | Attanta (USA)            |
| 2       | Dubai (UAE)              |
| 3       | Dallas/Fort Worth (L/SA) |
| 4       | London (UK)              |
| 5       | Tokyo (Japan)            |
| 6       | Denver (USA)             |
| .7      | Istanbul (Turkey)        |
| 8       | Los Angeles (USA)        |
| 9       | Chicago (USA)            |
| 10      | New Delhi (India)        |
|         |                          |

- Airports Council International (ACI) World, a
  global organisation which measures and assesses
  airport standards ranked Delhi's IGI Airport as
  the 10th busiest airport in the world in 2023 with
  7.22 crore passengers.
- From the top 10 rankings for total passenger traffic, five of the airports are in the United States.
- The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the United States held the top rank with 10.46 crore passengers.

## 8 Indians featured on TIME's 100 Most Influential People of 2024 List

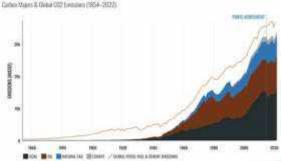


- 2 Indians and 6 individuals of Indian descent have secured coveted spots on TIME magazine's roster of the 100 Most Influential People of 2024
- 2 Indians Alia Bhatt, Sakshi Malik (Olympic bronze-winning wrestler)

#### 6 Individuals of Indian descent:

- Dev Patel
- > The Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella
- President of the World Bank, Ajay Banga
- Yale University professor, PriyamvadaNatarajan
- Darjeeling Express restaurateur Asma Khan
- US Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office Director, Jigar Shah

## The Carbon Majors report by InfluenceMap

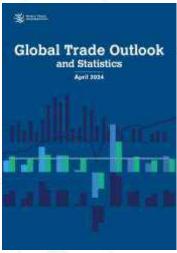


- Report by non-profit think tank InfluenceMap.
- From 2016 to 2022, 80% of the world's CO2
   emissions can be traced to a group of just 57 fossil
   fuels and cement producing companies.
- The world's top three CO2-emitting companies in the period were Saudi Arabian state-owned oil firm Saudi Aramco, Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom and Indian state-owned producer Coal India
- The report found most companies had expanded their fossil fuel production since 2015, the year when nearly all countries signed the U.N. Paris Agreement, committing to take action to curb climate change.
- Global energy-related CO2 emissions hit a record high last year," the International Energy Agency

#### **U.N. Paris Agreement**

- The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016.
- Its overarching goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels."

## Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report by World Trade Organisation (WTO)



- According to the report, India has become the world's 4th largest exporter of digitally delivered services, constituting over 1/5th of global trade in services.
- India's exports of digitally delivered services stood at \$257 billion in 2023 registering a 17% increase from the previous year.
- This growth has allowed India to surpass Germany and China in the rankings, but it still lags behind the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.
- Digitally delivered services, which include professional services in education, gaming, and streaming music and videos, have seen a significant increase over the past two decades.

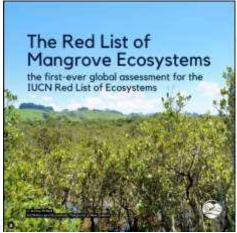
## Nearly 66K Indians took oath of American citizenship in 2022: CRS report



- As many as 65,960 Indians officially became U.S. citizens, making India the second-largest source country for new citizens in America after Mexico, according to the latest Congressional report
- An estimated 46 million foreign-born persons resided in the United States in 2022, approximately 14% of the total U.S. population of 333 million
- Of these, 24.5 million, about 53%, reported their status as naturalised citizens.

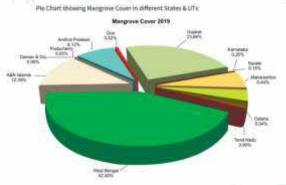
- A naturalized citizen of a particular country is someone who has legally become a citizen of that country, although they were not born there.
- Individuals born in Mexico represented the largest number of naturalisations, followed by persons from India, Philippines, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic

#### Mangroves in South India, Sri Lanka Labeled 'Critically Endangered



- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has issued a new report cautioning that half of the world's mangrove ecosystems are at risk of collapsing.
- This marks the first comprehensive global assessment of mangroves by IUCN.
- The report, titled "Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems," unveiled these findings on International Day for Biodiversity (22 May).
- Mangrove ecosystem in South India, shared with Sri Lanka and Maldives, is categorised as "critically endangered".
- In contrast, mangrove ecosystems in the Bay of Bengal region (shared with Bangladesh) and the western coast (shared with Pakistan) are classified as "least concerned".
- India has about 3% of the total mangrove cover in South Asia.
- India's mangrove cover has increased by 54 sq km
   (1.10%) compared to the previous assessment.
- The current mangrove cover in India is 4,975 sq km, which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area.
- West Bengal (42.45%) has the largest share of India's mangrove cover, followed by Gujarat at 23.66% and Andaman & Nicobar Islands at 12.39%.
- The South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal alone accounts for 41.85% of India's mangrove cover. This region includes the Sundarbans

#### National Park, one of the largest mangrove forests in the world.



- Gujarat has shown the maximum increase of 37 sq km in mangrove cover.
- Coasts along the Northwest Atlantic, North Indian Ocean, Red Sea, South China Sea, and Gulf of Aden are predicted to be significantly impacted.
- Without increased conservation, about 7,065 sq km (5%) more mangroves could be lost, and 23,672 sq km (16%) will be submerged by 2050.



India Surpasses Japan as 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Solar Power Generator in 2023

#### **NEW INDIA**



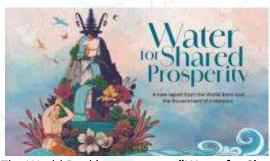
India became the world's third-largest solar power

generator, surpassing Japan

- Global Electricity Review 2024, published by global energy think tank EMBER
- India's become the third-largest solar power generator in the world in 2023.

- India was ranked 9th in solar energy deployment in 2015.
- The report shows that solar power's share in global electricity production surged to a record 5.5 percent in 2023
- India's share of solar power surged from 0.5 percent in 2015 to 5.8 percent in 2023.
- India witnessed the world's fourth-largest increase in solar generation in 2023 (+18 Terawatt hours or TWh), following China (+156 TWh), the United States (+33 TWh), and Brazil (+22 TWh).
- Together, these top four solar growth countries accounted for 75 percent of the overall growth in 2023.

## World Bank Report: 'Water For Shared Prosperity'



- The World Bank's new report "Water for Shared Prosperity," released at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, highlights the alarming global water crisis and its implications for human and economic development worldwide.
- In 2022, 2.2 billion people lacked access to safely managed drinking water services, while 3.5 billion lacked access to safely managed sanitation.
- Low-income countries, in particular, have seen regression in access to safe drinking water
- China and India, with 36% of the global population, hold only 11% of freshwater, while North America, with 5% of the population, possesses 52%.

10th World Water Forum 2024



- Theme of Water for Shared Prosperity
- organised by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the World Water Council.
- The World Water Council, established in 1996 and located in Marseille, France is an international organisation with 260 member organisations from 52 countries including India.
- The Forum is the world's largest event organised, since 1997, every three years with a different host country.
- Saudi Arabia was appointed as the country to host the 11th Water Forum in 2027

#### **World Bank Report on Agri-food System**



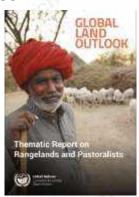
- The World Bank's recent report, "Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System", has emphasized on significant potential for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the agrifood sector, which currently accounts for about a third of all global emissions
- The World Bank report identifies the top ten agrifood system emitters (responsible for 55% of global agrifood emissions), which include China, Brazil, India, the United States, and Indonesia, among others.
- Annual investments will need to increase by 18 times to \$260 billion a year to halve current agrifood emissions by 2030 and put the world ontrack for net-zero emissions by 2050.

## Study reveals how new species evolve without geographic barriers



- A new study conducted by scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), Mumbai published in NPJ Systems Biology and Applications, has shed light on the process of speciation, meaning the formation of new species, in the absence of geographic barriers.
- Researchers at IIT Bombay discover the role of environmental resources, genes and mating in species in the development of new species in the same area, challenging the traditional view that new species can develop only in distinct geographies.
- Traditionally, it is believed that speciation largely occurs when populations of a species are isolated from each other by geographical barriers such as mountains or bodies of water.
- This is called allopatric speciation.
- However, the new IIT Bombay research suggests that speciation can happen even when populations live in the same area without geographical barriers.
- This mode of speciation is called sympatric speciation.
- While there is ecological evidence in favour of sympatric hypothesis, there is no experimental evidence

## Half of world's "Rangelands" are degraded: UNCCD



- According to a new report of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD)
- About half of the world's rangelands are degraded and need policy interventions, and communities depending on them need focused support
- The UNCCD report defines rangelands as natural or semi-natural ecosystems that are grazed by livestock or wild animals.
- Rangelands contain vegetation such as grasses, shrubs, bushes, open forests, and agroforestry systems (land which contains trees and crops or pastures).

- Currently, rangelands cover 80 million sq km of Earth's terrestrial surface area (over half of Earth's land), and are thus the largest land cover or land use type in the world.
- They act as carbon sinks (which absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than they release), storehouses of freshwater, and prevent desertification of land. Millions of people worldwide depend on rangelands for food security, and livelihoods.
- Rangelands generate 16% of global food production and 70% of feed for domesticated herbivores.
- In India, rangelands occupy about 1.21 million sq km, from the Thar Desert to Himalayan meadows, as per the UNCCD report.
- The UNCCD report found that nearly 50% of the world's rangelands can be considered "degraded" and are facing a "silent demise".
- Climate change, unsustainable land and livestock management practices, biodiversity loss, and the conversion of rangelands to farmlands are some of the primary drivers of rangeland degradation.
- Uncertainty over land rights among pastoralist communities, who depend on rangelands for their livelihood, also leads to their degradation.

#### World Unemployment to Fall Slightly in 2024: UN



- Global unemployment is set to fall slightly this year, a United Nations agency, reversing its previous prediction of a rise while warning of "slow progress" on tackling inequalities.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) expects a global unemployment rate of 4.9% in 2024, after originally forecasting unemployment would rise to 5.2% this year from 5% in 2023.
- It forecasts that the rate will stay at 4.9% in 2025.
- However, the ILO cautioned that "inequalities in labour markets persist, with women in lowincome countries particularly affected."
- The report found that 183 million people meet the definition of unemployed, meaning they are

- actively looking for work and are immediately available. But the number of people without a job who wanted to work stood at 402 million.
- Women were more likely to be unwillingly out of work and disproportionately affected by a lack of opportunities.
- Women in low-income countries were especially hard-hit, with 22.8% who wanted a job are not in work, compared with 15.3% for men.
- For high-income countries, the rate stood at 9.7% for women and 7.3% for men.
- Worldwide, the report estimated that 45.6% of women of working age were employed in 2024.
   For men, the figure was 69.2%.

#### Kathmandu Tops The List Of Cities With Unhealthy Air In The World

#### POLLUTED CITIES IN WORLD



- According to IQAir: The air quality in Kathmandu was at the top of the list of cities with 'unhealthy air' in the world.
- In terms of pollution, Kathmandu, New Delhi, Chiang Mai in Thailand, Hanoi in Vietnam, Bangkok in Thailand and Dhaka in Bangladesh are ranked first, second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.

## China Overtakes US as India's Largest Trading Partner in FY24



China has emerged as India's largest trading partner in the FY 2023-24 with \$118.4 billion two-way commerce, narrowly edging past the US (\$118.3 bn), according to the data of economic think tank GTRI.

- The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$118.3 billion in 2023-24.
- The US was the India's largest trading partner in 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- According to the report, India's exports to China rose by 8.7 per cent in the last fiscal.
- The main sectors which recorded healthy growth in exports to that country include iron ore, cotton yarn/fabrics/madeups, handloom, spices, fruits and vegetables, plastic and linoleum.
- Imports from China increased by 3.24 per cent.
- In 2023-24, the UAE (with USD 83.6 billion), was the third largest trading partner of India. It was followed by Russia (\$65.7 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$43.4 billion), and Singapore (\$35.6 billion).

Deepika Padukone becomes the only Indian star to feature on Deadline's Global Disruptors 2024 list



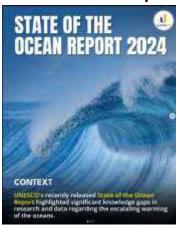
- Deepika Padukone has been featured on the list of Global Disruptors 2024 by Deadline Hollywood magazine.
- The list features celebrities who are significantly contributing to defining the future of the entertainment industry globally.
- In the feature, Deepika is introduced as 'India's surprise superstar who is on a mission to break boundaries and taboos'.

#### 9th edition of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list released



- Forbes released its ninth edition of the "30 Under 30 Asia" list celebrating 300 young entrepreneurs, leaders, and trailblazers under 30 who are driving innovation and transforming industries across the Asia-Pacific region.
- · 86 Indian on the list.

#### **UNESCO's State of Ocean Report 2024**



The Intergovernmental Oceanographic
 Commission of UNESCO launched the State of the
 Ocean Report 2024 publication (StOR) in Iceland

#### **Key Findings**

- The rate of ocean warming has doubled in 20 years - with 2023 seeing one of the highest increases since the 1950s.
- Coastal species are suffocating from declining oxygen levels Since the 1960s, the ocean has lost
   2% of its oxygen due to warming temperatures and pollutants, including wastewater and agricultural run-off. Coastal areas are especially impacted
- Rising acidity is also a major cause for concern. 25-30% of fossil fuel emissions absorbed by the ocean. Since pre-industrial times, ocean acidity has increased by 30%, and will reach 170% by 2100
- Blue Carbon and MPAs: Beacons of hope -

- Marine forests including mangroves, seagrass plains, tidal marshes are able to absorb up to 5 times more carbon than forests on land.
- However, the Report reveals that nearly 60% of countries still do not include marine forest restoration and conservation in their Nationally Determined Contribution plans.
- Marine Protected Areas are known to protect biodiversity, harbouring 72% of the 1500 endangered marine species on the IUCN Red List.

#### India among top destinations for crossborder real estate investment



- The report, Asia Pacific Global Capital Flows May 2024, by Colliers listed India, China, Singapore and Australia in the top five destinations globally for cross-border capital investment in land/development sites in the first quarter of 2024.
- Global investors have consistently preferred the Indian real estate market, infusing over \$23 Billion since 2018, accounting for 77 per cent of the total investments during this period
- US remains the top investor contributing to about
   44 per cent of the foreign inflows
- Most of these cross border purchases (73%) are in assets that are ready to use, with a clear preference for properties that are already making money.
- Foreign investments in Indian real estate reached \$3.6 billion in 2023, making up 67% of all the money that came in

## Netherlands Emerges as India's 3rd Largest Export Destination in 2023-24

 The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the US and UAE during 2023-24.

- The main commodities which registered healthy exports growth in the Netherlands include petroleum products (USD 14.29 billion), electrical goods, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals in the last fiscal.
- India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has increased to USD 17.4 billion in the last fiscal from USD 13 billion in 2022-23.
- The Netherlands has taken over major destinations such as the U.K., Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany.

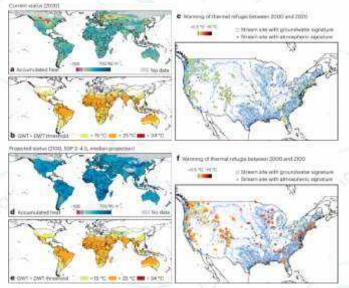
## Global Groundwater to Warm 2-3.5°C, Risking Ecosystems by 2100



- Groundwater is projected to warm by 2-3.5
  degrees Celsius before the turn of this century,
  potentially risking water quality and safety, apart
  from threatening ecosystems depending on the
- A team of German researchers from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, made "world's first global groundwater temperature model" predicted the highest warming rates in Central Russia, Northern China and parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest in South America.
- They looked at how temperatures have changed in the past to predict how they will change from 2000 to 2100.
- Rivers rely on groundwater to keep flowing during dry times, Warm waters hold less dissolved oxygen.
- Warmer groundwater raises the risk of diseasecausing microbial growth, thereby, affecting drinking water quality and potentially the lives of people.
- The model also estimated that by 2100, 60-600 million people globally could be living in areas where groundwater exceeds the highest threshold

**for drinking water temperature** guidelines set by any country.

 According to the World Health Organization, currently only 18 out of 125 countries have temperature guidelines for drinking water.



## Aquaculture Overtakes Wild Fisheries for First Time: UN Report

- Aquaculture is playing an increasingly important role in meeting the world's food needs, surpassing wild fisheries in aquatic animal production for the first time: the United Nations's Food and Agriculture Organization
- In 2022, aquaculture yielded 51 percent of the total aquatic animal production and 57 percent of the production destined for human consumption
- While wild fisheries production has stayed largely unchanged for decades, aquaculture has increased by 6.6 percent since 2020.

## Arctic Ice Giant Viruses May Slow Melting by Eating Algae



- Researchers have found new viruses on the surface of Arctic ice that could slow down the melting of ice due to global warming.
- these giant viruses feed off the algae on ice sheets.
- These algal blooms often lead to faster ice melting, thus exacerbating the effect of greenhouse gases.

- Scientists believe that the viruses, living alongside the algae, can help control the algal spread and thus serve as a natural control mechanism.
- it is the first time that such algae-eating viruses have been found in the ice sheets of the Arctic.

## Record 120 million people forcibly displaced globally: UNHCR



- the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
   (UNHCR) said the number of people forcibly
   displaced stood at a record 117.3 million as of the
   end of last year.
- These are refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, people being forced away by conflict, by persecution, by different and increasingly complex forms of violence
- There had been a yearly increase in the number of people forcibly displaced over the last 12 years.
- UNHCR estimates that the number of those displaced is likely to have exceeded 120 million by the end of April.
- The conflicts that have driven displacement include the war in Sudan, described as "one of the most catastrophic ones" despite garnering less attention that other crises.
- Israel's bombardment and ground campaign have caused around 1.7 million people – nearly 80% of the Palestinian enclave's population

Aamras from India is the world's best dish made with mangoes, according to the popular food guide TasteAtlas



| AAMRAS                                | - XX  |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ■ MAHARASHTRA, INDIA                  | * 4.4   |
| MANGO STICKY RICE                     | * 4.3   |
| SORBETES  APHLIPPINES                 | * 4.2   |
| RUJAK (collectively) - JAVA, NOONESIA | * 4.1   |
| MANGO CHUTNEY                         | <b>4.0</b>  |
| MANGO POMELO SAGO HONG KONG, CHINA    | * 3.9   |
| MANGGUO BUDING GUANGDONG CHINA        | * 3.9   |
| RUJAK CINGUR<br>SURABAYA, NIDONESIA   | • 3.8   |
| BAOBING  BAOBING  BAOBING  BAOBING    | * 3.4   |
| MAMUANG NAM PLA WAN                   | • 3.3   |
|                                       | SORBETES STHULPHNES  RUJAK (confectively) JUNA, MOCHESIA  MANGO CHUTNEY JUNA, MOCHESIA  MANGO POMELO SAGO MICHAEL CHINA MANGGUO BUDING MICHAEL CHINA  RUJAK CINGUR SURARRANA, MOCKESIA  BAOBING MICHAEL CHINA MAMUANG NAM PLA WAN |

- India is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N2O), a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide, according to a global assessment of N2O emissions published in the journal Earth System Science Data
- Nearly 11% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by China at 16%. The major source of these emissions comes from fertiliser usage

## Virat Kohli Reclaims Top Spot as India's Most Valued Celebrity Brand



- Kroll's 'Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023: Brands, Business, Bollywood'.
- Cricketer Virat Kohli reclaimed his position as India's most valued celebrity - brand value of USD 227.9 million.
- Ranveer Singh, slipped to the second spot with a brand value of USD 203.1 million.
- Shah Rukh Khan surged to third place with a brand value of USD 120.7 million in 2023

#### Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey: Mumbai most expensive Indian city for expats, Hong Kong tops globally



- India's financial capital, Mumbai, has emerged as the most expensive city in the country for expatriates in terms of cost of living.
- In a survey published by Mercer, Mumbai has risen 11 spots to rank 136th globally as the most expensive city for expatriates. Delhi also made it into the top 200, climbing to 164th place.
- The survey, which evaluates the cost of living in 227 cities across the globe, takes into account factors such as housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment.
- In Asia, Mumbai ranks as the 21st most expensive city, while Delhi holds the 30th position
- Globally, the top five most expensive cities remain unchanged, with Hong Kong leading, followed by Singapore, Zurich, Geneva, and Basel.

#### 113 Countries Have Never Had Female Heads Of State Or Govt: UN Women's global data on Women Political Leaders 2024

- As at 1 January 2024, only 27 countries are led by a woman, a modest increase from just 18 countries a decade ago.
- Women are still largely excluded from positions of power and diplomacy.
- Only 23 per cent of ministerial positions are held by women and in 141 countries women make up less than a third of cabinet ministers as of January 1, 2024
- In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to ensure voting rights for women.





#### 

## **Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2024**



- India would rank third in the world this year in terms of the net outflows of millionaires from the country, with 4,300 more millionaires leaving than arriving.
- The top two countries on the list are projected to be China (15,200) and the UK (9,500).
- India's projected net outflow of millionaires in 2024 is lower than what happened in 2023 (6,500) and in 2022 (7,500).
- India is adding "far more" millionaires than it is losing to emigration.
- According to Henley's data, India ranks 10th in the world with 3,26,400 high-net-worth individuals, including 1,044 centi-millionaires (with more than \$100 million in wealth) and 120 billionaires.
- This is the **third-highest billionaire population** in the world (after US & China).
- UAE was one of the most popular destinations for millionaires from around the world, including India.

#### India becomes world's third-largest domestic airline market



- India has overtaken Brazil to become the world's third-largest domestic airline market with a 1.55 crore domestic capacity, growing by 11.2% this month.
- Low-cost carrier IndiGo has driven this growth, doubling its market share to 62% since 2014, and the Mumbai-Delhi route is the eighth busiest globally.
- In 2014 India was the smallest market with a meager 80 lakh domestic seats.
- While the United States and China maintain the top two spots with 86.1 million and 67.8 million seats, India's growth rate of 6.9% annually is the highest among the top five countries

#### India sees 43% decline in FDI inflows in 2023, drops to 15th spot: UNCTAD Report

- World Investment Report of the United Nations
   Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Foreign Direct
   Investment (FDI) flows to India declined by 43% in
   2023 to \$28 billion amid a global decline of 2%
- While India dropped to 15th spot in 2023 from 8th position in 2022 in terms of FDI inflows, it remained in the Top-5 for both kinds of FDI greenfield projects and international project finance deals.
- In 2022, India's FDI inflows had risen by 10 per cent to \$49 billion
- The UNCTAD report said that among the Top-20
  host economies, the largest absolute drops in FDI
  inflows were registered in France, Australia, China,
  the US and India.
- There has been a general decline in the FDI during 2023 due to the cautious approach adopted by the Multinational Companies (MNCs).
- developed countries were strongly affected by financial transactions of multinational enterprises, partly due to efforts to implement a global minimum tax rate on the profits of these corporations.
- India was ranked 20th in the world in FDI outflows.
   India was ranked 23rd in 2023.

Top 5 FDI recipient countries in the world.

| Rank in<br>the world<br>(2023) | Country's name    | FDI received<br>(in Billion US<br>dollars) |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1                              | United States of  | 311  |  |
| 1                              | America           |  |  |
| 2                              | China             | 163  |  |
| 3                              | Singapore         | 160  |  |
| 4                              | Hong Kong (China) | 113  |  |
| 5                              | Brazil            | 66   |  |
| 15                             | India             | 28   |  |

- UNCTAD Aim is to promote trade, investment and development of the developing countries.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

#### Important reports released by UNCTAD:

- World Investment Report,
- Trade and Development Report,
- Digital Economy report,
- Review of Maritime Transport,
- ➤ Technology and Innovation Report.
- Commodities and Development Report,
- Least Developed Countries Report.

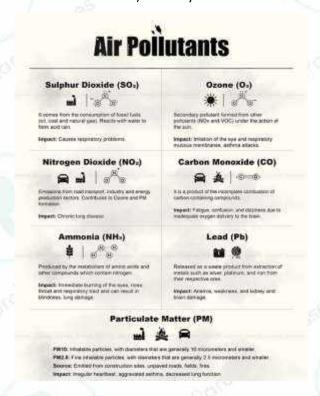
# First multi-city study examining the relationship between short-term air pollution (PM2.5)



 Recently, Lancet has published a first multi-city study examining the relationship between shortterm air pollution (PM2.5) exposure and mortality in 10 major cities of India between 2008 and 2019.

#### The Key findings of the Study

- Air Pollution Causing Death: The study revealed that over 33,000 deaths (approximately 7.2% of total mortalities) could be attributed to air pollution annually across the 10 investigated cities.
- Delhi Highest Mortality Burden: Delhi, exhibited the most severe air pollution, with a staggering 11.5% (12,000 deaths) of annual deaths linked to air pollution.
- Shimla Lowest Mortality: Shimla emerged as the city with the lowest mortality burden attributable to air pollution, with only 59 deaths (constituting 3.7% of total deaths) annually.



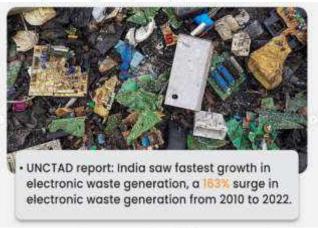
- Chronic Exceedance of Safe Air Quality
   Standards: There has been a persistent violation of established air quality standards.
- PM2.5 concentrations consistently exceeded the World Health Organization's (WHO) safe limit (15 μg/m³) on an alarming 99.8% of the days analyzed.
- Deteriorating Health with Increasing Pollution Levels: Every 10 μg/m³ increase in PM2.5 concentration demonstrably resulted in a 1.42% rise in mortality across the ten cities.

## July 21 was world's hottest day in at least 84 years: European climate agency



- The Earth experienced its hottest day in at least 84 years, with the global average temperature reaching a record high of 17.09 degrees Celsius on July 21, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- This follows a series of record-breaking temperatures -- June marked the 12th consecutive month of global temperatures reaching or exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold.
- Every month since June last year has been the warmest on record.
- July 21 was the hottest day since at least 1940, surpassing the previous record of 17.08 degrees Celsius set on July 6, 2023.
- Before July 2023, the Earth's daily average temperature record, set in August 2016, was 16.8 degrees Celsius.
- However, since July 3, 2023, there have been 57 days with temperatures exceeding that previous record
- 2024 will be the warmest year ever depends largely on the development and intensity of La Nina. While 2024 has been warm enough to surpass 2023,

UNCTAD report: India saw fastest growth in electronic waste generation, a 163% surge in electronic waste generation from 2010 to 2022



- The '2024 Digital Economy Report: Shaping an environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future' report by, with United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Developing countries in Asia generated most of such waste in 2022China contributing almost half of it
- Digitalisation-related waste contains toxic materials like arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury, as well as persistent organic pollutants
- if not properly handled and treated, can have damaging effects on the environment and human health.

Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio and Apple ranked as the 'most inclusive' brands in India: Kantar study



- Kantar's Brand Inclusion Index 2024 is a survey of more than 23,000 people in 18 countries; the India leg comprises 1,000-plus respondents with an inclusive demographic.
- The first edition of the India Brand Inclusion Index study explores skincare, banking, automotive and technology categories.
- The India index ranked Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio and Apple as the top five 'most inclusive' brands.

- In the global Index of the world's most inclusive brands, Kantar ranked Google, Amazon, Nike, Dove and McDonald's in its global top five.
- Almost 75 per cent of consumers across the globe said that a brand's DEI (Diversity, equity & Inclusions) reputation influences their purchase behaviour.

#### Parle continues to be the most-chosen inhome FMCG brand

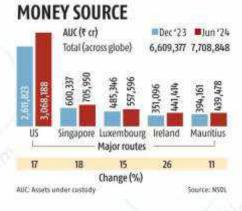


- Parle remains the top in-home biscuit brand for 12 years in a row, according to Kantar's Brand
   Footprint Report
- The report ranks brands based on Consumer Reach Points
- CRP considers the actual purchase made by consumers and the frequency at which these purchases are made in a calendar year.
- The report measures CRPS of 445 brands.
- Other brands in the top five rankings include Britannia, Amul, Clinic Plus and Tata Consumer Products.

#### China Leads Global GenAl Patents: U.N. Data

- China is far ahead of other countries in generative
   Al inventions like chatbots, filing six times more
   patents than its closest rival the United States,
   U.N. data
- South Korea, Japan and India were ranked third, fourth and fifth respectively, with India growing at the fastest rate.

#### **Ireland Surpasses Mauritius in Preferred FPI Destinations**

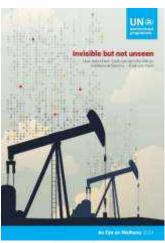


- According to data from the National Securities Depository (NSDL)
- Mauritius, once among the leading destinations for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) routing funds into India, has now slipped to the fifth position, behind Ireland, in terms of assets under custody (AUC)

## India Tops Global Milk Production, Contributing 25% Of The World's Supply

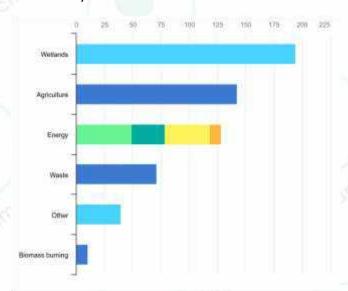
- India is ranked first in milk production contributing
   25 percent of global milk production.
- Milk production in the country is growing at an annual growth rate of about 6 per cent over the past 9 years whereas world milk production is growing at 2.1 per cent per annum.
- the procurement price and sale prices of milk in the country are decided by the cooperative and private dairies based on their cost of production and market forces.

#### **U.N. Methane Monitoring Program Report**



- The 2024 An Eye on Methane Report by the
   United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP)
   International Methane Emissions Observatory
   (IMEO) emphasizes the urgency to close this gap.
- Methane is responsible for around 30% of the rise in global temperatures since the Industrial Revolution.
- Approximately 40% comes from natural sources,
   while 60% is due to human activity.
- Methane stays in the atmosphere for about 12 years which is shorter than carbon dioxide's lifespan of centuries.
- Additionally, methane contributes to air pollution by forming ground-level ozone, which is harmful to health
- In 2023, the energy sector accounted for nearly 130 Mt of methane emissions, making it the second largest contributor after agriculture.

 The Global Methane Pledge (GMP) is an agreement between over 155 countries to reduce methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030



## India Ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024



- According to the TTDI 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 countries.
- In the previous index published in 2021, India was ranked 54<sup>th</sup> (was adjusted to 38th place.)

| Rank | Country        | Score               |  |
|------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 1    | United States  | 5.24                |  |
| 2    | Spain          | 5.18                |  |
| 3    | Japan          | 5.09                |  |
| 4    | France         | 5.07                |  |
| 5    | Australia      | 5.00                |  |
| 6    | Germany        | 5.00                |  |
| 7    | United Kingdom | United Kingdom 4.96 |  |
| 8    | China          | 4.94                |  |
| 9    | Italy          | Italy 4.90          |  |
| 10   | Switzerland    | Switzerland 4.81    |  |
| 39   | India 4.25     |                     |  |

## IIT Delhi leads India in QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

- The QS Quacquarelli Symonds, global higher education experts, today released the third edition of the 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025'.
- The top place has been bagged by <u>IIT Delhi</u> this year (globally 171th rank) which saw an improvement of 255 ranks, followed by IIT Kharagpur at 202 rank globally, an improvement of 147 ranks, and the third rank has been taken by IIT Bombay with an improvement of 69 ranks (global rank 234).
- A total of 78 Indian universities feature in the 2025 QS Sustainability rankings, with nine of the top 10 institutions in the country improving their ranking this year

| Rank<br>in<br>India | 2025<br>Ranking | 2024<br>Ranking | Change | Institution   |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|---|
| 1                   | 171             | 426             | 255    | Indian Institute<br>of Technology<br>Delhi (IITD)               |
| 2                   | 202             | 349             | 147    | Indian Institute<br>of Technology<br>Kharagpur (IIT-<br>KGP)    |
| 3                   | 234             | 303             | 69     | Indian Institute<br>of Technology<br>Bombay (IITB)              |
| 4                   | 245             | 522             | 277    | Indian Institute<br>of Technology<br>Kanpur (IITK)              |
| 5                   | 277             | 344             | 67     | Indian Institute<br>of Technology<br>Madras (IITM)              |
| 6                   | 299             | 220             | -79    | University of Delhi   |
| 7                   | 376             | 505             | 129    | Indian Institute of Science                                     |
| 8                   | 396             | 449             | 53     | Vellore<br>Institute of<br>Technology<br>(VIT)                  |
| 9                   | 401             | 576             | 175    | Manipal Academy of Higher Education – Manipal University (MAHE) |
| 10                  | 412             | 496             | 84     | Anna<br>University  |

## Top 10 Indian institutions in the Environmental Impact category

| Institution                 | Environmental Impact<br>Rank |  |  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Indian Institute of         | 55                           |  |  |
| Technology Delhi (IITD)     |                              |  |  |
| Indian Institute of         | 87                           |  |  |
| Technology Kanpur (IITK)    |                              |  |  |
| Indian Institute of         | 101                          |  |  |
| Technology Bombay (IITB)    |                              |  |  |
| Indian Institute of         | 113                          |  |  |
| Technology Kharagpur (IIT-  |                              |  |  |
| KGP)                        |                              |  |  |
| Indian Institute of Science | 179                          |  |  |
| Jadavpur University         | 189                          |  |  |
| Indian Institute of         | 204                          |  |  |
| Technology Madras (IITM)    |                              |  |  |
| University of Delhi         | 244                          |  |  |
| Vellore Institute of        | 268                          |  |  |
| Technology (VIT)            |                              |  |  |
| Jawaharlal Nehru            | 323                          |  |  |
| University                  | 1 3                          |  |  |

#### Universities from India scored better in the Knowledge Exchange and Employability and Outcomes lenses.

| Institution  |         | Knowled<br>ge<br>Exchange<br>Rank                           | Institutio<br>n | Employabili<br>ty and<br>Outcomes<br>Rank |
|--|---------|---|-----------------|---|
| University<br>of Delhi   | 12      | Indian<br>Institute<br>of<br>Technolo<br>gy Delhi<br>(IITD) | 116             |   |
| Vellore<br>Institute of<br>Technology<br>(VIT)                 | 16<br>1 | Indian Institute of Technolo gy Bombay (IITB)               | 116             | 05585                                     |
| Indian<br>Institute of<br>Technology<br>Kharagpur<br>(IIT-KGP) | 19<br>7 | Indian Institute of Technolo gy Kharagpu r (IIT-KGP)        | 130             |   |
| Indian<br>Institute of<br>Technology<br>Delhi (IITD)           | 21<br>8 | Indian<br>Institute<br>of<br>Technolo                       | 191             | 105565                                    |

| 6            |     | gy<br>Madras<br>(IITM) | anticharn. |
|--------------|-----|------------------------|------------|
| Manipal      | 22  | Indian                 | 267        |
| Academy of   | 7   | Institute              | 26         |
| Higher       |     | of                     | 30         |
| Education –  |     | Technolo               | 7          |
| Manipal      |     | gy Kanpur              | /          |
| University   | 33  | (IITK)                 |            |
| (MAHE)       | 160 |                        |            |
| Indian       | 24  |                        | 1 10       |
| Institute of | 1   |                        |            |
| Technology   |     |                        | 75         |
| Bombay       |     |                        | 7/10/2     |
| (IITB)       |     |                        | 30         |
| SRM          | 24  |                        | San San    |
| INSTITUTE    | 4   |                        | . 16       |
| OF SCIENCE   |     | <b>W</b>               | -50        |
| AND          |     | 1                      | 102        |
| TECHNOLO     |     | -0.0                   | J 200      |
| GY           |     | 1.01                   |            |

#### **Global rankings**

| 2025<br>Rank | 2024<br>Rank | Institution           | Country     |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1            | 1            | University of Toronto | Canada      |
| 2            | 18           | ETH Zurich            | Switzerland |
| 3            | 8            | Lund University       | Sweden      |
| 3            | 2            | University of         | United      |
|              |              | California, Berkeley  | States      |
|              |              | (UCB)                 | 1. 11       |
| 5            | 189          | UCL                   | United      |
|              |              | 00                    | Kingdom     |

#### India Emerges as Prime Global Target for Mobile Malware Attacks



- According to a recently published Zscaler
   ThreatLabz 2024 Mobile IoT and OT Threat report by the cloud security company Zscaler Inc.
- India has emerged as the most targeted country for mobile malware attacks globally (28%), surpassing the United States and Canada.
- The Report analysed security attacks by hackers on mobile and IoT/OT from June 2023 to May 2024.
- Malware, or malicious software, is a type of programme or file that steals data and damages

- **or destroys the computer and its system.** Cybercriminals or hackers use malware.
- Common types of malware are computer viruses, worms, spyware, Trojan horses, and ransomware.
- With nearly half of mobile attacks being trojans (malware that tricks users into downloading and running malicious software), the financial sector is particularly vulnerable.
- On a positive note, India has improved its ranking as a malware origin point, moving from 5th to 7th place in the APAC (Asia-Pacific) region.

## IndiGo Ranks Among Worst Airlines Globally in AirHelp 2024 Report



- According to the report, India's IndiGo Airlines ranks 103rd out of 109 airlines, making it one of the worst performers.
- Tata's Air India at 61st.
- AirAsia: 94th
- At the top of the list, Brussels Airlines has been named the best airline, followed by Qatar Airways, United Airlines
- However, the airline disputes the findings, citing concerns over the report's methodology and lack of transparency regarding the Indian sample size.
- IndiGo maintains high rankings in India's DGCA data for punctuality and low customer complaints. It holds a 61.3% market share in India, with over 7.25 crore passengers in 2024.
- The AirHelp Score report, which gathers data from over 54 countries, evaluates airlines based on a combination of punctuality, customer claims, and passenger satisfaction.

#### International Debt Report (IDR) 2024



- World Bank's "International Debt Report 2024" highlights a worsening debt crisis for developing nations, with 2023 marking the highest debt servicing levels in two decades, driven by rising interest rates and economic challenges.
- LMICs Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face external debt challenges. In 2023, their debt reached US\$8.8 trillion, largely due to pandemicrelated borrowing for economic recovery.
- Factors Driving Indebtedness
  - High Interest Rates: Tight monetary policies in high-income countries pushed interest rates to a 20-year high.
  - ➤ Bangladesh and India experienced over 90% increases in interest payments in 2023.
  - Other Factors: Inflation, depreciating currencies, and global economic uncertainty due to armed conflicts and trade fragmentation.
  - Impact of rising debt: Budget strain impacted critical sectors like health, education, and environmental programs.

# More than 77% of earth's land became drier in last 30 years: United Nations report

- The report, launched at the 16th conference of the UNCCD in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- More than 77% of Earth's land experienced a drier climate during the three decades leading up to 2020, compared to the previous 30-year period," according to a report released by the U.N.
   Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- During the same period, global drylands expanded by approximately 4.3 million square kilometres an area nearly a third larger than India — now covering more than 40% of the Earth's land.
- The report, warned that if efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions fail, another 3% of the world's humid areas are projected to transform into drylands by the end of this century.
- Areas particularly hard-hit by the drying trend include around 96% of Europe, parts of the western U.S., Brazil, Asia and central Africa.
- South Sudan and Tanzania have the largest percentage of land transitioning to drylands, with China experiencing the largest total area shifting from non-drylands to drylands
- About half of the world's dryland inhabitants are located in Asia and Africa.

 The most densely populated drylands are in California, Egypt, eastern and northern Pakistan, large parts of India and northeastern China.

## Indian cuisine declared 12th best in the world by Taste Atlas



- In Taste Atlas's prestigious list of the 100 Best Cuisines in the World for 2024-25.
- The top five cuisines in the world were Greek, Italian, Mexican, Spanish, and Portuguese.
- Indian dishes in the 50 Best Dishes in the World:
  - Murgh Makhani: Ranked 29th
  - Hyderabadi Biryani: Ranked 31st

#### Elon Musk becomes the first person to reach a net worth of \$400 billion



- The **SpaceX and Tesla owner** has become the first person to hit a net worth of \$400 billion.
- According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Musk's net worth hit \$447 billion last month.
- Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, the second richest man in the world is worth around \$250 billion – a whopping \$150 billion less than Musk

 Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg comes in third with \$224 billion

#### Donald Trump Named TIME's 2024 Person of the Year



- The news magazine had previously bestowed the "Person of the Year" title to Trump in 2016 after his first presidential election victory.
- Pop star Taylor Swift received the title last year.

# ICRA ESG Ratings Report : India ranks 6th with 127 companies committed to net-zero targets



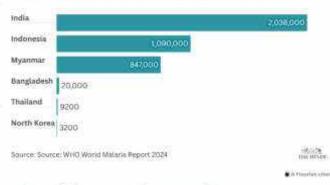
- India ranks 6th globally in corporate climate action, with 127 companies committed to sciencebased target initiative or SBTi net-zero targets, and these companies are primarily from non-hardto-abate sectors like textiles, software, and pharmaceuticals, stated a report by ICRA ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Ratings
- Out of these 127 companies with net-zero commitment from India, around 7 per cent belong to high emissions sectors like construction materials and mining
- While India ranks sixth, the United Kingdom leads globally with the highest number of companies committed to SBTi net-zero targets.
- In contrast, China, despite being the largest emitter, has a lower share of companies with such commitments.

#### WHO's World Malaria Report 2024



- South-East Asia Region contributes about 1.5% of the burden of malaria cases globally and India accounted for about half of all estimated cases in 2023, followed by Indonesia
- since 2000 the WHO South-East Asia Region has made remarkable progress against malaria and estimated malaria cases in the region fell from 22.8 million in 2000 to 4 million in 2023 – a reduction of 82.4%.
- Together, India and Indonesia accounted for about 88% of malaria deaths in the Region

Estimated number of malaria cases in South-East Asia region, 2023



- Approximately 95% of the deaths occurred in the WHO African Region, where many at risk still lack access to the services they need to prevent, detect and treat the disease.
- As of November 2024, 44 countries and one territory had been certified malaria-free by WHO, and many more are steadily progressing towards the goal.

#### **About Malaria**

- It is a life-threatening disease caused
   by Plasmodium parasites, transmitted to humans
   through the bites of infected female Anopheles
   mosquitoes.
- Geographical prevalence: Mostly found in tropical countries.

- Symptoms: Fever, chills and headache, fatigue etc.
- Five Plasmodium species cause malaria in humans: P. falciparum, P. vivax, P. malariae, P. ovale, P. knowlesi.
  - P. falciparum and P. Vivax pose the greatest threat.
- Malaria Vaccines: RTS,S/AS01 vaccine (WHO approved first vaccine in 2021), R21/Matrix-M (WHO approved second vaccine in 2023).

## World's Richest Families 2024: Waltons top with \$432.4 bn, Ambanis at no. 8

 The Bloomberg list of the world's richest families for 2024 reveals significant wealth disparities among the global elite. The Walton family, which owns Walmart, tops the list,

| Family               | Wealth (Billion USD) |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Waltons (Walmart) | 432.4                |
| 2. Al Nahyan (UAE)   | 323.9                |
| 3. Al Thani (Qatar)  | 172.9                |

#### 3 Indians in Forbes' 2024 Power Women List



- Forbes has recently unveiled its 2024 list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women, featuring three Indian trailblazers:
- Nirmala Sitharaman (Rank 28 overall)
- Position: Finance Minister of India
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra (Rank 81 overall)
- Position: Chairperson of HCL Technologies and CEO of HCL Corporation
- Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Rank 82 overall)
- Position: Founder and Chairperson of Biocon

#### Top 5 Women In That List (2024)

- Ursula von der Leyen President of the European Commission
- Christine Lagarde President of the European Central Bank
- 3. Giorgia Meloni Prime Minister of Italy
- 4. Claudia Sheinbaum President of Mexico
- 5. Mary Barra CEO of General Motors

#### 'Arctic Report Card' 2024





 A recent report titled the 2024 Arctic Report Card by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reveals that the Arctic, once a major carbon sink, is now becoming a carbon source due to ongoing climate-induced warming.

#### What are the Key Findings of the Report?

- The Arctic's summer of 2024 was the third warmest on record, with regions like Alaska and Canada experiencing extreme heat waves.
- Permafrost thaw is causing the Arctic tundra to switch from a carbon sink to a carbon source.
- Wildfires are increasing in frequency and intensity, releasing more carbon and extending the wildfire
- The extent and thickness of sea ice have reduced significantly over the past decades.
- The reindeer or caribou are in decline due to climate change affecting Indigenous communities reliant on them for food and cultural practices.

#### What is the Arctic?



- The Arctic is the northernmost polar region of Earth. It includes the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Alaska (US), Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.
- The Arctic is characterized by its cold climate, with temperatures often dropping below freezing.
- India's @ Arctic Region: India engaged with the Arctic by signing the Svalbard Treaty in 1920.
- India began its Arctic research program in 2007, and launched its first scientific expedition to the Arctic Ocean and established the Himadri research base in the Svalbard archipelago, Norway in 2008.
- India has held observer status in the Arctic Council since 2013.
- In 2022, the Indian government announced an Arctic policy aimed at engaging in climate research.
- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research will be the nodal agency for its implementation.

## Banking & Finance

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. Rakesh Makhija as Castrol India Chairman
- 2. Anup Gupta as Bombay Stock Exchange Brokers Chairman
- 3. Monetary Policy Committee Reshuffling
- 4. Rahul Bhave as New MD & CEO of IFCI
- 5. Itaru Otani Chairman of India Yamaha Motor
- 6. L Satya Srinivas as CEO of GeM Portal
- 7. Shashwat Sharma as New CEO Bharti Airtel
- 8. Abhyuday Jindal, President of Indian Chamber of Commerce
- 9. Ashok Kumar Singh as Director General, ESIC
- 10. C S Setty as Chairman of SBI
- Sanjay Shukla Assumes Charge As MD Of National Housing Bank
- 12. ESAF SFB Chief Paul Thomas Elected Chairperson Of Sa-Dhan
- 13. JPMorgan India Bank CEO Prabdev Singh quits
- 14. Sumit Nagal as Brand Endorser of Bank of
- 15. Ajith Kumar K.K. as MD of Dhanlaxmi Bank
- Shah Rukh Khan Appointed as New Brand Ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group
- 17. Ravi Agrawal appointed new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT
- 18. Arun Bansal as new MD & CEO Paytm Payments Bank
- 1. Ashok Chandra as Next MD and CEO of PNB
- Amitabh Chaudhry Re-Appointed as MD and CEO of Axis Bank by RBI
- Pam Kaur appointed first female CFO of HSBC
- 4. Vijay Chandok joins as MD & CEO of NSDL

## **RBI Monetary Policy Committee Reshuffling**

 The six-member MPC consists of three RBI and three external members, appointed for a four-year term

#### Rakesh Makhija takes over as Castrol India Chairman



- · Succeeding R. Gopalakrishnan.
- Castrol India Ltd, a lubricant manufacturer
- Rakesh Makhija was recently the Non-Executive
   Chairman of Axis Bank Ltd.

## **Bombay Stock Exchange Brokers' Forum appoints Anup Gupta as Chairman**



- Effective September 30, 2024,
- Succeeding Kishor Kansagra.

# Digital Green Trust (DGT), has appointed Nidhi Bhasin as its Chief Executive Officer for India



- Digital Green, an organisation that trains Indian farmers in sustainable practices
   Prior to joining Digital Green Trust, she served as CEO of Nasscom Foundation
  - India's government had appointed the following as new external members of the central bank's ratesetting monetary policy committee.
    - Ram Singh
    - Saugata Bhattacharya
    - Nagesh Kumar



- The new appointments will replace three veteran economists whose four-year terms expire on October 4:
  - > Ashima Goyal
  - > Jayanth Varma
  - Shashanka Bhide
- The three members of RBI are Governor, Deputy Governor and one officer to be nominated by the central board.
- In its August policy the MPC kept the reporate unchanged at 6.50% for a ninth straight time.

#### FSIB Recommends Binod Kumar as MD & CEO of Indian Bank

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Binod Kumar for the post of Managing Director of Chennai-based Indian Bank.

- Kumar, who is serving as Executive Director of Punjab National Bank
- will replace S L Jain on his superannuation next month.
- Bank was incorporated on March 5, 1907, commenced its business on August 15, 1907.
- HQ Chennai

#### FSIB Recommends Rahul Bhave as New MD & CEO of IFCI

The Financial Services
 Institutions Bureau (FSIB), recommended Rahul
 Bhave for the position of Managing Director (MD) and CEO of IFCI Ltd.



- Bhave is currently the Deputy Managing Director of IFCI.
- FSIB has recommended Palash Srivastava for the position of Deputy Managing Director in IIFCL.

#### Itaru Otani Appointed as Chairman of India Yamaha Motor



#### **Masato Kanda Elected as ADB President**



Masato Kanda Becied new President of Asian Development Bank

- Japan's former top currency diplomat Masato Kanda, known for his heavy-handed intervention to combat sharp yen falls that earned him the nickname "Mr. Yen
- He succeeds Masatsugu Asakawa

#### About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- It is a multilateral development bank established on 19th December 1966.
- It is the principal international development finance institution for the Asia-Pacific region.
- · Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.

# Mallika Srinivasan, Chairperson of PESB, granted one-year extension beyond retirement age of 65



- Srinivasan is the first private sector specialist, who has been appointed as the head of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)
- Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited
- PESB is a non-statutory body that advises the government on appointments to the highest posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

#### L Satya Srinivas Appointed CEO of GeM Portal



- L Satya Srinivas, Additional Secretary in
   Department of Commerce, now has the additional charge of CEO of public procurement portal GeM.
- The additional charge was given as the last CEO of the Government e Marketplace (GeM) P K Singh has been appointed as secretary in the renewable energy ministry.
- The GeM portal was launched on August 9, 2016, for online purchases of goods and services by all central government ministries and departments.

## **Bharti Airtel Announces Shashwat Sharma** as New CEO



- effective from January 1, 2026
- of Shashwat Sharma, the current Chief Operating Officer, as MD & CEO of the telco

# Akash Tripathi given additional responsibilities as MD & CEO of Digital India Corporation (DIC).



 currently serving as as President and Chief Executive Officer (P&CEO) of the National eGovernance Division (NeGD).

## Abhyuday Jindal, President of Indian Chamber of Commerce



The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), a national business association, announced the

- appointment of **Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director of Jindal Stainless Limited**, as its new President.
- taking over from Ameya Prabhu

# Pension regulator PFRDA has appointed Chitra Jayasimha as the Chairperson of the Board of National Pension System (NPS) Trust.

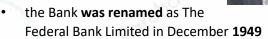
 has been serving the NPS Trust Board as a Trustee since December 2020.

#### About National Pension System (NPS)

- It is a voluntary retirement benefit scheme introduced by the Government of India to facilitate regular income post-retirement for all subscribers.
- NPS was launched on 1st January, 2004.
- PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) is the governing body for NPS.

## KVS Manian has taken over as the new Managing Director & CEO of Federal bank

- an Indian private sector bank
- headquartered in Aluva, Kerala
- Incorporated on April 23, 1931, as the Travancore Federal Bank Limited



 become a scheduled commercial bank on July 20, 1970.

## IndusInd Bank Reappoints Sumant Kathpalia as MD & CEO



- for a period of three years (effective March 24, 2025 up to March 23, 2028)
- Founded: 1994, Private sector bank in India
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder: S. P. Hinduja



## Ashok Kumar Singh takes over the charge of Director General, ESIC



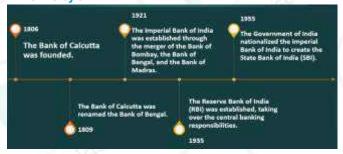
- Ashok Kumar Singh, IAS, took over charge as
   Director General of Employees' State Insurance
   Corporation (ESIC) under the Ministry of Labour
   and Employment, Govt of India at its headquarters
   in New Delhi.
- Earlier, he worked as a Principal Secretary, the Water Resources Department, Govt. of Kerala.

#### Government appointed C S Setty as Chairman of SBI



- The government appointed C S Setty as Chairman
  of the country's biggest lender State Bank of India
  (SBI) for a period of three years.
- Setty, currently senior most MD of the bank, will replace chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, whose term ends on August 28 as he will be turning 63,
- The government has also appointed Rana
   Ashutosh Kumar Singh to take over as managing director (MD) at SBI.

#### Timeline of SBI



#### NPCI Spins Off BHIM into a Separate Arm; Lalitha Nataraj Appointed CEO

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) incorporated Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) as a wholly-owned subsidiary,
- into a new entity known as NPCI-BHIM Services
   Ltd (NBSL).
- Former banker Lalitha Nataraj will head the new subsidiary as its chief executive officer (CEO).
- Rahul Handa will be NBSL's chief business officer (CBO).

## Inderjit Camotra appoints as MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank



 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Inderjit Camotra as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Unity Small Finance Bank for two years.

## Sanjay Shukla Assumes Charge As MD Of National Housing Bank



- Previously, he was the MD & CEO of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd
- National Housing Bank
- Founded: 9 July 1988
- Headquarters: New Delhi

## RBI appoints S. Sukumaran Nair as MD & CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank



for a period of three years.

 His last assignment was as deputy managing director and chief credit officer of State Bank of India, until May 2024.

## Shri Kamal Kishore Soan takes over the charge of Director General, ESIC

 Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, currently serving as an Additional Secretary and Director General, Labour Welfare in the Ministry of Labour & Employment, took over the additional charge of Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under Ministry of Labour & Employment.

#### Bharti AXA appointed Akhil Gupta as new Chairman

 Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a wholly owned by Bharti Group, announced the appointment of Akhil Gupta, as its new Chairman.

#### The government has appointed Girija Subramanian as Chairman and Managing director (CMD) of the largest general insurer, New India Assurance



- Established 1919 by Sir Dorabji Tata
- Nationalized in 1972 as per Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act 1972
- · Head office Mumbai
- Bhupesh Sushil Rahul selected as CMD of United India Insurance Company

## ESAF SFB Chief Paul Thomas Elected Chairperson Of Sa-Dhan



Paul Thomas, MD & CEO of ESAF Small Finance
 Bank, has been elected as Chairperson of the

board of Sa-Dhan, which is an association of microfinance and impact finance institutions.

## HDFC ERGO General Insurance elevates Anuj Tyagi as MD and CEO

Tyagi will succeed Ritesh Kumar

#### RBI inducts additional Director on Bandhan Board ahead of CMD Chandra Shekhar Ghosh's retirement

- Arun Kumar Singh, a retired Chief General Manager of the RBI, will serve additional director on the Board of Bandhan Bank
- Bandhan Bank HQ Kolkata
- Tagline 'Aapka Bhala. Sabki Bhalai'
- Started its operations in 2015

#### SBI General Insurance announces Naveen Chandra Jha as its new MD & CEO



He succeeds Kishore Kumar Poludasu.

## JPMorgan India Bank CEO Prabdev Singh quits before end of term



- Prabdev Singh, chief executive officer of JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s bank in India, has stepped down before the end of his term.
- Pranav Chawda will lead currently as the head of India Corporate Banking
- JPMorgan headquarter New York, USA

#### PNB MetLife named Sameer Bansal new MD and CEO



- PNB MetLife India Insurance has appointed
   Sameer Bansal as the new managing director and chief executive, effective July 1.
- The appointment is subject to regulatory approvals.

## Dhanlaxmi Bank Appoints Ajith Kumar KK as MD & CEO



- Private sector Dhanlaxmi Bank has appointed Ajith Kumar KK as Managing Director (MD) of the bank.
- He will take charge on June 20, for a period of three years, replacing JK Shivan.
- Dhanlaxmi was established as Dhanalakshmi Bank in 1927.
- In 2010, it changed its name to Dhanlaxmi Bank.
- · Headquarters of the Bank: Thrissur, Kerala
- Tagline: Tann Mann Dhan

#### Bank of Baroda onboards Sumit Nagal as its Brand Endorser



- Bank of Baroda has signed tennis player, Sumit
   Nagal, as its brand endorser.
- Nagal, currently the highest-ranked Indian singles tennis player, achieved a career-high singles ranking of World No. 71 on 17th June 2024.
- In January 2024, he became the first Indian player in 35 years to defeat a seeded player in a Grand Slam men's singles match at the Australian Open 2024.

#### RBI approves Ajith Kumar K.K. as MD of Dhanlaxmi Bank



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ajith Kumar KK as the managing director and chief executive officer of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of three years.
- Kumar is also a director of Federal Operations and Services Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Federal Bank Limited.

## Axis Bank Re-appoints Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO for Three More Years



- Chaudhry joined Axis Bank as its MD & CEO w.e.f.
   January 1, 2019
- Axis Bank HQ: Mumbai.
- Founded in Ahmedabad in 1993.

## Parekh resigns as HDFC Life Chairman: Keki Mistry to Chair the board



- Deepak Parekh has stepped down from the role of Chairman and Non-Executive Director of HDFC Life Insurance
- Keki M Mistry is the new board chairman.

#### Senior IAS officer Vikas Sheel appointed Executive Director, Asian Development Bank



for a period of three years.

#### Rajiv Shah Appointed as Director on Board of Federal Reserve Bank



- Indian American Rajiv Shah Appointed as Director on Board of Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- for a three-year term ending the 31st of December, 2026.

#### RBI Approves Praveen Achuthan Kutty as DCB Bank MD & CEO



- effective from April 29, 2024.
- He will replace Murali Natrajan whose term ends on April 28, 2024.

#### Nidhu Saxena Appointed as MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra



- The Ministry of Finance appointed Nidhu Saxena as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Maharashtra.
- Nidhu Saxena will take over from A.S. Rajeev, who has been selected as the Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.
- Bank of Maharashtra is an Indian public sector bank headquartered in Pune

#### Future Generali India Life Insurance Appoints Alok Rungta as Managing Director & CEO



will take over from Bruce De Broize who will continue to be the MD and CEO until March 31.

#### FSIB Selects New CMDs for New India Assurance and United India

- Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) is the head-hunting agency for public sector banks and insurance firms
- Girija Subramanian selected as next CMD of New India Assurance
- Bhupesh Sushil Rahul selected as next CMD of United India Insurance

#### Shah Rukh Khan Appointed as New Brand Ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group



- Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG), popularly known as Muthoot Blue, has roped in Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador.
- Muthoot Pappachan Group is the promoter of leading NBFCs including Muthoot FinCorp Limited (flagship Company of the Group), Muthoot Microfin Limited, Muthoot Capital Services Limited and Muthoot Housing Finance Company Limited.

#### P Santhosh Takes the Helm as MD & CEO of NARCL

- The board of National Asset Reconstruction
   Company (NARCL) has recommended P Santhosh
   for the post of managing director and chief
   executive officer of the state-owned bad bank.
- Santhosh has been interim CEO of NARCL since
  January, soon after N Sundar abruptly resigned as
  the CEO ahead of his term.

#### Hitesh Sethia appointed as Jio Financial Services' MD and CEO



- for three years.
- Jio Financial Services was listed on the Indian stock exchanges in August 2023.
- The company provides financial services, including payment services and insurance broking.
- Founder: Mukesh Ambani
- · Headquarters: Mumbai

## Paytm President and COO Bhavesh Gupta resigns



- The Company has accepted his resignation, and he will be relieved on May 31, 2024
- Varun Sridhar appointed as CEO of Paytm Services
   Pvt Limited.
- Rakesh Singh appointed as CEO of Paytm Money.
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma Founder & CEO, of Paytm
- Parent organization: One97 Communications
- Founded: August 2010

#### RBI Approves Appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Pradeep Natarajan's joining IDFC First Bank Ltd. as Whole Time Director. He will serve a three-year term in this role.
- IDFC FIRST CMD V. Vaidyanathan
- HEADQUARTER MUMBAI

## Rushabh Gandhi Appointed as MD and CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance



 The board of IndiaFirst Life Insurance has approved the appointment of Deputy CEO Rushabh Gandhi as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO, following the current MD and CEO R M Vishakha, who will retire on June 30, 2024.

## Ravi Agrawal appointed new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

Direct Tax

Person pays
Person collects Tax from
tax from own packet
Example
Income Tex

Last Service to Service
Cost

- He succeeded Nitin Gupta
- CBDT is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act. 1963.



 It responsible for administering the direct tax laws in India. The CBDT was established in 1963

#### CS Setty Gets FSIB Approval To Head SBI As Next Chairman



- Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been selected as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) by the Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB)
- will succeed current chairman Dinesh Khara, whose term ends on August 28.

#### A.K. Chowdhury, C.S. Kar appointed as ED,

 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Arnab Kumar Chowdhury and Charulatha S. Kar as Executive Directors (ED).

#### Bandhan Bank appoints Ratan Kumar Kesh as interim MD & CEO



- Ratan Kumar Kesh, executive director and chief operating officer of Bandhan Bank, has been appointed interim MD & CEO of the private lender from July 10.
- The present MD & CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh and founder of the bank will retire on July 9.

Federal Bank Ltd. has announced the appointment of Krishnan Venkat Subramanian as its new Managing Director & CEO.



Founded: 23 April 1931

Headquarters: Aluva, Kochi, Kerala,

## Manoj Mittal Takes Charge As SIDBI's CMD After Appointment



- Manoj Mittal has taken charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries
   Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- SIDBI was established on April 2, 1990, under an act of the Indian Parliament.
- Headquarters Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

## LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty redesignated managing director & CEO

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has redesignated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO).
- Mohanty was appointed as the chairperson of LIC in April 2023.
- Thereafter, he was scheduled to take over the role of MD & CEO of the corporation until June 7, 2025.

Paytm Payments Bank appoints ex-IDBI Bank executive Arun Bansal as new MD & CEO



- Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of One97 Communications (OCL)
- Founded in 2017
- · Headquartered in Noida.

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company appoints Ravindra Kumar Kundu as its Managing Director.



SEBI has given its approval on the appointment of Praveena Rai as MD & CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX)



- Established on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992
- Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch

## Govt grants second one-year extension to RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao



- Rao was appointed as RBI Deputy Governor in October 2020 for a period of three years.
- The RBI has four deputy governors at any given time
- As of October 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor and deputy governors are:
- Shaktikanta Das: The governor, whose term is set to end in December 2024
- M. Rajeshwar Rao: A deputy governor, whose term was extended by one year
- Michael Debabrata Patra: A deputy governor in charge of monetary policy, whose term is set to end in January 2025
- Swaminathan J: A deputy governor
- T Rabi Sankar: A deputy governor

#### PK Gupta reappointed as Chairman of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank



- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Parveen Kumar Gupta as Non-Executive Chairman of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.
- Parveen Kumar Gupta retired as a Managing Director of State Bank of India

#### **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank**

- HQ: Varanasi
- incorporated on April 30, 2016

# Bima Sugam India Federation Names Prasun Sikdar as Its 1st Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

- for a three-year term.
- Bima Sugam, an online platform that displays schemes of various insurers for customers to choose from, is part of the Bima Trinity initiative of IRDAI formulated to improve the insurance sector.



Date of Incorporation: 18-06-2024

#### FSIB Recommends Ashok Chandra as Next MD and CEO of PNB



- Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended the name of Ashok Chandra for the post of MD & CEO at Punjab National Bank (PNB), the country's second largest public sector bank.
- Chandra is currently an Executive Director at Canara Bank.
- Chandra will replace Atul Kumar Goel

# Partha Pratim Sengupta to lead Bandhan Bank as Managing Director and CEO from November 1



- for three years.
- Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, the founding MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank, retired on July 9.
- Following his exit, Executive Director Ratan Kumar Kesh took on the role of interim head to manage the bank's operations.

## Amitabh Chaudhry Re-Appointed as MD and CEO of Axis Bank by RBI



- for three more years, effective January 1.
- The Bank was incorporated on 3rd December 1993
- · headquartered: Mumbai

# BOBCARD LIMITED, a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, has appointed cricketer Shreyanka Patil as its brand ambassador.



- founded by the Maharaja of Baroda, Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III on 20 July 1908.
- nationalised on 19 July 1969
- · Headquaters: Vadodara

#### Indian-born Pam Kaur appointed first female CFO of HSBC



- HSBC made history as it named Indian-origin Pam Kaur as its chief financial officer.
- Kaur is the first woman to occupy that role in the bank's 160-year old history

#### Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation(HSBC) Limited

- The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) is a British multinational bank established in Hong Kong in 1865.
- HSBC opened its first Indian branch in Calcutta (Kolkata) in 1867
- In 1959, acquired the Mercantile Bank which had been founded in Bombay (Mumbai) as early as 1853.
- Global Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India Operation: Hitendra Dave

#### Vijay Chandok joins as MD & CEO of NSDL



- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
   has approved the appointment of Vijay Chandok as
   the managing director and chief executive officer
   (MD & CEO) of National Securities Depository
   (NSDL), the country's largest depository.
- Chandok currently serves as the MD & CEO of ICICI Securities
- For the next five years or until he attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier

#### Manoj Kumar Dubey Appointed CMD of IRFC Limited.



- Public Sector Undertaking Indian Railways
   Financial Corporation appointed Manoj Kumar
   Dubey as the CEO, Chairman, and Managing
   Director of the company for five years.
- IRFC is a Schedule 'A'/Miniratna Public Sector Enterprise
- · was set up in December 1986

## Ajay Seth gets additional charge of Revenue Secretary



- Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth.
- Outgoing revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the next Reserve Bank of India governor.

RBL Bank has appointed D Gukesh, one of the country's brightest emerging chess talents, as its brand ambassador.



RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank Limited, is an Indian private sector bank founded in 1943 and headquartered in Mumbai.

#### J&K Bank Appoints Amitava Chatterjee as New MD & CEO



- Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Bank board has approved the appointment of Amitava Chatterjee as a managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for period of three years will be effective from 30 December 2024.
- He is presently deputy managing director, SBI and has also served as MD&CEO of SBICAPS.

#### DBS Bank India to appoint Rajat Verma as CEO



- from March 1, 2025.
- It will succeed Surojit Shome, who will retire on 28
   February 2025 after a decade of leading the bank.
   Verma will also join DBS' Group Management
   Committee.
- Surojit Shome has been at the helm of DBS Bank India since 2015.
- Under his leadership, DBS launched digibank in 2016, India's first mobile-only bank.
- DBS Bank is headquartered in Singapore

#### **BANKING**

- IndusInd Bank and UNICEF Join Forces for Climate Resilience in India
- 2. Sapphiro Forex Card for students studying abroad
- 3. SBI Launches MSME Sahaj
- 4. Project 'Jeevan Samarth
- 5. India's First Oil & Gas ETF
- 6. Wrestle for Glory
- 7. Sampoorna Raksha Promise
- 8. RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%
- 9. Nationwide RBI90Quiz
- 10. PaisaSave Cashback Credit Card
- Google and Muthoot Finance Partner to Offer Gold-Backed Loans
- 12. Delhi Govt Launches Portal for Old-Age Pension
- 13. SBI Horniman Circle Marks 100 Years of Legacy
- Reserve Bank of India cancels license of Durga Co-operative Urban Bank
- 15. Norms for Inactive Trading Accounts
- 16. India's Forex Reserves
- 17. 'Aditi', a GenAl-powered virtual relationship manager
- 18. Project Parivartan
- 19. Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana
- 20. First-Ever Biometric Authentication Solution for Card Payments
- 21. India's First Al-Driven Spam Detection Solution
- 22. OmniGen AI to Transform Underwriting
- 23. RBI Doubles UPI 123Pay Limit to ₹10,000
- 24. RBI's 2024 List of Domestic Systemically Important Banks
- 25. SBI Unveils Innovation Hub at Singapore
- 26. GenWise launches UPI payments for senior citizens
- 27. S&P Global Ratings

## IndusInd Bank and UNICEF Join Forces for Climate Resilience in India



- IndusInd Bank and UNICEF announced a strategic partnership to support the 'Disaster Resilient Communities and Climate Risk-Informed Efficient Administrative Systems' as part of the Flagship CSR program of IndusInd Bank.
- The program aims to enhance government policies and develop climate-informed administrative systems in five select districts across India: Dharashiv (Maharashtra), Begusarai (Bihar), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Baran (Rajasthan), and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh).
- This initiative is a part of the Holistic Rural Development program (Climate Action portion), a Flagship CSR Initiative of IndusInd Bank in the Aspirational Districts.
- The partnership, formalized through a Statement of Intent (SOI), will focus on building disaster-resilient communities and empowering local governments to implement climate solutions.
- Key initiatives will include the development of real-time monitoring systems, early warning mechanisms, and advisory services to mitigate climate risks such as droughts, floods and heatwaves.

#### **About IndusInd Bank:**

Founded: 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Sumant Kathpalia

## ICICI Bank launches Sapphiro Forex Card for students studying abroad

- ICICI Bank launched a pre-paid Sapphiro Forex Card, crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education.
- The card, powered by Visa, provides exclusive benefits and convenience to students and their
- parents to manage education-related expenses abroad like admission fees, course-related fees and other day-to-day expenses, including travel, dining and groceries, among others,
- The card offers the freedom of loading and transacting in 15 currencies without any crosscurrency mark-up charge being levied by the bank.

This card can be reloaded digitally using iMobile
 Pay and internet banking by the students and their parents, instantly, anytime and from anywhere

#### Union Bank of India launched "Union Premier" branches for high-value customers in rural and semi-urban (RUSU) markets

 Designed to provide personalized banking services, these branches will offer a wide range of products and services under one roof for high-value customers in RUSU markets

### SBI Launches MSME Sahaj: 15-Minute Online Loan Solution



- The solution, named "MSME Sahaj End to End Digital Invoice Financing", has been developed that will provide solutions ranging from applying the loan, documentation and disbursement of the sanctioned loan within 15 minutes, without any manual intervention.
- the bank's customers can avail finance against their GST-registered sales invoices of up to ₹1 lac in less than 15 minutes,

## LIC Launches Project 'Jeevan Samarth' To Meet Customers' Evolving Needs

- The life insurance giant has partnered with A T
   Kearney to undertake the transformation project
   by reviewing the existing agency framework of LIC
   on an end-to-end basis
- The transformation exercise should result in giving agents more tools and additional skills, which will aid in strengthening the bond between the agents and customers.

#### **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**

 NEWS: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced that all credit card bill payments via third-party applications must now be routed through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), effective from July 1



- This move impacts credit card holders from major banks who will no longer be able to use third-party applications like CRED, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, and Paytm for settling their bills.
- This change will impact users of those banks which have not yet integrated with the BBPS platform.
- Of the 34 authorised banks for credit cards in India,
   only 12 were active on the BBPS platform
- BBPS is a payment channel system conceptualized by the RBI and driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a subsidiary of RBI.

## ICICI Lombard Launches AI-Powered Health Insurance Plan 'Elevate'



 It will offer personalized solutions for dynamic lifestyles, medical emergencies, and medical inflation.

## ICICI Prudential Launches India's First Oil & Gas ETF



- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF, India's first exchange traded fund (ETF) in the oil and gas sector.
- ETFs or "exchange-traded funds" are exactly as the name implies: funds that trade on exchanges, generally tracking a specific index.

## PNB Launches 'Safety Ring' to Enhance Internet and Mobile Banking Security



- State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB)
   introduced a new security feature 'Safety Ring'
   within its internet banking system and mobile
   banking system in response to the increasing
   number of cyber frauds.
- This mechanism provides an additional safety layer to minimise potential losses in case of unauthorised access by fraudsters
- Safety Ring is an optional feature that allows customers to set a daily transaction limit with respect to term deposits (TDs) on online closure or availing overdraft facility on TDs up to the set limit amount
- The safety feature Safety Ring' ensures that TD cannot be closed, withdrawn, or used for loans (overdraft) beyond the customer-defined limit through any digital channels.

## SBI's Amrit Vrishti: 444-Day FD Scheme with Up to 7.75% Interest

- Interest Rates: **Base interest rate of 7.25% p.a.** with an additional 0.50% for senior citizens, totaling 7.75% p.a.
- Deposit Period: Fixed term of 444 days, available for investment from July 15, 2024, to March 31, 2025.
- Premature Withdrawal Penalty: 0.50% for deposits up to Rs 5 lakh, 1% for deposits above Rs 5 lakh but below Rs 3 crore. No penalty for staff and SBI pensioners.

## IndusInd Bank launched 'Wrestle for Glory' to empower female wrestlers

- IndusInd Bank partnered with Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) to launch the 'Wrestle for Glory' CSR program, providing fully-funded scholarships to 50 talented female wrestlers across India for training at IIS.
- The program offers access to top-tier training facilities, expert coaching, sports science resources, nutritional support, and educational assistance to help athletes excel globally.

### SEBI Launches AI Chatbot 'SEVA' for Investors



Hey there, I am SEVA! SEBI's Virtual
Assistant

#### Get Started

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
   has started its Virtual Assistant (SEVA) an
   Artificial Intelligence (AI) based conversation
   platform for investors.
- The chatbot is currently enabled to answer questions relating to general information on securities market, latest master circulars and grievance redressal process.

## **RBI's Digital Payments Index increases** across all parameters

Digital payments across the country registered a
 12.6 per cent on-year rise as on March 31, 2024,

- according to **RBI's index** that measures the **adoption of online transactions.**
- RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 445.5 at the end of March 2024 compared to 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023.
- The RBI had been publishing a composite RBI-DPI since January 1, 2021 with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

## Tata AIA Life Launches 'Sampoorna Raksha Promise'



- Tata AIA Life Insurance has unveiled its latest term insurance product, Sampoorna Raksha Promise.
   This product is designed to enhance financial security
- Instant payout: The plan provides an immediate payout of ₹3 lakh upon death claim intimation to cover urgent expenses.
- Premium deferral: Policyholders can defer their premium payments for up to 12 months once every five years.

## Bandhan Bank launches Avni Saving Account for Women Customer



 The Avni savings account targets relatively well-off women, as the minimum average quarterly balance requirement is Rs 25,000.

#### **Bandhan Bank:**

- The bank got a license from the RBI and converted into a Universal Bank on 23 August 2015.
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal
- MD and CEO (interim): Ratan Kumar Kesh

#### The Launch Of A Smartwatch: Kotak Mahindra Bank, In Partnership With Tech Firm GOQii



- Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has teamed up with GOQii to launch the Kotak – GOQii Smart Vital Plus smartwatch, revolutionizing the way customers make payments.
- Priced at INR 3499, this innovative wearable device combines contactless payments with health monitoring features.
- Powered by RuPay On-The-Go, the smartwatch enables seamless transactions up to INR 5000 without requiring a PIN.

### RBI asks banks to provide short term crop loans to farmers

- The Reserve Bank of India has extended the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for short-term loans for agriculture and allied activities availed through Kisan Credit Card this financial year.
- The Reserve Bank has asked banks to provide short term crop loans and short term loans for allied activities including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, beekeeping etc.
- Upto an overall limit of 3 lakh rupees to farmers at an interest rate of 7 percent.
- The interest rate subvention for lending institutions is 1.5% for the financial year 2024-25.
- An additional interest subvention of 3 percent should be provided to farmers who repay loans in time.
- This will effectively lower the interest rate to 4% per annum for those who make timely repayments within one year.
- Aadhaar linkage would be mandatory for availing the short-term loans.
- The benefit of interest subvention under Kisan Credit Card scheme will be available to small and marginal farmers (<2 hec) for a further period of up to six months post the harvest of the crop.

## What is e-rupee and why do Google Pay, PhonePe want to join RBI's digital rupee project?



- Fintech companies including Google, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, and Mobikwik are looking to join the Indian central bank's digital currency project by allowing their users to transact in erupee via Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- This move, these payment platforms seek to widen their use case beyond enabling payment transactions between users linked to their registered banks in the country.

#### What is e-rupee?

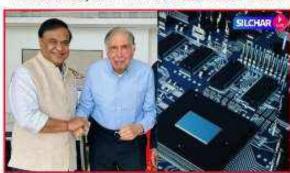
 The e-rupee, or the digital rupee (Launched in 2022), is a digital currency issued by the RBI aimed at creating an additional option for using money.
 The e-rupee is like banknotes issued by the RBI and is a legal tender that can be used to make transactions. The difference is that they can only be transacted online.

| Comparison | Description                            |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Cash vs e- | e-Rupee is closest to cash; when       |  |
| Rupee      | paying with cash, a physical note/coin |  |
| λ.         | transfers from one wallet to another.  |  |
| 7          | Similarly, e-Rupee transfers from one  |  |
| 1          | e-Rupee Wallet to another. <b>No</b>   |  |
| -10.       | interest on e-rupee unlike cash in     |  |
| -CL        | bank.                                  |  |
| UPI vs e-  | UPI is a payment system allowing       |  |
| Rupee      | money transfer between bank            |  |
|            | accounts through an intermediary. e-   |  |
|            | Rupee is a currency, not just a        |  |
|            | payment system.                        |  |
| Bitcoin vs | Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin are      |  |
| e-Rupee    | decentralized, with transactions       |  |
| b. 1       | settled by users. e-Rupee is a digital |  |
| 138        | currency issued by the RBI, ensuring   |  |
|            | transaction settlement. e-Rupee has    |  |
| Suid Par   | stable value like the rupee, while     |  |
| (C)        | cryptocurrencies can be volatile.      |  |
|            |  |  |

### Why are fintech companies joining the e-rupee project?

- GooglePay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, MobiKwik, and Cred currently account for over 85% of digital payments via UPI; a significant chunk of transactions in the country.
- The RBI has been looking to increase the adoption base for the digital rupee, and rollout on popular fintech platforms could be the push it needs
- The investment outlay was ₹27,000 crores and the project is expected to generate over 27,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region.
- The new facility is expected to be operationalised by mid-2025.
- The innovation driven industry will propel Assam in the global electronics global supply chain ecosystem

#### TATA'S RS 27,000 CRORE SEMICONDUCTOR FACILITY IN JAGIROAD; BHOOMI PUJAN CEREMONY TODAY



NORTHEAST INDIA'S LARGEST INVESTMENT PROJECT, THE RS 27,000 CRORE TATA SEMICONDUCTOR PLANT IN JAGIROAD, ASSAM, WILL COMMENCE WITH A BHUMI PUJAN TODAY AT 1 PM. TATA GROUP CHAIRMAN N CHANDRASEKHAR, FIVE DIRECTORS & CM SARMA WILL ATTEND.

THE PLANT AIMS TO PRODUCE 48 MILLION CHIPS DAILY AND CREATE SIGNIFICANT JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

## RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for ninth time in row



- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth time amid risks from higher food inflation.
- RBI Governor : Shaktikanda Das

#### **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**



- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a statutory and institutionalized framework for a MPC.
- Function: The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.

## DBS Bank India launches exclusive banking program for senior citizens



- DBS Bank India has launched "DBS Golden Circle," a priority banking program for senior citizens.
- The program, designed for resident Indian citizens aged 60 and above, offers exclusive benefits and services, including attractive interest rates on savings accounts and fixed deposits.
- Senior citizens enrolled in the DBS Golden Circle can earn up to 7% interest per annum on savings account balances above Rs 4 Lakhs and up to Rs 5 Lakhs.
- They can benefit from an enhanced interest rate of 0.50% per annum on fixed deposits with tenures ranging from 376 days to 540 days.
- To enhance security, the DBS Golden Circle program offers cyber insurance coverage up to Rs 1,00,000.

#### About Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank

- Founded 1968, Headquarters Singapore
- Chairman Peter Seah
- CEO Piyush Gupta

## RBI Launches Nationwide RBI90Quiz for Undergraduates



- The quiz is a nationwide competition being held as part of the events to commemorate 90 years of RBI's functioning.
- the contest would help create greater awareness about the Reserve Bank and the financial eco system among the students.
- RBI -1st April,1935

## Airtel Payments Bank launched AI Facial Recognition Tool, "Face Match"

- Airtel Payments Bank has announced the launch of Face Match, a new security feature designed to protect customer accounts from fraudulent activities.
- This feature utilises advanced machine learning algorithms to assess potential threats and activate facial recognition verification when necessary.
- Anubrata Biswas : MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank

## ESAF Small Finance Bank Launches INORI RuPay Platinum Credit Card

 "The card's name, 'INORI', is derived from the Japanese word for 'wish'

#### Union Bank of India Becomes First Major Indian Bank to Join PCAF



- Union Bank of India announced its decision to become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
- PCAF is a global partnership of financial institutions working to develop and implement a harmonized approach to assess and disclose greenhouse gas emissions associated with loans and investments.
- The importance of tracking financed emissions has been underscored by the RBI's recent draft guidelines on 'Disclosure framework on climate-related financial risks, 2024'

#### RBL Bank Teams Up with IndianOil for New Credit Card



- RBL Bank 'Xtra Credit Card' customers will be saving 8.5% on fuel purchases, the highest in the segment as compared to other co-branded fuel credit cards in the industry
- RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank
   Limited, is an Indian private sector bank founded in
   1943 and headquartered in Mumbai.

## LIC selects Infosys for NextGen digital insurance platform project



- Infosys has formed a partnership with Life
  Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to support the
  state-run insurer's digital transformation initiative
  'Digital Innovation and Value Enhancement'
  (DIVE).
- Infosys will enable the creation of a cutting-edge NextGen Digital Platform

 For delivering seamless omnichannel engagement and data-driven hyper-personalised experiences to LIC's customers, agents and employees

#### YES BANK and Paisabazaar Launch Feature-rich 'PaisaSave' Cashback Credit Card



#### Kotak General Insurance rebrands As Zurich Kotak General Insurance



 Kotak General Insurance has rebranded itself as Zurich Kotak General Insurance after Zurich Insurance Group acquired a 70% stake in the company.

#### Federal Bank join hands with Bhashini to boost Chatbot Feddy with Vernacular Language Support



- Federal Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhashini, AI-Powered Language Translation Platform, to enable vernacular language support in its AI Virtual Assistant, Feddy.
- This partnership emerged as a result of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)'s local language

**initiative** to promote banking in vernacular languages.

- Feddy is now able to respond to user queries in 14 different Indian languages
- Federal Bank is one of India's leading private sector banks, headquartered in Aluva, Kerala.
- Founded: 1931 (as Travancore Federal Bank), renamed to Federal Bank in 1947.

#### What is Snooping Scandal?

- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is at the centre of a "snooping scandal" in which a bank branch employee at Italy's biggest bank 'Banca Intesa Sanpaolo' is alleged to have illegally accessed and "spied on" thousands of private accounts
- The accounts belonged to politicians, businesspeople, celebrities and athletes, violating privacy laws and threatening national security.
- The information obtained is sensitive, which included details like cash withdrawals, online payments, and transaction histories.
- could be used to gain knowledge of a person's whereabouts, contacts, business dealings, properties and debts.
- This data could potentially be used for harmful purposes, such as fraud or blackmail.

## SBI Card Launches Co-Branded Credit Card with Singapore Airlines



- SBI Card and Singapore Airlines (SIA) introduced a co-branded credit card in India called the KrisFlyer SBI Card.
- KrisFlyer SBI Card is Singapore Airlines' first cobranded credit card in India.
- The card is available in two versions KrisFlyer SBI Card and KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex.
- The KrisFlyer SBI Card provides 3,000 KrisFlyer miles, and the Apex variant offers 10,000 miles.

## **BoB proposes to Sell Oman Operations to Bank Dhofar**

- as part of rationalisation of foreign operation.
- Rationalization of foreign operations in banking is the process of reorganizing a bank's overseas operations to improve efficiency.

#### BoB:

Founded: 20 July 1908

Headquarters : Vadodara, GujaratMD & CEO : Debadatta Chand

## Google and Muthoot Finance Partner to Offer Gold-Backed Loans via Google Pay



- GPay is expanding its offerings by introducing goldbacked secured loans in collaboration with Muthoot Finance.
- According to Google India MD Roma Datta
   Chobey, about 11 per cent of the world's gold is housed in India.

## **Govt Announces Extra Pension for Seniors Over 80**



The Department of Pension and Pensioners'
Welfare (DoPPW), under the Ministry of Personnel,
PG & Pensions, has issued a recent notification
announcing that central government pensioners
aged 80 and above will be entitled to an additional
pension known as compassionate allowance.

| Age of pensioner   | Additional pension/additional compassionate allowance |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| From 80 years to   | 20% of basic pension/                                 |  |  |
| less than 85 yrs   | compassionate allowance                               |  |  |
| From 85 years to   | 30% of basic pension/                                 |  |  |
| less than 90 years | compassionate allowance                               |  |  |

| From 90 years to   | 40% of basic pension/   |  |  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| less than 95 years | compassionate allowance |  |  |
| From 95 years to   | 50% of basic pension/   |  |  |
| less than 100 yrs  | compassionate allowance |  |  |
| 100 years or       | 100% of basic pension/  |  |  |
| more               | compassionate allowance |  |  |

#### Delhi Govt Launches Portal for Old-Age Pension Scheme

- In a significant move to support senior citizens with limited income or no family support, the Delhi government has launched an online portal for its old-age pension scheme.
- The initiative aims to provide financial relief to vulnerable elderly citizens and ensure a hasslefree application process.
- This program categorizes pensions based on age and socio-economic status
- Pension funds are directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts using the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

### The pension amounts under the scheme are as follows:

- 1. ₹ 2,000 per month for individuals aged 60 to 69.
- 2. ₹2,500 per month for those aged 70 and above.
- 3. SC/ST/Minority beneficiaries in the 60-69 age bracket will also receive ₹2,500 per month.

#### To be eligible, applicants must:

- 1. Be at least 60 years old.
- 2. Have lived in Delhi for a minimum of 5 years.
- 3. Have a family income below ₹1,00,000 annually from all sources.
- 4. Maintain a singly operated, Aadhaar-linked bank account in Delhi.
- Not receive similar financial support from other government programs.

## Bima Sugam: A Step Towards a Digital Insurance Ecosystem

- It is like an e-commerce platform where insurance companies can sell their products.
- It onboards all the companies that offer life and non-life insurance products under one roof.
- It aims to provide an 'end-to-end' digital journey to all policyholders like from buying insurance policies to renewals to claim settlement to portability to grievance redressal
- This marketplace serves as a one-stop solution for all insurance stakeholders, including customers, insurers, intermediaries and agents, thereby,

promoting transparency, efficiency, and collaboration across the entire insurance value chain

## Reserve Bank of India issued 'Internal Risk Assessment Guidance' for Money Laundering/ Terrorist Financing Risks'

• The REs should have appropriate level of control/mitigating measures, to ensure that the elevated risks do not result in the financial institution being misused for ML/TF. These measures also are necessary to ensure that risks do not lead to loss of reputation and/or other financial losses for having allowed the suspicious transactions routed through the banking channels/ financial systems.

#### **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

- FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog set up in 1989 out of a G-7 meeting of developed nations in Paris.
- Initially, its objective was to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- After the 9/11 attacks on the US, the FATF in 2001 expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.
- As of today, it is a 39-member body representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.
  - Out of 39 members, there are two regional organisations: the European Commission, and the Gulf Cooperation Council,
- Countries that are the members of FATF Include:
  - Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, ,Greece, Hong Kong (China), Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the UK and the US.
- India and FATF: India joined with 'observer' status in 2006 and became a full member of FATF in 2010.
  - India is also a member of its regional partners, the Asia Pacific Group (APG) and the Eurasian Group (EAG).

## SBI Horniman Circle Marks 100 Years of Legacy

- Centenary of SBI Horniman Circle Branch marked with the launch of a ₹100 commemorative coin by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- **SBI's total branches**: 22,640 as of 2024, with plans to add 500 more in FY25.
- SBI's ATMs: 63,000+ ATMs across the country.
- Digital platforms: 132 million internet banking users, 287 million YONO and YONO Lite app users.
- State Bank of India (SBI): The oldest commercial bank in India, originally established as the Bank of Calcutta in 1806.
- Chairman of SBI: C.S. Setty.
- SBI's Heritage Branch: Horniman Circle Branch (Mumbai).

## State Bank of India Raises \$500 Million via Five-Year Bonds

- State Bank of India (SBI) concluded the issuance of \$500 million in senior unsecured fixed-rate notes, maturing in five years with a 5.125% coupon payable semi-annually.
- Issued under Regulation-S, the bonds will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange and the India International Exchange at GIFT City, with settlement scheduled for November 25,

### Karnataka Bank Launches Innovative Financial Products for Students

 Karnataka Bank has announced the launch of two innovative financial products – KBL Peak, an education loan with up to Rs 2 crore financing and comprehensive coverage, and KBL Genius, a student savings account featuring a first-of-its-kind free cyber insurance and exclusive benefits.

#### **KBL Peak Education Loan**

- KBL Peak Education Loan is a comprehensive product that supports students pursuing higher education in India and abroad. With loan amounts up to Rs 2 crore, KBL Peak covers a wide range of expenses, including tuition fees, accommodation, travel, books, and laptops. It offers a flexible interest rate structure based on factors like the applicant's educational institution ranking and coapplicant's credit score, making it accessible to students from diverse backgrounds.
- KBL Peak provides a pre-admission sanction letter, simplifying the admission process, and includes credit <u>life</u> insurance for both the student and the

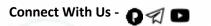
parent, ensuring comprehensive financial protection. The product also offers a concession in Rate of interest for the Girl Student pursuing higher studies in STEM courses.

#### **KBL Genious Savings Account**

This account is designed to introduce students to essential banking services and foster lifelong financial literacy. With features like a minimum average balance (MAB) requirement, seamless digital transactions, and exclusive benefits on debit cards, KBL Genius empowers students to manage their finances effectively. Uniquely, KBL Genius also includes a first-of-its-kind free cyber insurance coverage, safeguarding students in today's digital world.

## Reserve Bank of India Extends Deadline for Banks and ATM Operators to Implement Cassette Swap Mechanism

- In 2018, the RBI had asked banks to implement the
  cassette swap mechanism in a phased manner,
  covering at least one-third of ATMs operated by
  them each year so that all ATMs would achieve
  cassette swap by March 31, 2021. However, the
  implementation has been tardy.
- Now, the RBI has asked banks to expeditiously implement the roadmap for cassette swap implementation by March 31, 2025.
- Now, the RBI has asked banks to expeditiously implement the roadmap for cassette swap implementation by March 31, 2025.
- Under the cassette swap mechanism, lockable cassettes filled with banknotes are used in ATMs that are swapped at the time of cash replenishment.
- Banks have cited various constraints, including the availability of an adequate number of cassettes, the readiness of cash replenishment agencies to deal with cassette swaps, and costs, for the slow progress in implementing the cassette swap mechanism in ATMs.
- "Given that the industry has already invested in the infrastructure to support cassette swap for all these ATMs and recyclers, it needs to be seen how the cost recovery will be handled and if indeed it will now have to be passed on to the existing network,"
- As per estimates, each ATM will require three sets
  of five cassettes one set in the ATM, one in
  transit, and another at the branch/cash-in-transit
  (CIT) company (ready for loading the next day).



The cost of each cassette is in the range of ₹15,000 to ₹20,000. As of August 2024, there were 2.55 lakh ATMs in the country. Of these, 2.20 lakh were bank-owned ATMs, and 35,000 were owned by White Label ATM Operators.

#### SBI Empowers Rural Youth Entrepreneurs Through Jagriti Yatra 2024 to Boost 'Viksit Bharat'

- Jagriti Yatra 2024 is all set to embark upon an incomparable 15-day journey with 500 handpicked young changemakers from across the country. The 15-day, 8,000-kilometer expedition by train across India commenced from Mumbai on November 16th.
- the unique 15-day train journey is poised to inspire and empower young leaders to become catalysts of social and economic transformation across India's Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Starting from Mumbai on November 16th, this year's Yatra will take 500 passionate young participants on an 8,000kilometer journey through 12 cities. More than 50% of them are successful entrepreneurs who are potential role models to the rest.
- This event will offer the media a chance to meet and interact with some of India's most impactful entrepreneurs and change-makers from corners of our country. As the largest movement of its kind, the Yatra serves as a living incubator for entrepreneurship, empowering youth from diverse backgrounds to discover real-world solutions to some of India's most pressing challenges.
- Jagriti Yatra, a flagship initiative of Jagriti Sewa Sansthan, empowers young Indians to become socially conscious leaders through experiential learning, entrepreneurship, and sustainable change. Founded in 2008, this nonprofit has catalyzed a wave of socially conscious leadership across India, creating a global community of changemakers who inspiring local solutions with global relevance are.

#### **Bharat Sanjeevani Krishi Utthan initiative**

- IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL) and Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) on Monday announced a collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW), Government of India, to launch the Bharat Sanjeevani Krishi Utthan initiative.
- This initiative aims to support the government's flagship program, "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations

- (FPOs)"providing a robust framework to empower FPOs across the country.
- This collaboration has been driven through BFIL and IBL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and aims to enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable farming practices, and improve farmers' income consistently, across 11 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

#### Reserve Bank of India cancels license of Vijayawada-based Durga Co-operative Urban Bank

- The Reserve Bank on Tuesday cancelled the license of Vijayawada-based The Durga Co-operative Urban Bank as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The bank ceases to carry banking business, with effect from the close of business on November 12, 2024.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive a deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- As per the data submitted by the bank, 95.8 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC," the RBI said

#### Reserve Bank of India to Launch Cloud Services in 2025, Aiming to Challenge Global Firms' Dominance

- The Reserve Bank of India's planned cloud platform will use local IT firms, pitting it against the likes of Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud and IBM Cloud, in a first-of-its-kind initiative from a major global central bank.
- In December last year, RBI governor Shaktikanta
   Das announced plans to set up a public cloud for the financial services industry.
- Setting up a cloud service built in partnership with local IT firms is a further step in the central bank's push for localisation of payments and financial data.
- The RBI has invited only companies incorporated in India with prior experience of building cloudrelated solutions to bid for the project, as per a procurement document published on IFTAS website in October.

## **NSE Relaxed Norms for Inactive Trading Accounts**

 The period for marking an account as inactive has been changed from 12 to 24 months

## Paytm UPI goes global; app users can make payments at select international locations

 One97 Communications (OCL), which operates under the Paytm brand, announced on Tuesday that their users can now make UPI payments at specific international destinations, including select locations in the UAE, Singapore, France, Mauritius, Bhutan, and Nepal. This service enables customers to handle various transactions, including retail purchases, restaurant bills, and local activities abroad through their Paytm application.

## India's population growth on a downward trajectory: SBI report

- According to SBI's economic research department (ERD) - The average annual exponential growth of India's population is on a downward trajectory and is expected to decline from 2.20 per cent in 1971 to 1 per cent in 2024, placing the national population in the range of 138-142 crore in 2024
- the median age of India is expected to increase from 24 years in 2021 to 28-29 years in 2023/24

| Age-wise Distribution     |                |           |        |        |  |  |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------|--------|--|--|
|                           | 1991           | 2001      | 2011   | 2024 P |  |  |
| Population                | by broad age   | group (in | crore) |        |  |  |
| 18 years and above        | 44.7           | 56.5      | 76.3   | 99.0   |  |  |
| 0-14                      | 31.2           | 36.4      | 37.4   | 34.0   |  |  |
| 15-59                     | 46.5           | 58.6      | 73.5   | 91.0   |  |  |
| 60+                       | 6.1            | 7.9       | 10.2   | 15.0   |  |  |
|                           | Share (in S    | %)        | 333    | X.     |  |  |
| 0-14                      | 37.2           | 35.3      | 30.9   | 24.3   |  |  |
| 15-59                     | 55.4           | 56.9      | 60.7   | 65.0   |  |  |
| 60+                       | 7.3            | 7.7       | 8.4    | 10.7   |  |  |
| Median age (years)        | 24.3           | 28.2      | 24.9   | 29.0   |  |  |
| Source: SBI Research, Cer | sus reports, N | NHP       |        | -      |  |  |

- it remains one of the youngest nations in the world and is still below the global median age, per the ERD's report, "Precursor to Census 2024
- The working age population (15-59) has shown an increasing trend since 1971.
- In 2024, the proportion of children in the age group of 0-14 years is projected to be 24.3 percent
- it was 30.9 per cent in 2011, reflecting a continuing reversal of the trend that began in 1971
- the proportion of elderly persons has been
   steadily increasing since 1951 and is projected to

- reach **10.7 per cent in 2024**, with a further increase to 13.1 per cent expected by 2031.
- Up to the 34-year age bracket, the female percentage share in the overall population is expected to be higher than the male share in 2024, though it was the opposite in 2011.
- Kerala has the highest **proportion of elderly people** in its population (16.5 per cent)
- Proportion is lowest in the States of Bihar (7.7 per cent),
- Among the major states, Tamil Nadu continues to be the most urbanised State, with 54 per cent of the population living in urban areas
- Himachal Pradesh (10.3 per cent) form the other end of the spectrum.

#### India and Russia are likely to introduce a "dynamic reference rate"



- India and Russia are working on introducing a "dynamic reference rate" for their currencies, the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Russian Rouble (RUB),
- To make financial transactions between the two countries easier and to reduce the impact of U.S. sanctions on Russia.
- Reference rate reference rate is a rate used to calculate currency exchange. exchange rate is the rate at which one currency is exchanged for another.

#### **Current Challenges:**

- Converting Indian Rupees to Russian Roubles is a complicated process - converting INR to U.S. dollars (USD) and then from USD to RUB.
- U.S. sanctions have limit Russian banks' access to international financial systems, particularly for large transactions.
- India imports more from Russia than it exports, Russian banks end up holding large amounts of Indian Rupees.

#### Solution

- Direct Reference rate between the INR and RUB.
- This rate would be adjusted according to real-time market by both the Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Russia.

 potential for Russia to invest its funds in Indian financial markets, which could strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

## India's Forex Reserves Hit Record High of USD 692.3 Billion



- India's foreign exchange reserves climbed for the sixth consecutive week to a record high of \$692.3 billion as of September 20, according to data released by RBI on 27th Sept
- Foreign currency assets, the largest component of the reserves, rose to \$605.7 billion from \$603.6 billion in the previous week.
- Gold reserves increased, climbing to \$63.6 billion from \$62.9 billion.
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) stood at \$18.5
   billion, up from \$18.4 billion.

#### Foreign Exchange Reserves

- Foreign Exchange Reserves (also called Forex Reserves) are reserve assets held by a central bank in foreign currencies.
- These may include foreign currencies, bonds, treasury bills, and other government securities.
- RBI is the custodian of the Foreign exchange reserves in India.

#### India's foreign exchange reserves comprise of:

- Foreign currency assets (FCAs): These are maintained in currencies like the US dollar, euro, pound sterling, Australian dollar and Japanese yen.
- Gold SDR (Special Drawing Rights): This is the reserve currency with IMF.
- RTP (Reserve Tranche Position): This is the reserve capital with IMF

## Union Bank of India Becomes First Major Bank to Join PCAF



 Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)

#### What is PCAF?

- PCAF is a global partnership of financial institutions working to develop and implement a harmonized approach to assess and disclose greenhouse gas emissions associated with loans and investments
- The importance of tracking financed emissions has been underscored by the RBI's recent draft guidelines on 'Disclosure framework on climaterelated financial risks, 2024'.
- Financed emissions are often called Scope 3 emissions.
- By joining PCAF, Union Bank of India is:
  - Committing to measure, report, and reduce its financed emissions
  - Setting a precedent for sustainable banking practices in India
  - Supporting India's net-zero goals
  - Improving its appeal to environmentally conscious investors and global capital markets
- Union Bank Headquarters Mumbai
- CEO: A. Manimekhalai
- Nationalized bank in 1969
- UBI merged with the Belgaum Bank (a private sector bank) in 1975.
- on April 1, 2020, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank amalgamated into the Union Bank of India under Section 9 of the Banking Companies Act 1970/80.

#### UPI Users can now Send 5 Lakh For Some Transactions



The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), recently increased transaction limits for tax payments after the Reserve Bank of India proposed the same in the August 8 Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

#### Key points to note

 Consumers now have the convenience of making UPI payments of up to Rs 5 lakh per transaction

- across various categories, including tax payments, hospital and educational services, and IPOs and government securities.
- NPCI has taken a step further by introducing a new feature on its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform known as 'UPI Circle.'

#### **UPI Circle**

- a feature designed to enable primary UPI account holders to delegate payment responsibilities to secondary users securely.
- This innovation was announced by the Reserve Bank of India
- Amazon Pay, Google Pay, and Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), which is operated by NPCI, are currently testing UPI Circle within a closed user group.

## National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- It is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to create a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.
- It has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit"
   Company

## Bank of Baroda introduced 'Aditi', a GenAl-powered virtual relationship manager



 'Aditi', a GenAl-powered virtual relationship manager, available on the bank's web portal, is designed for customer service by acting as a 24\*7

- The bank has also launched the GenAl-powered chatbot 'ADI' to enhance the digital customer experience further.
- In addition, BoB has also launched a GenAlenabled knowledge management platform, 'GyanSahay.Al' for its employees.

## RBI organizes conference on Governance in Small Finance Banks in Bengaluru on 27th Sept

- The Reserve Bank of India had organized a day long conference for the Directors of Small Finance Banks, SFBs in Bengaluru.
- AND TO BANK OF
- The theme of the conference was 'Governance in SFBs – Driving Sustainable Growth and Stability'.
- Swaminathan J, Deputy Governor inaugurated the Conference.

## RBI@90 Inter Institution Cricket Tournament



- To mark the 90th year of its establishment,
   Reserve Bank of India hosted RBI@90 Inter
   Institutional Cricket Tournament at Jaipur,
   Rajasthan
- SPJ Cargo defeated Bank of Baroda

RBI approves amalgamation of the Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd. with the Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd



- This amalgamation is effective from September 23, 2024.
- It is sanctioned under Sub-Section (4) of Section
   44A read with Section 56 of the Banking
   Regulation Act, 1949.
- The branches of The Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd.
   will operate as branches of The Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd.
- Employees of The Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd. will also be absorbed into The Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd., promoting job continuity.
- The merger aims to enhance financial stability, operational efficiency, and service offerings.

## UCO Bank unveils "Project Parivartan" to enhance the bank's digital banking services



- Launched by Ashwani Kumar, MD & CEO of UCO Bank
- Key points include close collaboration with Fintechs and technology providers, customer engagement through personalization, analytics-driven campaigns, and the enhancement of digital journeys for both asset as well as liability products.
- Founded: 6 January 1943
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal

## SBI to add 600 branches in FY25, says Chairman Setty

 SBI has a network of 22,542 branches across the country as of March 2024.

#### State Bank of India (SBI)

- First Indian commercial bank established in 1806
   as Bank of Calcutta under British colonial rule.
- it grew through its merger with the Bank of Bombay (Estd. 1840) and the Bank of Madras (Estd. 1843) in 1921, creating the Imperial Bank of India.
- In 1955, with nationalization, the State Bank of India was born,
- headquartered in Mumbai

#### IDBI Bank launched Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana for one time settlement of retail NPAs



- Scheme from September 2, 2024 till March 25, 2025
- Retail NPA accounts with NPA classified up to March 31, 2021 which continue to be NPAs as on August 31, 2024
- Borrower-wise aggregate Gross Principal
   Outstanding (GPO) above Rs.0.10 crore and up to
   Rs.10 crore
- IDBI Bank has announced a special Scheme "Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana (SUGAM)", to boost its recovery efforts through one time settlement of Retail NPAs
- It will provide a renewed opportunity to the borrowers who are in distress and are willing to settle their dues to avoid legal entanglement,

# Axis Asset Management Company (Axis AMC) Launched India's 1st NBFC Sector-based Target Maturity Mutual Fund Scheme



- Axis Mutual Fund has launched the Axis CRISIL-IBX AAA NBFC Index – Jun 2027 Fund, an open-ended Target Maturity Index Fund.
- The fund was launched on September 13, 2024
- The scheme's maturity date is June 30, 2027.
- moderate interest rate risk and relatively low credit risk.
- The minimum investment amount is Rs 5,000, with additional investments in multiples of Re 1. There is no exit load.

#### PayU Launches First-Ever Biometric Authentication Solution for Card Payments in the Industry



- PayU, one of India's leading digital financial services providers, has introduced an industry-first biometric authentication solution for card payments - Flash Pay.
- Flash Pay leverages advanced device-based biometric technology, such as fingerprint or facial recognition, to authenticate payments swiftly and securely.
- With transactions completed in under 10 seconds, customers no longer need to rely on traditional OTP-based authentication.
- FlashPay was unveiled at the prestigious Global Fintech Festival (GFF) 2024.

#### Airtel Introduces India's First Al-Driven Spam Detection Solution Based on Network Technology



- to address the issue of spam calls and messages for its customers.
- A first-of-its-kind solution by a telecom service provider in the country
- the tool will alert customers in real-time to all suspected spam calls and SMSes.
- MD & CEO Bharti Airtel: Gopal Vittal

#### **Mastercard Launches Payment Passkey**



#### Service in India

- To make online shopping more secure and easier than ever.
- Payment passkeys use device-based biometric authentication methods such as fingerprints or facial scans, but for an entirely new purpose: to streamline online shopping experiences.
- By replacing traditional passwords and OTPs, the Mastercard Payment Passkey Service makes transactions not only faster, but also more secure against fraud and scams.
- This service has debuted in India as a pilot with some of the nation's largest payment players including, payment aggregators Juspay, Razorpay and PayU, online merchants such as Bigbasket and banks such as Axis Bank.

#### YES BANK and Paisabazaar Launch Feature-rich 'PaisaSave' Cashback Credit



#### Card

 designed to reward frequent shoppers by offering substantial cashback on everyday purchases, both online and offline

#### Paisabazaar

- It is India's largest marketplace for consumer credit and free credit score platform.
- It is **part of the PB Fintech Group** (listed on Indian stock exchanges since 2021).

#### YES BANK

· headquartered - Mumbai,

- · CEO: Prashant Kumar,
- The Bank has a pan-India presence including an International Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, and a Representative Office in Abu Dhabi.

## Axis Bank and Mastercard collaborate to launch MyBiz credit card for small business owners



- Axis Bank Ltd, and Mastercard announced their collaboration to launch MyBiz
- a premium business credit card designed exclusively for sole proprietors and small business owners.

#### New UPI AutoPay rule: No 24-hour predebited notification for these two UPI recurring payments



- The National Payments Corporation of India
   (NPCI) has stated that the auto-replenishment of
   National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTag,
   and RuPay National Common Mobility
   Card (NCMC) is permitted without 24-hour predebit notification under the UPI Autopay
   framework with immediate effect.
- RBI specified that for payments related to services like FASTag and NCMC, which are recurring but do not follow a fixed schedule, the autoreplenishment amount will be debited without the need for a 24-hour advance debit notification from the bank.

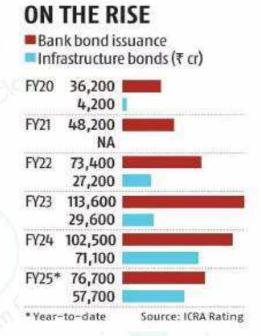




Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund launches
Nifty 200 Momentum 30 Index Fund

Banks' bond issuances expected to reach all-time high of Rs. 1.2-1.3 trillion in FY2025: Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency (ICRA)

Due to tight liquidity and credit outpacing deposits,



banks are turning to bond markets. So far in FY2025, bond issuances have reached Rs 767 billion, a 225% YoY increase, already at 75% of FY2024's total.

- Surpassing the earlier high of Rs 1.1 trillion in FY2023 (Rs 1.0 trillion in FY2024).
- For FY2025 (YTD), banks' total bond issuances were Rs 767 billion, registering YoY growth of 225% and making up 75% of the total issuances done in FY2024.
- With private banks focusing on reducing their credit-to-deposit ratio, fundraising through bonds is largely being dominated by public banks this year
- During FY2015 to FY2022 public sector banks (PSBs) had a negligible share in infrastructure bond issuances.

 The PSBs accounted for 77% of banks' infrastructure bond issuances in FY2023-FY2025 (YTD)

## PNB Joins PCAF, Strengthens Climate Action Commitments

- Punjab National Bank (PNB), the country's second largest <u>public sector bank</u>, has become a signatory to the globally recognised Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
- This move reinforces PNB's commitment to transparency and proactive climate action, by adopting internationally benchmarked standards for measuring and disclosing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with its lending and investment activities.
- In the financial year 2023-24, PNB disclosed its financed emissions in the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) using the PCAF Standard, a globally accepted methodology.
- PNB's decision to join PCAF aligns with the <u>Reserve</u> <u>Bank of India's (RBI)</u> draft framework on climaterelated financial risk disclosures,
- It requires banks to begin reporting on governance, strategy, and risk management for climate-related financial risks and opportunities from FY 2025-26 onwards, and on metrics and targets related to these risks and opportunities from FY 2027-28 onwards.

#### **About PNB**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) is the second largest
   Public Sector Bank in India
- Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's first Swadeshi Bank, commenced its operations on April 12, 1895 from Lahore.
- Post Nationalization of Banks in India in 1969.

#### Canara HSBC Life Unveils OmniGen AI to Transform Underwriting



 Canara HSBC Life Insurance is redefining the future of underwriting process with the launch of OmniGen AI, a first-of-its-kind 'Generative AIdriven solution' on Bedrock of Amazon Web Services (AWS).

- This solution will be a co-pilot for Underwriters and consume various dimensions and attributes of bundled information like the Underwriting guidelines, Underwriting manual, risk profile attributes required to take precise underwriting decisions and risk model output to provide swift & accurate decisions with rationale and reference to Underwriting manual.
- Advanced algorithms ensure uniformity and precision in risk assessment, minimizing errors and ensuring faster policy issuance.
- Generative AI co-pilot solution for Underwriters, significantly reduces underwriting processing time & provides scalable Underwriting capacity.

#### **About Canara HSBC Life Insurance:**

- Established in 2008.
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture promoted by Canara Bank (51 per cent) and HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) Holdings Limited (26 per cent).

#### Reserve Bank of India Creates Booklets in Santali Language to Promote Financial Awareness Among Tribals

- To create financial literacy awareness among the tribal population, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Odisha office has prepared five specific booklets in Santali (Ol Chik) language.
- The booklets were prepared to commemorate 90 years of RBI's operation in the country.
- The initiative of translating and printing the five useful target specific booklets in Santali (Ol Chiki script) language for distribution among the people of Santali speaking community.
- The RBI has prepared the booklets for school children, farmers, entrepreneurs, self-help groups and senior citizens with the aim to create awareness about financial products and services, good financial practices, going digital and consumer protection.
- The booklets will also be distributed in other states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura where a sizeable Santali-speaking population live,

### HDFC Bank and TOI Host Cyber Security Summit in New Delhi



- HDFC Bank, in partnership with The Times of India, will hold a Cyber Security Summit to address increasing cases of cyber fraud. The summit will be held at ITC Maurya in New Delhi
- This event marks the fifth year of HDFC Bank's participation in International Fraud Awareness Week.
- The summit will bring together experts, policymakers, and industry professionals to discuss cybersecurity, especially in finance
- HDFC Bank announced a new system that connects its system directly with the Cyber Crime Portal (1930).
- This will make it easier and faster for the bank to report cybercrime.
- The summit also aims to educate individuals and businesses on protecting their digital information
- The bank has also launched campaigns like "Mooh Bandh Rakho" and "Vigil Aunty" to educate the public about identifying and avoiding online scams.

#### Delhi Govt Launches Portal for Old-Age Pension Scheme





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- In a significant move to support senior citizens with limited income or no family support, the Delhi government has launched an online portal for its old-age pension scheme.
- The initiative aims to provide financial relief to vulnerable elderly citizens and ensure a hasslefree application process.
- This program categorizes pensions based on age and socio-economic status

Pension funds are directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts using the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

### The pension amounts under the scheme are as follows:

- ₹ 2,000 per month for individuals aged 60 to 69.
- ₹2,500 per month for those aged 70 and above.
- SC/ST/Minority beneficiaries in the 60-69 age bracket will also receive ₹2,500 per month.

#### To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be at least 60 years old.
- Have lived in Delhi for a minimum of 5 years.
- Have a family income below ₹1,00,000 annually from all sources.
- Maintain a singly operated, Aadhaar-linked bank account in Delhi.
- Not receive similar financial support from other government programs.

## RBI Doubles UPI 123Pay Limit to ₹10,000 for Feature Phones



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the transaction limit for UPI 123Pay from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000, allowing users to make higher-value digital payments via feature phones.
- UPI 123Pay is a service designed for people who do not have internet access on their mobile phones, offering a way to make digital payments through methods such as:
- IVR (Interactive Voice Response): Users interact with a voice-based system to carry out transactions.
- Missed Calls: A feature where users can make payments by dialing specific numbers and hanging up, triggering a payment process.
- OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) Apps:
   Special apps installed on feature phones that allow users to make payments.

- Sound Technology: Using sound waves to securely transfer payment information between devices
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI),
   which manages UPI, has instructed banks and
   service providers to implement this change.
- Although the rule is effective immediately, full compliance with the new limit must be completed by January 1, 2025.

#### **Key Changes:**

- Increased Transaction Limit: The maximum transaction limit for UPI 123Pay has been raised from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.
- Aadhaar OTP Authentication: To enhance security, Aadhaar OTP authentication will be implemented for UPI 123Pay transactions.
- Standardized Transaction Tagging: A new purpose code (86) has been introduced for UPI 123Pay transactions to facilitate better tracking and reporting.
- Enhanced Initiation Modes: The system will support multiple initiation modes, including IVR, missed calls, feature phone apps, and sound-based technology.
- UPI Number Functionality: Integration with the UPI numeric ID mapper will enable users to make payments using UPI numbers.

## SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank: RBI's 2024 List of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)



- State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in the 2024 list of this category.
- While the Additional Common Equity Tier 1
  requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted
  Assets (RWAs) for SBI has been fixed at 0.80%, it is
  0.40% for HDFC Bank and 0.20% for ICICI Bank.
- A bank is considered a D-SIB if its failure might seriously disrupt the financial system due to the bank's size, cross-jurisdictional activities,

- complexity, lack of substitutability and interconnectedness.
- Under the D-SIB framework announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2014, the central bank was required to -
  - Disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs, and
  - Place them in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).
- Depending on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement [Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)] is applicable to it.
  - Tier 1 capital (measured by the capital adequacy ratio (CAR)) is the core measure of a bank's financial strength from a regulator's point of view.
- It means that these banks have to earmark additional capital and provisions to safeguard their operations.
- RBI has classified SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as D-SIBs.

#### How does RBI Select D-SIBs

- First, a sample of banks to be assessed for their systemic importance is decided. All banks are not considered, as burdening smaller banks with onerous data requirements on a regular basis may not be prudent.
  - Banks are selected based on an analysis of their size (based on Basel-III Leverage Ratio Exposure Measure) as a percentage of GDP.
  - Banks having a size beyond 2% of GDP will be selected in the sample.
  - Based on a range of indicators, a composite score of systemic importance is computed for each bank.
- Next, the D-SIBs are segregated into buckets based on their systemic importance scores.
  - A D-SIB in the lower bucket will attract a lower capital charge, and a D-SIB in the higher bucket will attract a higher capital charge.

## SBI Unveils Innovation Hub at Singapore Fintech Festival

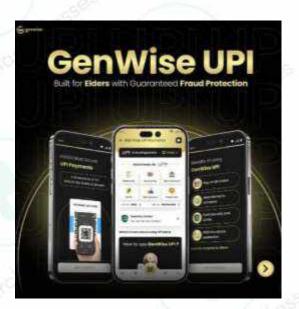
Indian businesses are setting up fintech
partnerships at the Singapore Fintech Festival led
by the State Bank of India's launch of an innovation
hub in the city state.

- The State Bank of India (SBI) Innovation Hub was launched in partnership with APIX, a Singaporebased leading global collaborative innovation platform for financial institutions and fintechs at the festival being held November 6-8.
- It is to provide dedicated space for fintechs, startups, and innovators worldwide to design next-generation financial solutions tailored to meet the digital needs of SBI's diverse customer base.

## Regional Rural Banks Set for Fourth Round of Amalgamation; Number of Banks Expected to Drop from 43 to 28

- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are likely to see a fourth round of amalgamation, with the number of these Banks likely to come down from 43 to 28 through consolidation.
- The proposed move is part of the Government's 'One State-One RRB' goal.
- RRBs were established in 1975 under the provisions of an Ordinance promulgated on 26th September 1975 and followed by Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, with a view to develop the rural economy and create a supplementary channel to the 'Cooperative Credit Structure'.
- They were floated to enlarge institutional credit for the rural and agriculture sector
- The contribution of the Government of India, the concerned State Government and the bank (usually a public sector bank), which has sponsored the RRB, to the share capital of RRBs is in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively

## GenWise launches UPI payments for senior citizens with secure interface



- GenWise has announced the launch of UPI payments on its app for senior citizens.
- GenWise UPI has been developed in collaboration with Axis Bank, which is acting as the sponsor bank for facilitating transactions.
- This is the industry's first-ever introduction of UPI for elders, offering a simple user interface, enhanced security, and cyber fraud awareness.

#### Solex Energy has partnered with State Bank of India to provide finance to commercial, industrial and institutional customers

- Solex Energy has partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) to offer solar financing options for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers.
- SBI will offer solar financing through loans up to Rs 10 crore for solar projects under its Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme across India.
- The collaboration aims to make solar energy accessible, affordable, and a driving force for India's renewable energy future
- In August, Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) signed an agreement with ICICI Bank to provide financing for solar units to residential and corporate customers.

## Cashfree Payments Secures National Payments Corporation of India Certification for UPI Switch Service



- This will allow Cashfree to directly integrate with any bank's core banking software and offer a higher transaction success rate for its merchants
- Cashfree can offer settlement of around 12,000 transactions per second with this certification.
- Cashfree has built this switch in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank as the sponsor bank

#### Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub Launches MuleHunter Artificial Intelligence to Aid Banks in Detecting Fraudulent Mule Accounts



- The Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH)
  has created an artificial intelligence and machine
  learning (AI/ML) model named MuleHunter AI
  aimed at detecting mule accounts for banks and
  financial institutions.
- MuleHunter AI is RBIH's in-house developed AI/ML model which when deployed in banks, helps detect mule accounts.

#### What is Mule Account?

- A mule account is an account created by one person but operated by another person.
- These accounts are often used for money laundering and tax evasion
- The account holder, often referred to as a money mule, may be unaware that their account is being used for illegal activities.
- Criminals recruit money mules through job advertisements, social media, or other means, promising easy money for transferring funds
- These accounts are also illegal under tax laws, and their usage is prohibited by both the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and RBI regulations

## Finance Minister Launches Union Bank's Nari Shakti Branches to Empower Women Entrepreneurs



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated five Nari Shakti branches of Union Bank of India from Bengaluru.
- Aiming to empower female entrepreneurs and strengthen financial inclusion for women across the country.
- The Nari Shakti operates with a focus on extending credit to women entrepreneurs.
- In addition to financing women-owned manufacturing and service units, the bank will also focus on advisory services, workshops on start-ups, skill development programs, mentorship, networking, and collaborations. Union Bank of India has opened Nari Shakti branches in Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Jaipur.

#### **Union Nari Shakti Scheme**

| Parameter             | Scheme Guidelines   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Eligibility           | <ul> <li>All women owned and managed MSMEs (having valid UDYAM Registration Number).</li> <li>In case of Partnership/Companies, women must own minimum share capital of 51%.</li> <li>Women Self Help Group (SHG) having valid Udyam Registration Certificate.</li> </ul> |
| Purpose               | <ul> <li>Term loan for purchase/construction/renovation of factory/ offices / shop / godown or for purchase of plant &amp; machineries.</li> <li>Cash Credit for working capital requirements</li> </ul>  |
| Quantum<br>of Finance | <ul> <li>Minimum: – Rs.2.00 Lacs</li> <li>Maximum: – No ceiling, need based finance to MSME.</li> <li>Maximum Quantum allowed to SHG – Rs.20.00 Lacs</li> </ul>   |
| Margin                | <ul> <li>Minimum 5% margin for loans up to Rs 100.00 lakh</li> <li>Minimum 15% margin for loans above Rs 100.00 lakh</li> </ul>   |
| Processing<br>Charges | <ul> <li>For exposure up to Rs.200 lakhs – NIL</li> <li>Exposure above Rs.200 lakhs – 50% concession in applicable charges</li> </ul>   |

### India is likely to see real GDP growth at 7.2 % for Financial Year 2024-25: RBI



- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that India's growth story remains intact
- likely to see real GDP growth at 7.2 per cent for the Financial Year 2024-25.
- the CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5 per cent.

## S&P Global Ratings projects 6.5-7% growth for India's GDP till FY 2026-2027

- In its latest global bank outlook report, S&P also noted that India's positive economic outlook will continue to support the asset quality of banks. It highlighted that healthy corporate balance sheets, stricter underwriting standards, and improved risk management practices will contribute to further stabilisation in asset quality.
- S&P Global Ratings on November 14 forecasted that the Indian economy will grow at an annual rate of 6.5-7 percent over the next three fiscal years, through March 2027. This growth is expected to be driven primarily by increased infrastructure spending and strong private consumption.
- For the current fiscal year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected economic growth of 7.2 percent, which is lower than the 8.2 percent growth rate in 2023-24. The RBI noted that higher demand and stronger bank capitalization would fuel loan growth, though deposit growth may lag behind
- S&P also pointed out that corporate borrowing has gained momentum, but external uncertainties could delay capital expenditure-related growth. In addition, deposits may struggle to keep pace with loan demand, potentially weakening the credit-todeposit ratio. Despite these challenges, the overall funding profiles of banks are expected to remain strong.

**About S&P** 

## **S&P Global** Ratings

 S&P stands for Standard & Poor's, which is a financial services company that provides a range of financial data, analytics, and benchmarks. It is best known for its stock market indices, such as the S&P 500 Index, and its credit ratings for companies and countries,

#### IMF predicts 7% growth for India in FY25



- International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised the country's growth forecast for current year by 20 bps to 7 per cent.
- Last month, the World Bank retained India's growth forecast at 6.6 per cent.
- The RBI revised the estimate by 20 bps to 7.2 per cent.

## RBI enhances transaction limits on UPI123 & UPILite



 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a series of measures around UPI123Pay and UPI Lite to encourage wider adoption of UPI.

- It increased the transaction cap for UPI123Pay to Rs 10,000 from the current cap of Rs 5000.
- It also enhanced the per transaction limit on UPI
   Lite to Rs 1000 from the current cap of Rs. 500.
- UPI123Pay is a service that allows users to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments using a feature phone without an internet connection or smartphone.
- UPI Lite is a payment service that allows users to make small-value transactions without using a UPI PIN.



#### **UPI**

- The UPI (Unified Payment Interface) is a digital and real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It was launched on April 11, 2016.

#### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Approves Establishment/Expansion of Chief General Manager Positions in Nationalized Banks

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has given its nod to the creation of Chief General Manager (CGM) posts below the board level in five more nationalized banks.
- The banks that will be getting these new CGM posts include Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, and UCO Bank.
- In addition, the Finance Ministry has also approved an increase in the existing number of CGM posts in banks that already have them.
- This revision will raise the total number of CGM posts in all 11 nationalized banks from 80 to 144
- the new ratio will be one CGM for every four General Managers.

## Piramal Payment Services Limited (PPSL) received RBI approval to set up a service called 'Piramal Pay'

- Piramal Payment Services Limited, a subsidiary of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd, has secured approval from RBI to establish and operate its prepaid payment instrument (PPI) service, named 'Piramal Pay'.
- This authorisation, granted under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007

#### DBS Bank India: Leading the Charge for Gender Equity



- DBS Bank India has been recognised as one of the Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI) 2024 for the 9th successive year.
- The bank has also been featured in the "Best Companies - Hall of Fame", an accolade reserved for organisations that have consistently championed gender equity and diversity.
- The award is jointly presented by Avtar and Seramount, a strategic professional services and research firm.

#### **About DBS**

- DBS Bank India Established: 1994
- DBS Bank Headquartered and listed in Singapore
- Surojit Shome CMD of DBS Bank India Limited
- 30 Nov 2020 Amalgamation of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India Limited

#### Slice Completes Merger with North East Small Finance Bank



- Bengaluru-based fintech startup Slice had completed its merger with North East Small
   Finance Bank (NESFB) with effect from October 27
- The merger will unify the operations, assets and brand identities of the two companies into a single banking entity.
- Earlier, Slice had acquired a 5 per cent stake in North East Small Finance Bank for \$3.4 million in September 2022.
- Rajan Bajaj, founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of Slice.
- Satish Kumar Kalra, managing director (MD) and CEO of North East Small Finance Bank.

#### Bank of Baroda Introduces Special 'bob Utsav Deposit Scheme' for the Festive Season



- a 400-day period term deposit scheme introduced specially for the festive season which offers interest rates of 7.30% p.a. for the general public, 7.80% p.a. for senior citizens, 7.90% p.a. for super senior citizens (aged 80 years & above)
- The scheme opens on 14th October, 2024 and is applicable on fixed deposits below Rs 3 crore.
- The bank was founded by the Maharaja of Baroda,
   Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III on 20 July 1908.
- BoB, along with 13 other major commercial banks of India, was nationalised on 19 July 1969

Shri Debadatta Chand - Managing Director & CEO

## **BoB launches 'Masterstroke Savings Account' for High-End Customers**



- BOB announced cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar as its global brand ambassador for 3 years
- the new savings bank account is designed especially for clients desiring premium services
- Customers have to maintain a quarterly average balance of ₹10 lakh in the account.
- "The bob Masterstroke account features:
  - Higher interest rate on account balances through the Flexi Fixed Deposit facility,
  - Concessional rate of interest on retail loans,
  - The bob World Opulence Visa Infinite Debit Card (Metal Edition)
  - ➤ A lifetime-free Eterna Credit Card (subject to eligibility)

## SBI Extends Amrit Kalash & Amrit Vrishti Fixed Deposit Schemes to March 31, 2025



- State Bank of India has extended its special scheme of fixed deposits - Amrit Kalash and Amrit Vrishti - which offer higher interest rates, to the end of the financial year.
- The bank had earlier decided to run the scheme until September 30.
- SBI's Amrit Kalash offers 7.10% interest for a 400day tenure, while Amrit Vrishti offers 7.25% for 444 days.
- Senior citizens get an additional 50 basis points.

## PhonePe launches new plan Firecracker Insurance for Diwali



- PhonePe has introduced a new insurance plan offering protection against firecracker-related accidents during the Diwali season.
- Priced at Rs 9, the plan provides coverage of up to Rs 25,000 for a 10-day period, safeguarding users from expenses related to hospitalisation and accidental death due to firecracker accidents.
- This short-term insurance covers the policyholder and up to four family members, including their spouse and two children

# Life Insurance Corporation of India reduces maximum age limit for new endowment plan to 50 years from 55 years

- The revision is effective October 1, 2024, 'LIC New Endowment Plan-914' is a participating endowment plan that offers the dual benefit of protection-cum-savings plan.
- The minimum entry age is 8 years and it comes with both death and maturity benefits.
- An endowment plan is a type of life insurance policy that provides life cover as well as a maturity benefit.
- According to LIC's website, it has six endowment products: LIC's Single Premium Endowment Plan, LIC's New Endowment Plan, LIC's New Jeevan Anand, LIC's Jeevan Lakshya, LIC's Jeevan Labh Plan and LIC's Amritbaal.
- All these products have been modified according to per the new surrender value guidelines effective from October 1, 2024.
- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Siddharth Mohanty

## Jio Payments Bank Secures Mutual Funds Distribution License from AMFI



- Jio Payments Bank, a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services, has secured a mutual fund distribution licence from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- The license is a Category 1 Execution-only
   Platform (EOP) license, which allows the bank to directly distribute mutual fund schemes.
- A direct mutual fund plan is a mutual fund scheme that investors can purchase directly from the fund house or asset management company (AMC) without involving a middleman
- In August, Jio Financial announced that it has increased its stake in Jio Payments Bank from 78.95 per cent to 82.17 per cent by investing Rs 68 crore.
- Separately, Jio Financial Services has also formed a joint venture with United States-based BlackRock to set up a wealth management and broking business.

# Ujjivan Small Finance Bank secures RBI approval and AD 1 License to provide comprehensive forex products and services

- The bank has been granted the 'Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence'
- The new licence empowers Ujjivan Small Finance
  Bank to broaden its financial services, enabling it to
  facilitate foreign currency transactions and assist
  clients in meeting their international business
  needs.
- About Ujjivan Small Finance Bank :
  - Founded: 1 February 2017
  - > Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
  - ➤ MD & CEO : Sanjeev Nautiyal
  - ➢ It is licensed under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry out small finance bank business and received Scheduled Bank status from the Reserve Bank of India in August 2017

## Indian Banks Expanded Their International Presence in 2023-24: RBI Survey

- both in terms of balance sheet size as well as in terms of number of branches and employees
- Banks' employee strength increased by 8.2 per cent in overseas branches and 1.7 per cent in subsidiaries.
- Consolidated balance sheets of overseas branches and subsidiaries of Indian banks grew by 4.3 per cent and 0.4 per cent, respectively, during the year whereas that of foreign banks in India recorded higher increase of 7.2 per cent, in US dollar terms.
- In US dollar terms, overseas branches of Indian banks recorded 8.8 per cent growth in deposits
- Total income to assets ratio of overseas branches of Indian banks increased to 6.2 per cent in 2023-24 (3.9 per cent in 2022-23)
- but it remained lower than that of Indian banks' subsidiaries (7.3 per cent) and foreign banks' operating in India (7.6 per cent).
- Branches of Indian banks in the United Kingdom (UK) generated highest fee income, followed by those in the United Arab Emirates (UAE),
   Singapore and Hong Kong

## Punjab & Sind Bank Launches e-Bank Guarantee Facility with NeSL



Punjab & Sind Bank Launches e-Bank Guarantee Facility with NeSL

- State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank has launched e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in partnership with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL)
- that replaces the paper-based BG issuance process with e-stamping and e-signatures.

#### IDFC FIRST Bank Launches Real-Time International Money Transfer Tracking

- IDFC FIRST Bank has become the first Indian bank to offer real-time tracking for money sent abroad.
- This service, developed in partnership with Swift, is accessible through the bank's mobile app and internet banking platforms through Swift GPI pluggin.

- IDFC FIRST Bank is the first Indian bank to go live on GPI(Global Payments Initiative) over APIs (Application Programming Interface) in South Asia.
- Under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), resident individuals can send money abroad for various purposes, including education, medical expenses, and investments.
- Non-Resident Indians can also transfer funds from their NRO/NRE accounts through IDFC FIRST Bank.
- IDFC FIRST Bank offers this 24/7 tracking tool as a complimentary service along with its Pay Abroad feature, with no processing charges applied.
- IDFC FIRST Bank was founded by the merger of Erstwhile IDFC Bank and Erstwhile Capital First on December 18, 2018.
- HQ Mumbai
- · CMD V Vaidyanathan
- Reserve Bank has extended his tenure for another 3 years till December 2027.

#### IDBI Bank launched Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana for one time settlement of retail NPAs

- IDBI Bank has introduced the Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana (SUGAM), a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme aimed at recovering dues from retail nonperforming accounts (NPAs).
- This scheme targets borrowers with principal outstanding between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 10 crore.

#### Key details of the scheme include:

- Eligibility: Retail borrowers whose loans turned NPAs by March 31, 2021, and remain NPAs as of August 31, 2024.
- Waivers and Concessions: The scheme offers
   waivers on interest and expenses, with specific terms for guaranteed emergency credit lines.
- Payment Terms: Borrowers must pay at least 10% of the settlement amount upfront by December 31, 2024.
- The remaining balance can be paid within 90 days without interest or by March 25, 2025, with interest.
  - Exclusions: Accounts under vendor bill discounting, secured by corporate guarantees, or admitted to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) are not eligible.
- This initiative aims to resolve long-pending cases and improve the bank's recovery from NPAs.

Pension Fund Regulatory and
Development Authority (PFRDA) enhances
NPS offering for the private sector by
introducing a 'Balanced Life Cycle Fund'
option



- PFRDA has recently added a new fund to the National Pension System (NPS) called the 'Balanced Life Cycle Fund.'
- This new fund is open to private sector subscribers who have invested in NPS either through their employer's corporate model or by directly investing as individuals in the citizens' model.
- Currently, the NPS scheme allows an investor to choose between Active or Auto Choice.
- The auto choice option is also known as the Lifecycle fund.
- The new Balanced life cycle fund will automatically rebalance the asset classes, i.e., equity (E), government securities (G), and corporate bonds (C), depending on the age and risk profile of the NPS subscriber.
- The Balanced Life Cycle Fund allows investors to remain invested in equity for up to 45 years, instead of the 35 years allowed in current life cycle funds.
- Until the age of 45, the BLC splits investments equally between equity and debt. After that, the investor's equity exposure decreases each year.
- The PFRDA circular has clarified that the existing choices under NPS, namely, Active and Auto choices, will remain unchanged.
- The Balanced Lifecycle Fund will be an additional investment option.

### About Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

- It is a statutory regulatory body set up under the PFRDA Act enacted in 2014.
- Objective: To promote old age income security by establishing, developing, and regulating pension funds and to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and related matters.

- It comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
- PFRDA is headquartered in New Delhi

#### State Bank of India-led Committee Recommends Eliminating 18% GST on Co-Lending Activities



- A State Bank of India (SBI)-led committee has submitted the report to the finance ministry
- recommending that no GST should be imposed on co-lending-related activities
- to encourage co-lending between commercial banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)
- The report also recommends that co-lending should be restricted to priority sector lending, not extended to other areas, due to the larger associated risks
- In co-lending, the bank is the primary lender and the NBFC is the co-lender.
- The bank handles the loan application, credit assessment, and documentation, while the NBFC provides a portion of the funding
- Co-lending has not gained traction despite being allowed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) since 2018.
- Co-lending is anticipated to boost credit flow to unserved and underserved sections of the economy, including agriculture, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and housing.
- RBI through permitting banks and NBFCs to collaborate has the objective to make loans more affordable to end-borrowers.

## **BoB proposes to Sell Oman Operations to Bank Dhofar**

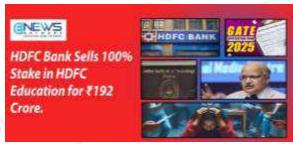
- as part of rationalisation of foreign operation.
- Rationalization of foreign operations in banking is the process of reorganizing a bank's overseas operations to improve efficiency.

#### BoB:

Founded: 20 July 1908

Headquarters : Vadodara, GujaratMD & CEO : Debadatta Chand

## HDFC Bank Divests 100% Stake in HDFC Eduation for ₹192 Crore



- India's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank board has approved 100% stake sale of subsidiary HDFC Education to Vama Sundari Investments in an all-cash deal amounting to Rs 192 crore.
- With this sale HDFC Edu would cease to be a subsidiary of HDFC bank.
- The sale price is Rs. 9.60 per share.
- The lender said it would divest 91% stake in HDFC Edu on or before October 31, 2024, and the remaining 9% stake will be divested before June 30, 2025.
- HDFC Bank was incorporated in August 1994
- commenced operations as a Scheduled Commercial Bank in January 1995.
- Headquarters : Mumbai

## LIC Increases Stake in Bank of Maharashtra to 7.10% via QIP







- LIC has raised its shareholding in the bank from 4.05 per cent to 7.10 per cent following a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).
- A Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) is a way for companies to raise capital by selling shares or other securities to qualified institutional buyers (QIBs).
- LIC Established: 1st Sept, 1956
- Headquaters : Mumbai

## Withdrawal of ₹2,000 Notes: 98% Returned, RBI Reports



- Since its May 2023 move to withdraw the currency notes
- The total value of notes of the denomination has reduced to Rs 7,117 crore from the Rs 3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023.
- Demonetisation has been implemented twice:
  - In **1946**, RBI demonetized Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 10,000 notes.
  - ➤ In **1978**, the government demonetized Rs. 1000, Rs. 5000, and Rs. 10000 notes in order to curb the menace of black money.
- 2016 demonetisation
  - On November 8, 2016, PM Modi announced the decision of the government to demonetise currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 in a bid to tackle corruption.

## RBI approves amalgamation of The Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd. with The Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the voluntary amalgamation of The Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd. (Mumbai) with The Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd. (Mumbai)
- This ensures a seamless transition for customers and employees of The Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd. – will be absorbed into The Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd.

## IFC Partners with Axis Bank for India's First Blue Loan of \$500 Million



- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), which is part of the World Bank Group and focuses on private sector lending,
- has partnered with Axis Bank to provide a loan of \$500 million (around ₹4,200 crore) aimed at developing a blue finance market and increasing funding for green projects in India.
- This marks the IFC's first blue investment in India and the first blue financing deal made by a financial institution in the country.
- Blue loans are special funding tools designed to support investments in water and wastewater management, reduce ocean plastic pollution, restore marine ecosystems, promote sustainable shipping, eco-friendly tourism, and offshore renewable energy projects.
- Axis Bank Established 1993
- Began operations 1994
- Headquarters Mumbai

## Google and Muthoot Finance Partner to Offer Gold-Backed Loans via Google Pay



- GPay is expanding its offerings by introducing goldbacked secured loans in collaboration with Muthoot Finance.
- According to Google India MD Roma Datta
   Chobey, about 11 per cent of the world's gold is housed in India.
- Also, Google's Al assistant Gemini Live is now being rolled out in Hindi, with eight more Indian languages--Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Urdu--to follow in the coming weeks
- These announcements were made by the company officials at the 10th edition of 'Google for India' event

- Additionally, Google is set to launch 'Gemini Flash
   1.5' in India, one of the first few globally, within
   the next couple of months.
- This upgrade will enable organisations to securely implement cloud and AI solutions
- Google also notified the launch of Google Safety Engineering Center in India in 2025.
- Google has partnered with clean energy companies Adani Group and CleanMax Enviro Energy Solutions (CleanMax) to power its offices in India with renewable energy
- Muthoot Finance :

Founded: 1939

Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala

## PNB Introduces Multi-Currency World Travel Card for International Travelers



- The card allows users to load and manage multiple currencies on a single card.
- The PNB Multi-Currency World Travel Card supports six major foreign currencies: US Dollar (USD), Euro (EUR), British Pound Sterling (GBP), UAE Dirham (AED), Canadian Dollar (CAD), and Singapore Dollar (SGD).
- The card is accepted at ATMs, point-of-sale (POS) terminals, and for online transactions across the globe, except in India, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- It also supports contactless payments.
- The card also includes insurance coverage of up to
   ₹3.50 lakh for theft or misuse.

Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's first Swadeshi Bank:

Established: 1894

- commenced its operations on April 12, 1895 from Lahore
- · Nationalization of Banks in India in 1969,
- headquarters: Dwarka Sector, Delhi.

#### ICICI Bank and MakeMyTrip unveils cobranded credit card for travel enthusiasts





- The MakeMyTrip ICICI Bank Credit Card is powered by Mastercard and RuPay
- Cardholders earn unlimited reward points that never expire
- They enjoy complimentary MMT BLACK Gold membership with exclusive benefits across hotels, flights, and holiday packages
- The card offers an attractive forex mark-up rate of 0.99%
- ICICI Bank incorporated in 1994
- In 1999, ICICI became the first Indian company and the first bank or financial institution from non-Japan Asia to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

## Unified Cross-Border Payments: UPI and AANI Link-Up

- 12th Meeting of the India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLJTFI) took place in Mumbai
  - Indian and UAE governments are working on interlinking the UPI of India and the AANI of UAF.
- This integration aims to facilitate seamless crossborder transactions, allowing real-time remittances between the two countries.



 National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), via its international subsidiary NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) is collaborating with Al Etihad Payments (AEP), to enable creation of a domestic card scheme JAYWAN in UAE.

## Lok Sabha passes Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 allowing four nominees in bank accounts



Lok Sabha Passes Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill Allowing 4 Account Nominees

- first Bill of the Winter Session
- The Bill, piloted by Finance Minister Nirmala
   Sitharaman, was approved by a voice vote.
- The Bill allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts.
- Proposes changes related to redefining "substantial interest" for directorships, which could increase to ₹2 crore instead of the current limit of ₹5 lakh.
- It proposes to increase the tenure of directors
   (excluding the chairman and whole-time director)
   in cooperative banks from 8 years to 10 years, so
   as to align with the Constitution (Ninety-Seventh
   Amendment) Act, 2011.
- Once passed, the Bill would allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the board of a State Cooperative Bank.
- The Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors.
- It also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.
- Depositors will have the option of successive or simultaneous nomination facility, while locker holders will have only successive nomination.

## RBI to allow small finance banks to extend credit lines through UPI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of UPI by allowing Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to offer pre-approved credit lines. This move aims to reduce costs and improve access to credit, particularly for 'new-to-credit' customers. SFBs' high-tech, low-cost model is expected to enhance financial inclusion by reaching underserved customers with small-ticket loans through the UPI platform.
- In September 2023, the scope of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was expanded by enabling presanctioned credit lines to be linked through UPI and used as a funding account by Scheduled Commercial Banks excluding Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and Regional Rural Banks.

## RBI gives nod to Canara Bank's proposal to divest its stake in life insurance, MF ventures

- Reserve Bank of India vide its letter dated 5th
  December 2024 has accorded approval to our bank
  for divesting its shareholding in Canara Robeco
  Asset Management Company Ltd and Canara HSBC
  Life Insurance Company Ltd by 13 per cent and
  14.5 per cent, respectively through Initial Public
  Offer (IPO),
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company, established in 2008, is a joint venture company with a 51 per cent stake owned by Canara Bank and a 26 per cent stake held by the HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) Holdings and remaining 23 per cent stake by Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- In the case of mutual fund business, Canara Bank also owns 51 per cent stake in Canara Robeco Asset Management Company while Japan's Orix Corporation holding has the remaining stake in the AMC.
- Canara Robeco Asset Management Company is the country's second oldest asset manager. The staterun lender had floated the company in 1993, partnering with Robeco, now part of Orix, in 2007.

## SBI Raises ₹50,000 Crore via Bonds in FY25, Strengthens Rural Credit Access

 Amount Raised: ₹50,000 crore through domestic bonds in FY25.

- Types of Bonds Issued: AT1 bonds (₹5,000 crore), Tier 2 bonds (₹15,000 crore), Long-term bonds (₹30,000 crore).
- **Tenure of Bonds:** 15 years for Tier 2 and Long-term bonds, perpetual for AT1 bonds.
- SBI Chairman: CS Setty.

## Deposit push: HDFC Bank launches 'Pragati' savings account for hinterlands

- HDFC Bank today announced the launch of its 'Pragati' savings account, targetting semi-urban and rural (SURU) people pan-India, as the lender enhances focus on deposit mobilisation.
- The Pragati Savings Account by HDFC Bank aims to build a comprehensive banking ecosystem for India's agricultural sector, including farmers (both traditional and those in cattle breeding, fisheries, poultry, and dairy farming), self-employed individuals, rural residents, self-help groups, and cooperatives.
- Through our Pragati Savings Account, we are introducing several industry-firsts, such as our partnership with BigHaat to empower farmers and rural communities with tools and resources to improve productivity, access credit, and achieve better financial outcomes

## Paytm launches UPI Lite Auto Top-Up for Payments without PIN



- Paytm has launched Unified Payments Interface
  Lite automatic top-up facility for daily payments
  under Rs 500 that do not require a pin, parent
  company One97 Communications said.
- This feature will enable users to automatically recharge their Unified Payments Interface Lite balance if it falls below the set limit.
- Payments of up to Rs 500 can be made per transaction, with a daily limit of Rs 2,000.

- The feature is available for UPI handles on YES Bank and Axis Bank for select users.
- Paytm launched UPI International. The facility allows Indian travelers to make UPI transactions in 6 foreign countries – Singapore, France, UAE, Mauritius, Bhutan and Nepal

### RBI increases collateral-free agricultural loan limit from Rs 1.6 to Rs 2 lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has enhanced the collateral-free loan limit for farmers from Rs 1.6 lakh to Rs 2 lakh, effective January 1, 2025,
- aimed at supporting small and marginal farmers amid rising input costs.

### SBI Card Surpasses 20 Million Credit Cards Milestone

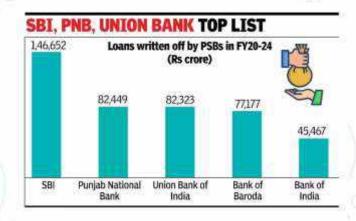


- SBI Card has surpassed the 2 crore cards in force milestone, since its inception in 1998
- It remains the second-largest issuer in India, following HDFC Bank
- Abhijit Chakravorty, MD & CEO of SBI Card

#### ₹12.3 lakh crore: Indian banks' loan writeoff in past 10 years



- Indian commercial banks wrote off ₹12.3 lakh crore in loans between the 2014-15 and 2023-24 financial years, according to government data presented in Parliament.
- Write-offs peaked at ₹2.4 lakh crore in FY19 following an asset quality review. They dropped to ₹1.7 lakh crore in FY24, representing 1% of the total outstanding bank credit



## HSBC Taj Credit Card: A Luxe Partnership for Discerning Travelers



- HSBC India and Indian Hotels Company have come together to launch HSBC Taj Credit Card, India's first premium co-branded hospitality credit card, crafted for luxury enthusiasts, that aims to deliver bespoke experiences and exceptional services for discerning customers.
- Launched in collaboration with Visa, the HSBC Taj metal co-branded credit card is specially curated for those who appreciate finer life experiences and services and are seeking unparalleled luxury and exclusive travel experiences.

#### Premier benefits with HSBC Taj credit card:

- Welcome offer: Get a voucher for one night for two with breakfast at a Taj Palace Hotel such as Taj Falaknuma Palace, Taj Rambagh Palace and more.
- Also get two nights at any 5-star Taj or other IHCL hotel when you activate your card.
- Elevated Stay Options: 25% discounts on best available rate for room/suite at participating hotels including Taj Palaces & Safaris. Get vouchers for rejuvenating spa treatments with access to steam and sauna.

#### Fees and charges

- The HSBC Taj Credit Card has a joining fee of Rs 1,10,000, which is paid after you activate your card.
- There is also an annual fee Rs 1,10,000, which is paid annually once you've had the card for 12 months.

#### **Public Sector Banks Record Net Profit of Rs 85,520 Crore In First Half FY2024-25**

- Public sector banks (PSBs), including State Bank of India (SBI), are poised for another stellar year in 2024-25, building on their record-breaking aggregate net profit of ₹1.46 lakh crore in 2023-24,
- In the first half of FY 2024-25, PSBs (including SBI) reported an aggregate net profit of ₹85,520 crore, a robust 26 per cent growth compared to ₹67,850 crore during the same period last year
- The turnaround in PSBs' fortunes has been further supported by strengthened governance. The government has ensured arm's-length selection of top management, introduced non-executive chairpersons for nationalised banks, and filled key leadership positions through market-based recruitment

### Max Life Rebrands to Axis Max Life Insurance



 Max Life Insurance announced a change in its corporate name to Axis Max Life Insurance after receiving the corporate and regulatory approval.

#### **BOBCARD Launches TIARA Credit Card**



- BOBCARD Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, announces the launch of the TIARA Credit Card — a first-of-its-kind, women-centric credit card
- Ravindra Rai MD & CEO of BOBCARD Ltd.

## HDFC Bank executes first gold forward deal from Gujarat GIFT City

 HDFC Bank has become the first domestic bank to execute a gold forward deal from GIFT City, Gujarat.

- A gold forward deal is an agreement to buy or sell a specific quantity of gold at a predetermined price on a future date.
- The deal was executed by HDFC Bank GIFT City IBU
  (International banking unit) in collaboration with
  Hindustan Platinum Private Limited, a refiner and
  manufacturer of precious metal products and
  industrial services.

#### India Secures \$500 Million ADB Loan for Green Infrastructure Projects

 The ADB loan, with a sovereign guarantee, will be extended to the India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)

#### **Asian Development Bank(ADB)**

- Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank of the Asia Pacific region with 69 member countries.
- It was established in 1966 and has its headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

#### **About IIFCL**

- a wholly owned company of the government of India, which was set up in 2006.
- It is registered as a Non-Banking Finance
   Company-Non Deposit-taking Infrastructure
   Financing Company (NBFC-ND-IFC)
- The Reserve Bank of India regulates it.
- Managing Director: Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar

## HSBC India and Taj group launch India's first premium co-branded hospitality credit card



- HSBC India and Indian Hotels Company have come together to launch HSBC Taj Credit Card, India's first premium co-branded hospitality credit card, crafted for luxury enthusiasts
- Launched in collaboration with Visa

#### **FINANCE**

- 1. Project Nexus
- 2. Indo-Kazakh Joint Venture
- 3. Digital Arrest
- 4. Sovereign Green Bond
- 5. World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report
- 6. PAN 2.0 Project
- 7. Jackson Hole Symposium 2024
- 8. DataSync
- 9. Disney-Reliance Merger
- 10. Kautilya economic conclave 2024 (KEC2024)
- 11. 'Nandini Sahakar Yojana'
- 12. South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation
- 13. First A320 Neo Aircraft
- 14. high-speed car racing fuel STORM-X.
- 15. Zomato to launch new app 'District
- 16. Minimum Wage Rates
- 17. NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status
- 18. India's First Blue Loan
- 19. Liquidity coverage ratio (LCR)
- 20. Henley Passport Index 2024

#### Which countries have joined the platform?

- Project Nexus aims to connect the FPSs of four Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
  - Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand;
     and India, who would be the founding members
     and first mover countries of this platform.
- Indonesia will also join the platform in future.
- Going ahead, the platform can be extended to more countries.

## RBI announces rules to reclassify FPI investment as FDI once it crosses 10% holding in Indian firms

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the Government of India and the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), finalised rules for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)
- whose investments would be reclassified as
   Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) the moment it
   breaches the 10% stake threshold in an Indian
   company, under the Foreign Exchange
   Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019.
- Investment made by foreign portfolio investor along with its investor group (hereinafter referred

#### **What is Project Nexus**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).
- Project Nexus is conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and FPSs of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will be interlinked through Nexus.

#### **Fund Watch**

Govt plans to monitor ownership of local financial assets by entities from neighbouring countries

FPIs must adhere to all FDI regulations, including sectoral caps, entry routes, pricing guidelines, among others

As per the current norms, FPI cannot hold more than 10% of the total paid-up equity capital as portfolio investment in an Indian company

If the holding exceeds the 10% limit, the investment is categorised as FDI

to as 'FPI') shall be less than 10% of the total paidup equity capital on a fully diluted basis.

- Further, FPI investing in breach of the prescribed limit shall have the option of divesting their holdings or reclassifying such holdings as FDI," the RBI said in a circular.
- These directions have become operative with immediate effect.

## IREL and UKTMP JSC Signed an Agreement to Establish Indo-Kazakh Joint Venture Company

- Indian Rare Earths Limited, (IREL) and Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC, (UKTMP JSC) Kazakhstan
- Signed an Agreement to Establish Indo-Kazakh Joint Venture Company (JVC): IREUK Titanium Limited for production of Ti Slag in India
- Dr. Deependra Singh Chairman and Managing Director, IREL (India) Limited
- incorporated on August 18,1950,

#### What is "Digital Arrest"?



NEWS: A recent scam has emerged, resulting in significant financial losses for individuals and businesses, amounting to crores of rupees, under the guise of "digital arrest."

#### What is a digital arrest scam?

- A digital arrest scam is an online scam that defrauds victims of their hard-earned money.
- The scammers intimidate the victims and falsely accuse them of illegal activities.
- They later demand money and puts them under pressure for making the payment.

#### How digital arrest scam works?

- In digital arrest scam, perpetrators pose as law enforcement officials, such as CBI agents, income tax officers, or customs agents, and initiate contact with victims via phone calls.
- Subsequently, they request that the victims switch to video communication through platforms like WhatsApp and Skype.
- The scammers then threaten the victims with a digital arrest warrant, citing various reasons such as financial misconduct, tax evasion, or other legal violations.
- These fraudsters create a police station-like set-up to further convince victims that the call is legitimate.

- Under the guise of "clearing their name", "assisting with the investigation", or "refundable security deposit/escrow account",
- individuals are coerced into transferring large sums of money to specified bank accounts or UPI IDs.

## Nirmala Sitharaman launches National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme, organised jointly by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- The Union Finance Minister also virtually inaugurated six new SIDBI Branches in Karnataka, located at Tumakuru, Raichur, Shivamogga, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru and Vijayapura, thereby expanding SIDBI's reach and financial assistance to MSMEs in these Clusters.
- She also inaugurated four Nari Shakti Branches of Union Bank of India at Bengaluru, Chennai, Jaipur and Vishakhapatnam, with the goal of empowering women entrepreneurs and the Learning Centre of Canara Bank at Bagaluru, Bengaluru.

## NSE Launches Multilingual Mobile App and Website



- The updated website, now available at nseindia.com, has added support for Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu. These languages join the previously available English, Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati, making NSE's online content accessible in a total of 12 languages.
- The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) on Friday announced that it has come up with the official NSE mobile app, NSEIndia, and expanded

- its website to include content in 12 languages, broadening its reach to millions of investors who prefer information in their regional language.
- The app, available on both Apple's App Store and the Google Play Store, is designed to provide investors with an easy-to-use and secure platform. With just a few taps, users can stay updated on stock market trends, check summaries of top gainers and losers in the market, and even create personalized watchlists to track the stocks they care about.

#### RBI Designates 10-Year Sovereign Green Bonds Under FAR for Non-Resident Investments



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the list of specified Government securities that nonresidents can invest in under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) by including 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs).
- The central bank has decided to designate SGrBs of 10-year tenor to be issued by the Government in the second half of the fiscal year 2024-25 as 'specified securities' under the FAR.

#### Sovereign Green Bond

- Sovereign Green Bond offers an interest rate of 7.29%.
- This rate is slightly lower than the regular 10-year Indian bond yield of 7.38% on the day of the issue, reflecting a **greenium of 9 basis points**. A greenium is the slightly lower interest rate investors accept for green bonds due to their environmental benefits.
- Purpose: Funds raised from SGrBs are exclusively used for financing green projects, such as renewable energy, clean transportation, and climate adaptation initiatives.
- Eligibility: Both domestic and non-resident investors can invest in SGrBs. Non-resident investors can invest without any restrictions under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR).

#### ADB Approves \$200 Million Loan for Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project



- The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a 200 million dollar loan to help upgrade water supply, sanitation, urban mobility, and other urban services in Uttarakhand.
- Speaking on the occasion, Joint Secretary of the Economic Affairs Department, Juhi Mukherjee, said that the project aligns with the Union Government's urban development agenda as well as the Uttarakhand state government's initiatives to enhance urban services, aiming to boost livability and sustainability in cities
- the project aims to create an urban infrastructure that is resilient to climate and environmental risks, ensuring the safety and health of the people. The project will enhance transportation, urban mobility, drainage, flood management, and overall public services in Haldwani, and also improve water supply delivery in four cities of Uttarakhand.

### RBI Updates KYC Rules to Enhance Verification and Security

- KYC stands for "Know Your Customer . refers to the method by which financial organizations check their customers' identities. KYC is crucial since it helps to avoid unlawful actions such as money laundering and terrorist financing, while also protecting both the firm and the client.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced amendments to the Master Directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) on November 6, 2024 and the amended provisions in the Master Direction shall come into force with immediate effect.

#### **Digital KYC**

 "Digital KYC" means the capturing live photo of the customer and officially valid document or the proof of possession of Aadhaar, where offline verification cannot be carried out, along with the latitude and longitude of the location where such live photo is being taken by an authorized officer of the RE as per the provisions contained in the Act.

### World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report in Delhi



- The World Bank assists the Ministry of Education with its programme called Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) covering six states, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan (collectively the STARS states).
- The report underscores the significant benefits of embedding skill-based education from Classes 9-12 to prepare students for diverse career paths relying on a bottom-up approach

#### **About STARS**

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme supported by the World Bank and approved in 2020 for five years i.e. FY 2024-25.
- It aims to improve quality and governance of school education with focus on early education, learning assessments, teacher performance, school-to-work transitions, and decentralized management.
- Aligned with the Samagra Shiksha scheme, it also supports operationalization of key tenets of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

#### **Key findings of the Report**

- Services sector jobs and agriculture income enhancement present large opportunities for school-based skilling.
- 14 sectors including electronics and hardware, beauty and wellness, healthcare, fashion etc. and corresponding trades can cater to majority of high demand jobs for school to work.
- Factors for Skill gap in India include learning gaps, gaps in employability skills like digital literacy, problem solving etc., non-alignment of vocational training with industry needs etc.

## Centre approves PAN 2.0 Project of Income Tax Department, to make it a common business identifier



- The government announced the ₹1,435 crore PAN
   2.0 Project
- PAN 2.0 Project is aimed at modernizing and enhancing the Permanent Account Number (PAN) system in India.
- The PAN is a unique 10-digit identifier issued to Indian taxpayers, which is used for various financial transactions, including filing tax returns, tracking investments, and conducting banking operations.
- However, the PAN system had some challenges, such as duplication, fraud, and limited integration with other databases. The PAN 2.0 project seeks to address these issues and bring the PAN system up to modern standards.

#### **Key Features and Objectives of PAN 2.0 Project:**

- Digitization and Integration with other government databases (such as Aadhaar, GSTN, and banks)
- Data Security and Fraud Prevention
- Simplified Process for PAN Issuance
- Improved Tax Administration
- Global Standards Compliance (making crossborder tax reporting more efficient)
- Reduction of Duplicate PANs
- Pan-India Digital Infrastructure (particularly in rural areas.)
- PAN 2.0 will be an upgrade of the current PAN/TAN 1.0 eco-system

| TAN (Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number) | PAN (Permanent Account Number) |
|---|--------------------------------|
| TAN is specific to the tax                        | PAN is a broader identity      |
| deduction or collection                           | number used for all tax-       |
| process. It's only                                | related matters in India,      |

relevant for entities or individuals responsible for TDS or TCS.

including filing tax returns, tracking financial transactions, and more

### India-EFTA Trade Deal: \$100 Billion Investment & Boost to Exports



- India has signed a historic Trade and Economic
   Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with four European countries—Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and
   Liechtenstein—forming the European Free Trade
   Association (EFTA).
- This agreement is expected to provide India access to 99.6% of EFTA's market, generating \$100 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) and creating 1 million direct jobs over the next 15 years.
- With strong commitments from both sides, the deal aims to enhance India's global market position and reinforce initiatives like "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat."
- Investment target: \$100 billion over 15 years.
- Job creation: 1 million direct jobs in India.
- Market access: 99.6% of EFTA market for India.
- India's tariff offers: 82.7% of tariff lines.
- FDI sectors: Infrastructure, IT, Pharmaceuticals, Renewable Energy.

### **S&P Global Revises India's GDP and Inflation Projections**



 S&P Global Ratings retained India's GDP forecast for the current financial year 2024-25 at 6.8 per cent while cutting economic growth forecasts for the next two years.  For 2025-26 and 2026-27, the global rating agency pegged India's GDP forecast at 6.7 per cent and 6.8 per cent.

#### Zomato to Replace JSW Steel on BSE Sensex from December 23



- Zomato will become a part of the benchmark BSE Sensex, replacing JSW Steel on December 23.
- This is part of the latest reconstitution announced by Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of BSE.
- Zomato's inclusion in the 30-stock index marks a significant milestone for the company, which has seen an impressive rally over the past year.

## Matrimony.com Launches 'Weddingloans.com' Platform to Provide Wedding Loans



- Matchmaking service provider Matrimony.com has launched its financial technology platform weddingloans.com aimed at providing financial assistance for marriages.
- The company has partnered with leading financial institutions such as IDFC, Tata Capital, Larsen and Toubro Finance, to offer a comprehensive loan solution.

#### Alphabet Gets CCI Nod to Invest in Flipkart



- The Competition Commission granted approval to Alphabet's arm Shoreline International Holdings LLC to acquire a stake in Walmart group firm Flipkart.
- Shoreline International Holding is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Google's parent firm Alphabet Inc.
- It is a holding company and does not own or operate any Google products or services.
- Flipkart is a subsidiary of Walmart Inc and ultimately belongs to the Walmart Group

#### The Competition Commission of India

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI), constituted under the Competition Act, 2002 serves as India's principal competition regulator.
- The Competition Act, 2002 was passed by the Parliament in the year 2002, to which the President accorded assent in January, 2003.
- The provisions of the Competition Act relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position were notified on May 20, 2009.
- The CCI functions as a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs with its headquarters in New Delhi.
- Replacing the outdated MRTP Act of 1969, the CCI aligns India's competition laws with global standards, following recommendations from the Raghavan Committee.

#### RBI, Maldives Monetary Authority Pact to Enhance Trade with Local Currencies



- The RBI and the Maldives Monetary Authority signed an agreement in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies
   the Indian Rupee and the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) for cross-border transactions.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Governor of Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das and Governor of Maldives Monetary Authority Ahmed Munawar.
- The MoU encourages the use of INR and MVR in current account transactions, permissible capital

- account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both countries.
- This framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and settle in their respective domestic currencies, which in turn would enable the development of trading in the INR-MVR pair in foreign exchange market.

#### **Jackson Hole Symposium 2024**



- The Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium is a yearly event that gathers important people like central bankers, economists, and policymakers from around the world.
- It is organized by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Since 1978.
- The 2024 symposium happened from August 22-24
- Theme "Reassessing the Effectiveness and Transmission of Monetary Policy."
- Jerome Powell, the current Chair of the Federal Reserve

### FCRA Licence of International Cooperative Alliance Cancelled



- Union home ministry has cancelled the FCRA
   (Foreign Contribution Registration Act) licence of
   International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA) for its
   alleged violation of rules.
- ICA is the apex body representing cooperatives worldwide and provides knowledge, expertise and coordinated action in the field.
- Founded in 1895, ICA is one of the oldest nongovernmental organisations and has over 1 billion members.
- ICA is planning to hold a global conference in New Delhi for the first time in November this year.

- The International Cooperative Alliance has its regional office headquartered in Delhi.
- First time in ICA-Asia Pacific's history, its serving president, Dr. Chandra Pal Singh, is an Indian

#### FCRA Amendment Act, 2020 - Key Amendments

- Public servants are prohibited from receiving foreign contributions.
- Foreign contributions can only be received in designated State Bank of India accounts in New Delhi.
- Administrative expenses for NGOs cannot exceed 20% of total foreign funds (down from 50%).

### Lab chemical's packaged quantity should not exceed 500 ml, says CBIC

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
   (CBIC) has set the quantity of chemicals to be
   categorized as Laboratory Chemicals at 500 grams
   or 500 ml.
- This means such a quantity will attract a lower import duty at 10 per cent, while a package in a larger quantity will attract a differential or higher duty.
- laboratory chemicals refer to both organic and inorganic chemicals, whether chemically defined or not, that are imported exclusively for personal use

   excluding trading or further sale.

### **EPFO Records Highest-Ever Addition of 20 Lakh Net Members in July**

- Data released by Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports
- The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
- added 19.94 lakh net members in July 2024, marking the highest recorded increase since payroll data tracking began in April 2018
- EPFO added 10.52 lakh new members in July 2024, representing a 2.66% increase over June 2024
- 15.25% year-over-year increase
- 18-25 Age Group Leads with 8.77 Lakh Net Additions in July 2024, Making Up 59.41% of All New Members
- EPFO Adds Record 4.41 Lakh Net Female
   Members in July 2024; Marking Highest Monthly
   Addition for Women
- Maharashtra led among the States/UTs, contributing 20.21% of the total new members.
- This surge in new memberships can be attributed to growing employment opportunities, increased

awareness of employee benefits, and EPFO's successful outreach programs.

#### **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**

- It is a statutory body under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, of 1952.
- The Act and Schemes framed there under are administered by a tri-partite Board known as the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund, consisting of representatives of Government (Both Central and State), Employers, and Employees.
- Under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

### **Government to Launch Digital Portal for Unclaimed Shares and Dividends by 2025**

- In an attempt to expedite the refund of unclaimed shares and dividends to the rightful parties, the government is working on setting up an integrated digital portal soon.
- The facility would make the process of searching and claiming the lost shares easier.
- Unclaimed shares and dividends are shares and money owed to a shareholder that have not been claimed for a certain period of time
- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), the organisation responsible for refunding unclaimed shares, has already prepared a blueprint on the functionality of the portal.
- The total number of unclaimed shares lying with the IEPFA is over 1.1 billion, valued about Rs 1 lakh crore.
- The total value of unclaimed dividends stands at about Rs 5,700 crore.
- IT portal will equip IEPFA to efficiently process and refund unclaimed shares to rightful claimants "in a timely manner."

#### Reliance Group forays into Bhutan with new company to develop 1270 MW renewable energy projects

- Reliance Group led by Anil Ambani has announced entering into a partnership agreement with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd. (DHI), the commercial and investment arm of the Royal Government of Bhutan.
- will focus on green energy generation, specifically solar and hydropower initiatives, while also exploring innovative green technologies
- support Bhutan's net-zero goals.

### Minimum Import Price extended for five categories of knitted fabrics

- The Department of Commerce has extended the Minimum Import Price on five categories of knitted fabrics till December 31, in a move to curb fabric imports.
- The imports will, however, be free if the value of the fabric is \$3.5 per kg or more,
- This will bring down cheap import of fabrics, especially from China

#### Rs 32.5 Trillion investment in Renewable Energy by 2030 in India

- Leading renewable energy (RE) project developers, manufacturing companies, banks, and financial institutions committed close to \$386 billion or around Rs 32.45 trillion to the development of RE projects by 2030.
- Banks and financial institutions (FIs) submitted a commitment of Rs 24.8 trillion for financing RE projects in the country.
- State-owned REC leads the pack with Rs 6 trillion of investment commitment
- Among the banks, SBI has made the largest announcement with Rs 5 trillion of investment undertakings
- Among private investors, Brookfield has committed Rs 54,000 crore.
- Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL) has pledged to set up the highest 3.9 Gw of wind turbine manufacturing
- This commitment was made at the inaugural ceremony of the 4th RE-Invest Summit hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- These commitments are part of a special investment drive by the Centre called 'Shapath Patra'
- India aims to build 500 gigawatts (Gw) of RE capacity by 2030, but commitments from the solar power industry have reached 570 Gw:
  - Reliance Industries (RIL) leads the pack with a 100 Gw commitment,
  - > NTPC (41.3 Gw)
  - ReNew (40 Gw).
- India's solar capacity has increased 33 times since 2014, with the country already reaching 200 Gw of RE capacity, aiming for 500 Gw by 2030.

### Finance Ministry establishes a ₹27.5 lakh crore target for agricultural credit in FY25

- The government has set an agriculture credit disbursement target of Rs 27.5 lakh crore for the current fiscal, which is 11% higher compared to actual loans disbursement in FY24
- The target is divided into ₹16 lakh crore for shortterm loans and ₹11.5 lakh crore for long-term loans.
- Out of total agri-credit flow, Rs 4.2 lakh crore has been earmarked for short term loans to the livestock sector – dairy, fisheries and poultry – in the current fiscal year.
- Some of the initiatives taken to improve the agricultural credit system include:
  - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS): This scheme provides loans of up to ₹3 lakh at 7% interest per annum to farmers holding Kisan credit cards (KCCs).
  - Ranking districts: The RBI ranks districts based on per capita credit flow to address regional disparities.
  - Working with banks: NABARD is working with banks to improve credit culture in eastern India.

### Public EV charging stations' power consumption doubles in Q1 FY25

- public charging stations (PCSs) consumed 176.87
   million units (MU) of energy between April and
   June 2024, marking a 108% year-on-year increase,
   reflecting the country's rapid EV growth.
- Delhi led the nation in energy consumption by public charging stations, accounting for 47% of the total, followed by Maharashtra & Gujarat
- By 2030, India is expected to have 50 million EVs, requiring the installation of 1.32 million chargers.

| Power usag     | e,e    | (in MU) |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| Ç              | 1 FY25 | Q1 FY24 |
| Delhi          | 83.86  | 38.11   |
| Maharashtra    | 44.48  | 34.24   |
| Gujarat        | 14.38  | 6.36    |
| Andhra Pradesh | 5.74   | 2.91    |
| Haryana        | 5.41   | 0.04    |
| Pan-India      | 176.87 | 84.95   |

Source: Central Electricity Authority

#### Razorpay launches integration platform DataSync



- **Built on Amazon Redshift and Snowflake AI Data** Cloud
- Datasync first no-code, seamless data integration platform in India, offers real-time transaction information, including settlements, refunds, chargebacks, and reversals, with strong security and low latency.
- This platform will allow businesses to react quickly to consumer behavior, optimise their payment processes, and ultimately grow faster,

#### **Tech Mahindra and University of Auckland** Partner for AI and Quantum Research





The collaboration will target sectors like healthcare, banking, financial services, insurance, and government, enhancing industry-academic partnerships to boost graduate employability.

#### **OLX teams up with IDFC FIRST Bank to** offer innovative financing solutions for used vehicles





#### **About IDFC FIRST Bank:**

Founded: October 2015

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan

MD & CEO of OLX India: Amit Kumar

#### **Bajaj Becomes Third Most Valued Financial Group overtakes SBI**



- Bajaj Group has emerged as the third-largest financial group in the country by mcap, behind the **HDFC** and ICICI groups
- The high profitability of Bajaj Group's financial arms (Bajaj FinServ, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Housing Finance) has fueled its rise
- Top 5 Financial Groups by Mcap:
  - HDFC Group: ₹15.75 trillion
  - ICICI Group: ₹11.95 trillion
  - Bajaj Group: ₹10.36 trillion
  - SBI Group: ₹9.60 trillion
  - Axis Bank: ₹3.85 trillion

#### Jana SFB introduces "Liquid Plus Fixed **Deposit": A Comprehensive Solution to Manage Short Term Liquidity Needs**



- Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd. announced the launch of its new 'Liquid Plus' Fixed Deposit scheme.
- Tenure Min 7 to max 180 days
- tailored to meet the needs of individuals, high-networth individuals, and corporates looking for shortterm investment options that provide safety, liquidity, and guaranteed returns

### \$8.5B Disney-Reliance Merger Completed for Indian Assets

- Reliance Industries has completed the merger of its media assets with the India business of global media house Walt Disney to form a new joint venture worth Rs 70,352 crore.
- Reliance Industries holds a 16.34 per cent stake in the JV, while its step-down unit Viacom18 holds 46.82 per cent and Disney the rest 36.84 per cent.

### Star India to Produce Web Series on the Reserve Bank of India

- Star India will make a web series on the Reserve Bank of India's 90-year-long journey to help people have a better understanding about the central bank's vital role in the country's fast-growing economy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was set up in 1935, completed 90 years in April this year
- the RBI had desired the creation of a web series of five episodes of approximately 25-30 minutes each, which can be aired on national TV channels and/or OTT platforms, commemorating 90 years journey of the RBI.

#### Securities and Exchange Board of India Advocates Relaxation of Angel Fund Regulations to Support Startup Financing

- Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) may soon allow angel funds to expand the scope of investors by including Hindu undivided families (HUFs), family trusts, and sole proprietorships, among others.
- Angel funds, though structured as alternative investment funds (AIFs), are different as they only invest in startups and may soon only cater to accredited investors.
- Accredited investors are considered to have a better understanding of risks in investment and are required to meet the net-worth criteria, which is verified by a third-party accreditation agency before being allowed to invest in angel fund
- Sebi has proposed a slew of measures to ease norms for angel funds, including minimum investment, minimum corpus, relaxation in minimum and maximum investment limit in a startup, lower lock-in requirement, and diversification limit, among others.
- It also plans to do away with the minimum investment requirement, currently set at Rs 25

lakh, from angel investors. For other AIFs, the minimum ticket size for investment is Rs 1 crore.

### Tata Acquires Majority Stake in Pegatron's iPhone Plant in Tamil Nadu

- India's Tata Electronics has agreed to buy a majority stake in Taiwanese contract manufacturer Pegatron's only iPhone plant in India, forming a new joint venture that strengthens Tata's position as an Apple supplier, two sources told Reuters.
- Under the deal announced internally last week,
   Tata will hold 60% and run daily operations under the joint venture, while Pegatron will hold the rest and provide technical support,

### Civic bodies need major reforms to enhance revenue sources: RBI report

- The Municipal corporations (MCs) in the country need comprehensive reforms to boost their own sources of revenue through tax reforms, rationalisation of user charges, and strengthening of collection mechanisms to plug leakages, according to a report released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday.
- The report titled 'Own Sources of Revenue Generation in Municipal Corporations: Opportunities and Challenges' analysed the budgetary data for 232 MCs, covering more than 90 per cent of the total MCs in the country.
- While the revenue account of the MCs has remained in surplus, their heavy reliance on transfers and grants from upper tiers of government continues. The own revenue sources are not adequate for meeting the revenue expenditure of most of the MCs

### Nvidia and SoftBank pilot world's first Al and 5G telecom network

- Leading chipmaker Nvidia and SoftBank Corp, the telecommunications arm of SoftBank Group, have piloted the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) and 5G telecoms network
- The network can run AI and 5G workloads concurrently, a process known as an artificial intelligence radio access network (AI-RAN)

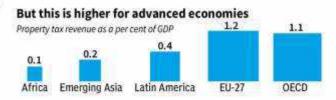
### Navrattan Group develops 'eco-friendly' cement

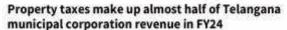
- Navrattan Group has developed Navrattan Green Crete, an eco-friendly sustainable cement aimed at reducing environmental impact.
- This technology allows developers to use 15% less Navrattan Green Crete compared with traditional cement
- The product has air curing properties thus reducing labour and water usage while maintaining strength and durability.

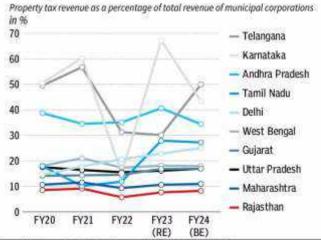
### Delhi, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu Lead in 5-Year Property Tax Growth

- As urban economic activity increases and digital assessments grow, municipal corporations (MCs) of some States have leveraged property taxes more than others to drive overall revenue of the urban local bodies (ULBs).
- As per RBI report on municipal finances Between FY19 and FY24 - Delhi, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu registered the highest CAGR of 26 per cent, 23 per cent and 23 per cent in this tax revenue.
- West Bengal saw the lowest CAGR at 3 per cent.
- In terms of contribution to total revenue, property taxes made up half (50 per cent) of the total revenue of Telangana's MCs in FY24.

#### Taxing times Strong growth in property taxes FY19 to FY24 Compounded Annual growth rate (%) Property tax for FY24 (BE) in ₹ cr Maharashtra 947 (6911.5) Delhi (5,410) (4301.3) Karnataka Gujarat 0.8 (2,757) Tamil Nadu Telangana (2,376.3) Andhra Pradesh 20.7 (1,492.1) Uttar Pradesh 1,253.6 West Bengal 1,023.5 Rajasthan (243.6) But it is still less than 1% of GSDP of the top States as a percentage of GSDP in FY24 0.29 0.80







Source: RBI report on Municipal corporation finances, MoSPI, IMF

 Maharashtra's MCs, the richest in India, are more well diversified with just 11 per cent revenue from property taxes.

Vistara aircrafts to operate under new code 'AI 2' post-merger with Air India





 Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, is set to merge with Air India on November 11 as part of the Tatas consolidating their airline business.

### Hindalco Industries Joins International Copper Association

- Hindalco Industries, part of the Aditya Birla
   Group, has been elected as a new member of the
   International Copper Association (ICA).
- The company is a prominent producer of copper and aluminum for both domestic and international markets
- CEO of Hindalco's Copper Business: Rohit Pathak
- Founded: 1958

# Average monthly income of rural households goes up by over 57% between 2016-17 and 2021-22, says NABARD survey



- A recent survey by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has revealed that average monthly income of rural household grew by 57.6 per cent in 5 years.
- The second 'All India Rural Financial Inclusion
   Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22 found that the the average
   monthly income grew by 57.6 per cent, from Rs
   8,059 in 2016-17 to Rs 12,698 in 2021-22 suggesting a nominal compound annual growth
   rate (CAGR) of 9.5 per cent"
- 66 per cent of households reported saving in 2021-22, up from 50.6 per cent in 2016-17.
- Financial savings also saw a rise, with the average household saving Rs 13,209 annually in 2021-22, compared to Rs 9,104 five years earlier.
- The proportion of households with outstanding debt increased from 47.4 per cent to 52 per cent.
- remarkable increase in insurance coverage among rural households in India: households with at least one-member insured surged from 25.5 per cent in 2016-17 to 80.3 per cent in 2021-22.

## How India's states are contributing to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2024

- India is presently on track to become the thirdlargest economy by 2030.
- Projections from S&P Global Market Intelligence indicate that India's nominal GDP will nearly double, exceeding \$7 trillion by the fiscal year 2030-31.
- India, the world's fifth-largest economy, some of the Indian states and UTs have been contributing significantly to the national economy in terms of GDP and GDP per capita.
- As per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the

National Statistical Office, top four states contributing to India's GDP in 2024:

- Maharashtra: Contributes 13.30% of the national GDP
- ➤ Tamil Nadu: Contributes 8.90% of the national GDP
- Karnataka: Contributes 8.20% of the national GDP
- ➤ **Gujarat**: Contributes 8.10% of the national GDP
- Together, these four states account for approximately 30% of India's GDP

### Paytm Receives NPCI Approval to Onboard New UPI Users



- The National Payments Corporation of India has approved Paytm to onboard new UPI users, following earlier restrictions.
- This approval is significant after the Reserve Bank of India imposed limits on Paytm Payments Bank Limited for new UPI user onboarding.
- Paytm can now facilitate UPI transactions through SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank as a Third-Party Application Provider.

### Kautilya economic conclave 2024 (KEC2024)



- The Institute of Economic Growth, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, hosted the third edition of the Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC),
- from October 4-6, 2024, in New Delhi.

- PM Modi participated. Discussions spanning over three days – centred around the theme of "the Indian Era"
- This conclave brought together close to 150
   national and international academicians and policy makers to discuss some of the most important issues confronting the Indian economy and economies of the global south.
- The deliberations at the conclave showcased India's shift from following global directives to setting the global agenda, particularly in areas like green energy, technology, and trade reform,
- and highlighted India's aspirations for inclusive growth and its evolving role as a strategic leader of the Global South, while reinforcing its ambition to become a developed economy by 2047.

#### Reliance to commission first solar gigafactory this year

- Reliance Industries Ltd, India's most valuable company, plans to commission its first solar gigafactory this year as part of a pivot towards green energy, at Jamnagar, Gujarat
- The solar giga factory will include the manufacturing of PV modules, cells, wafers and ingots, polysilicon, and glass at a single location.
   The modules convert sunlight into electricity.

#### 'Nandini Sahakar Yojana'

- The Nandini Sahakar Scheme by NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation ) is a women-focused framework providing financial assistance, project formulation, and capacity development to women cooperatives.
- Launched under Atmanirbhar Bharat, it aims to improve socio-economic status of women through entrepreneurship.
- There is no limit on financial assistance.
- As of 31.03.2024, NCDC has disbursed Rs.6426.36 crore to women-led cooperative societies across India, although no proposals have been received from Bihar yet.

### Amazon Pay, Adyen, and BillDesk Obtain RBI Cross-Border Payment License

- The PA-CB licence allows payment companies to offer payment services in the export-import space
- These companies can now facilitate international currency transactions for Indian exporters and assist global brands in selling products in India through popular local payment methods.

- Cashfree was the first company to secure the PAcross border licence.
- BillDesk: One of India's largest bill processing entities.



- Amazon Pay: Provides mobile wallet payments, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, and bill payments.
- Adyen: A Netherlands-headquartered company

#### What is the 'yen carry trade'?



- Major stock markets across the world experienced their sharpest decline in decades.
- Possible Reasons:
  - US economy is facing increasing odds of an economic recession
  - Rising geopolitical tensions due to growing turmoil in West Asia
  - New global trigger: The unwinding of the yen carry trade.

#### **Definition**

Carry Trade: Borrowing money in a country with low-interest rates and investing it in a country with higher interest rates to make a profit.



#### **Mechanism**

- Borrowing in Low-Interest Country: Investors borrow in a country with low-interest rates.
- Currency Conversion: The borrowed money is converted into another currency where the interest rates are higher.
- Investment in High-Interest Country: The converted money is then invested in assets in the high-interest country to earn better returns. (Brazil, India, Mexico)

#### Japan as a Case Study

- Bank of Japan's Policy:
  - Kept interest rates at zero percent between 2011 and 2016.
  - Pushed interest rates below zero (-0.10%) since 2016
- Objective: To stimulate economic activity through low-interest rates.

### Tata Group topped India's Most Valuable Brands list



- Tata Group has been named India's most valuable brand, with a brand value of \$28.6 billion.
- Infosys ranked second with a brand value of \$14.2 billion, followed by HDFC Group.

### Air India to set up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation



 Tata Group's Air India is setting up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati's Belora airport, licensed by DGCA, operational by Q1 FY26.

- The FTO will house 31 single-engine & 3 twinengine aircraft, targeting to graduate 180 commercial pilots annually.
- It will be set up in collaboration with Maharashtra Airport Development Company.
- Air India CEO: Campbell Wilson.

#### India, Myanmar completes first transaction exceeding Rs 1 crore under the Rupee-Kyat Settlement Mechanism

- India and Myanmar pioneered a new bilateral trade payment system as the Yangon office of Punjab National Bank completed the first transaction exceeding Rs 1 crore for a shipment of pulses under the Rupee-Kyat Settlement Mechanism.
- The initiative aims to streamline trade transactions between India and Myanmar, enhancing efficiency by eliminating complexities associated with exchange rates through direct payment in local currencies.
- The Central Bank of Myanmar introduced guidelines for payment procedures via the Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA) on January 26 this year.

#### Air India Welcomes First A320 Neo Aircraft



- Tata Group-owned Air India welcomed its first narrow-body aircraft Airbus A320 Neo
- This introduction marks the first time Air India is offering premium economy on its narrow-body aircraft.
- The A320 Neo is expected to enter service in August 2024.
- Air India was started by J.R.D. Tata and had its first flight on October 15, 1932.

 The airline had been owned by the government for 69 years before it was bought back by the Tata Group in January 2022.

### Bajaj Auto launches world's first CNG motorcycle



- Bajaj Auto launched the world's first CNG motorcycle 'Freedom'.
- Bajaj Auto Ltd launched the world's first CNG motorcycle, the Freedom, priced between ₹95,000 and ₹1,10,000.

#### Airbus and Tata to launch first made-in-India H125 helicopter by 2026



- Airbus, in collaboration with Tata, will set up a Final Assembly Line for H-125 helicopters in India, with production starting in 2026 and an initial output of 10 helicopters per year.
- Airbus is aiming to produce up to 50 helicopters annually.
- It is enhancing its presence in India for helicopter maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) with investments in digital and engineering capabilities.

#### Hindustan Zinc Launches Asia's First Low-Carbon Zinc, EcoZen

- Hindustan Zinc introduced EcoZen certified to have a carbon footprint under one tonne of carbon equivalent per tonne of zinc.
- EcoZen's carbon footprint is about 75% lower than the global average, aiding a 400 kg reduction in carbon emissions per tonne of steel galvanized.

Hindustan Zinc aims to cut carbon emissions by 50% by 2030, with a commitment to Net Zero by 2050.



#### India's Retail Digital Payment Likely To Double To 7 Trillion Dollars By 2030: Report



- India's digital payments are likely to reach \$7
  trillion, double as compared to current levels by
  2030, according to Kerney and Amazon Pay joint
  study report named 'How Urban India Pays'.
- The digital transaction levels have seen a 138 % growth in the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments levels from the financial year 2018 to 2024
- UPI is developed by the National Payments
   Corporation of India (NPCI). UPI transactions were introduced in India on April 11, 2016.
- India's digital payments for retail transactions have grown to \$3.6 trillion in the financial year 2023-24
- The report also states that India's e-commerce market is expected to grow 21 per cent by 2030.
- India's digital transactions alone clocked in 46 % of the entire world's digital payment volumes in 2022

### Jio Financial Services gained RBI approval for CIC conversion



- Jio Financial Services received the Reserve Bank of India's approval to convert from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to a Core Investment Company (CIC)
- As a CIC, Jio Financial will focus on investments in equity, preference shares, bonds, and loans within its group companies, enhancing operational flexibility and investment management.

### Uniform IGST rate of 5% for aircraft parts effective from July 15

- The government announced that the implementation of a uniform IGST rate of 5% on all aircraft and aircraft engine parts had come into effect
- 53rd GST council recommended a uniform 5% tax on imports of parts, components, testing equipment, tools and toolkits of aircraft, irrespective of their HSN code with the aim to reduce operational costs, resolve tax credit issues, and attract investment.
- "Previously, the varying GST rates of 5%,12%, 18%, and 28% on aircraft components created challenges
- This new policy eliminates these disparities, simplifies the tax structure, and fosters growth in the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) sector
- IGST stands for Integrated Goods and Services Tax.
- It is a type of indirect tax that is levied on the interstate supply of goods and services in India.

 IGST is collected by the central government, and the revenue is shared between the central and state governments.

### IndianOil launches high-speed car racing fuel STORM-X.



- Indian Oil partnered with Madras Motor Sports Club to supply STORM-X for the Indian National Racing Championship.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Indian Oil) was formed in 1964 through the merger of Indian Oil Company Ltd. (Estd. 1959) and Indian Refineries Ltd. (Estd. 1958).
- India's highest ranked Energy PSU in Fortune-500 list of 2023 (Rank 94)

#### What Is Money Dysmorphia?

- Money dysmorphia is an emerging phenomenon where individuals have a distorted view of their financial status, often perceiving their financial situation as worse than it is.
- This condition affects people across all income levels, including the wealthy.
- Gen Z, those born between 1997 and 2012, are particularly susceptible to this condition, influenced heavily by social media and societal pressures.

#### Aditya Birla Group Launches Indriya To Enter Indian Jewellery Market



 The Aditya Birla Group ventured into the rapidly expanding Rs 6.7 lakh crore Indian jewellery market with the launch of its in-house brand Indriya.

#### Hindenburg Research alleges SEBI chief



- The U.S.-based short seller alleged that the chairperson of India's stock market regulator, in charge of probing these issues, herself had a stake in obscure offshore entities used in what it alleged was 'the Adani money siphoning scandal'.
- Almost 18 months after Hindenburg Research flagged allegations of malfeasance and stock price manipulation at the Adani group of companies,

#### **Timeline of Events**

- 24 Jan. 2023
  - Hindenburg Research accuses Adani Group of financial irregularities, leading to a 10% drop in Adani shares and a USD 150 billion loss.
- 2 Mar. 2023
  - Supreme Court orders SEBI to investigate and sets up an expert panel to review the allegations.
- 8 Mar. 2023
  - Expert panel reports no regulatory failure in Adani's case.
- Jan. 2024
  - Supreme Court dismisses a plea for a CBI probe; Adani declares the truth has prevailed.
- 10 Aug. 2024
  - Hindenburg alleges SEBI chief Madhabi Puri-Buch and her husband have investments linked to Adani.
- 11 Aug. 2024
  - SEBI chief and her husband deny Hindenburg's allegations.

### NPCI Launches 'UPI Circle' for Secure Payments Among Trusted Users

- This feature allows primary UPI account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users.
- "Delegated Payments" would allow an individual (primary user) to set a UPI transaction limit for another individual (secondary user) on the primary user's bank account.
- For example, a parent can pay on behalf of their children. Similarly, elderly citizens don't need to make payments themselves; instead delegate the payments to their children.

### Zomato to launch new app 'District' to capture its 'going-out' market





Contain IN W EVE

- Zomato is launching the 'District' app to consolidate various going-out services like dining, movies, sports ticketing, live performances, shopping, and staycations.
- The 'District' app positions Zomato as a competitor to platforms like BookMyShow and aligns with their strategy to become a comprehensive onestop destination for various going-out activities.
- Zomato CEO: Deepinder Goyal.

### CCI Raises Concerns Over \$8.5 Billion Reliance-Disney Merger

| Aspect               | Details                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Name of              | Competition Commission of India    |
| Body                 | (CCI)                              |
| Туре                 | Statutory body within the Ministry |
|                      | of Corporate Affairs               |
| Purpose              | Enforces the Competition Act, 2002 |
|                      | to promote competition and         |
|                      | prevent activities that negatively |
|                      | impact competition                 |
| <b>Key Functions</b> | Investigates cases affecting       |
|                      | competition; approves mergers to   |
|                      | prevent market dominance           |
| Established          | 14 October 2003                    |
| Fully                | May 2009                           |
| Functional           | 740r.                              |
| Since                |                                    |

| First       | Dhanendra Kumar                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Chairperson | 700                              |
| Current     | Ravneet Kaur (appointed in 2023) |
| Chairperson |                                  |



### Ola becomes only EV maker to secure PLI certification for four electric scooters



- Ola Electric received certification for compliance with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for four products: S1 Air, S1 Pro, and S1 X models in both 3 kWh and 4 kWh versions.
- This certification was awarded by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)
- The company stands to receive incentives ranging from 13% to 18% of the determined sales value of compliant products for up to five consecutive financial years starting from Fiscal 2024.
- The PLI scheme, unveiled by the government in 2021 with a budgetary outlay of INR 25,938 crore, aims to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

 The scheme focuses on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), such as Battery Electric and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles, by providing financial incentives to automobile OEMs and component makers

### India to launch 'ULI' platform for rural, small business lending, RBI governor

- Currently in the pilot stage, the Unified Lending
  Interface (ULI) is expected to reduce turnaround
  time for processing and sanctioning loans, while
  shrinking the complexities for the parties involved
  in the process i.e. lenders and borrowers.
- The platform is aimed at catering to a large unmet demand for credit across various sectors, particularly for agricultural and medium small and micro enterprises (MSME) borrowers.
- The platform will ease the flow of information required by a lender for processing a loan.

### Tata Power Solar & ICICI Bank offers Solar Financing



- Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (TPSSL) and ICICI Bank partnered to offer solar unit financing with loans up to Rs 90 lakh.
- Customers can access collateral-free loans with tenures up to 5 years and higher loans with collateral for up to 20 years.
- Flexible down-payment options of 20-25% make investing in solar energy more accessible.

### NPCI introduces BBPS for Business, UPI Circle to boost digital payments



- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the introduction of two new offerings:
  - Bharat BillPay (BBPS) for Business, designed to streamline business-to-business (B2B) transactions
  - ➤ **UPI Circle**, which is a delegated payments feature
- RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das unveiled these products at the Global FinTech Festival in Mumbai
- Bharat BillPay for Business aims to standardise, simplify and automate various invoice payment processes for day-to-day business operations irrespective of size of the business.
  - Offerings like business onboarding, search and add business, purchase order (PO) creation, invoice management, automated reminders, financing, AR (Accounts Receivable) and AP (Accounts Payable) dashboard, and online dispute resolution are inbuilt in this platform.
- <u>UPI Circle</u> is a delegated payment feature that allows a primary UPI user to link with trusted secondary users, granting them partial or full access to their account for making payments.

#### RIL Becomes India's First Company to Surpass Rs 10 Lakh Crore in Annual Revenue



 Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to surpass ₹10 lakh crore in annual revenue for FY 2023-24

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

 Hitachi Payment Services has launched the country's first Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine (CRM) designated HPDx-BU01, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

### Central Government Hikes Minimum Wage Rates, Effective From 1st October



- Amid a rise in cost of living, the Union government announced a hike in minimum wage rates for workers up to Rs 1,035 a day by revising variable dearness allowance (VDA).
- The Central Government revises the VDA twice a year, effective from April 1 and October 1, based on the six-month average increase in the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers.
- The minimum wage rates are categorized based on skill levels-unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled-as well as by geographical area - A, B, and C.

### FM Nirmala Sitharaman chaired 54<sup>th</sup> GST Council meeting in New Delhi

- Attended by state finance ministers and tax officials
- New system for GST invoice management from October 1.
- GST Council reduces GST rate on cancer drugs from 12% to 5%
- Funds given for research to Central & State
  universities, and those who have obtained income
  tax exemption, are exempted from GST
- GST on religious travel via helicopter reduced from 18% to 5%
- Rate on car seats up from 18% to 28%
- The Constitution (101st) Amendment Act,
   2016 allows both the centre and states to levy the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- GST replaced various central and state taxes such as excise duty, service tax, sales tax, entry tax and entertainment tax
- Article 279A(2): The Goods and Services Tax Council shall consist of:

| Chairperson | The Union Finance Minister            |  |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Members     | The Union Minister of State in charge |  |
| 1           | of Revenue or Finance                 |  |

The Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government

### Adani Airports launches 'aviio' to provide real-time data on passenger, baggage flow



- Adani Airports Holdings Ltd, the Adani group firm that operates seven airports in the country, has launched 'aviio' digital platform that will provide real-time data on passenger movement, baggage flow, wait time at gates and bags on belt.
- Adani operates seven airports in the country
  - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at Mumbai
  - 2. Sardar Vallabbhai Patel International Airport at Ahmedabad
  - 3. Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
  - 4. Mangaluru International Airport
  - 5. Jaipur International Airport
  - 6. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at Guwahati
  - 7. Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala

### **UPI Users can now Send 5 Lakh For Some Transactions**



- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which manages the UPI operations in the country, has decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.
- Last month, NPCI introduced the 'UPI Circle', a feature designed to enable primary UPI account holders to delegate payment responsibilities to secondary users securely.

### For SeamLess Market Access SEBI Launches FPI Outreach Cell

Markets regulator Sebi launched a dedicated
 Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) outreach cell





- to improve and simplify the experience of such investors and supporting them in accessing the Indian securities market seamlessly.
- The cell operates under SEBI's Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department (AFD).

#### **FDI vs FPI**

- FDI involves investment in tangible assets like factories, infrastructure, and subsidiaries, while
- FPI involves investment in financial instruments like stocks, bonds, and other securities

| Parameters                       | FDI  | FPI   |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Definition                       | FDI refers to the investment made<br>by foreign investors to obtain a<br>substantial interest in an<br>enterprise located in a different<br>country. | FPI refers to investing in the financial assets of a foreign country, such as stocks or bonds available on an exchange. |  |  |
| Role of Investor Active Investor |  | Passive Investor  |  |  |
| Type Direct Investment           |  | Indirect Investment   |  |  |
| Degree of Control                | High Control   | Very Low Control  |  |  |
| Investment Done<br>On            | Physical assets of the foreign country   | Financial assets of the foreign country   |  |  |
| Term                             | Long Term  | Short Term  |  |  |
| Entry & Exit                     | Difficult  | Relatively Easy   |  |  |
| Leads to                         | Transfer of funds, technology, and other resources to the foreign country  | Capital inflows to the foreign country  |  |  |
| Risk                             | Stable   | Volatile  |  |  |

### NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status

- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has granted the navratna status to four more state-owned public enterprises –
  - 1. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd
  - 2. Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd
  - 3. Railtel Corporation of India Ltd

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd
 The number of navratna firms have increased to 25 as a result, from 21 earlier. Navratna status provides more financial autonomy to the entities.



#### **Railtel Corporation of India Ltd**

 RailTel was formed as a PSU fully owned by Railways in Sept, 2000

#### **Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd**

 It was set up on 20th September 2011 to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM)

#### **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd**

 It was incorporated in 1975 with the objective of developing hydroelectric power in the country.

#### Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd

 It was incorporated in 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.



## RINL Bags 3 Gold Awards at International Convention on Quality Control Circles 2024



- The International Convention on Quality Control Circles (ICQCC-2024), was organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP) at Colombo, Sri Lanka in Hybrid mode (In person & online) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Nov'24.
- All the above three teams from RINL have bagged the prestigious "GOLD Awards" at ICQCC-2024.
- 3 LQC (lean quality circle) teams from RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant i.e.
   'ARMOR' from SBM (Special Bar Mill), 'TARANGINI' from QA&TD(Quality Assurance & Technology Development) and 'SADHANA' from SMS-1(Steel Melt Shop-1) presented their case studies (O"line) from Centre for HRD of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.
- QC team "ARMOR" presented their case study on "Minimizing Power & Free hook (P&F) Chain Downtime by eliminating Structure Damage".
- QC team "TARANGINI" presented their case study on "Cyanide determination in water using micro diffusion Cells".
- QC team "SADHANA" presented their case study on "Surge Hopper-2 Modification".

### GAIL Wins SAP ACE Award for Financial Innovation





GAL (India) has won the SAP ACE Award 2024 for Best Financial Transformation, the second consecutive year it has surned the recognition. The award highights the company's impressive achievement in digitally transforming its trust secounting process using SAP Transury and Risk Management (TRM), demonstrating its dedication to financial innovation and operational excellence.

 GAIL (India) Limited has won the SAP ACE Award 2024 for Best Financial Transformation, the second consecutive year it has earned the recognition.

- The award highlights the company's impressive achievement in digitally transforming its trust accounting process using SAP Treasury and Risk Management (TRM), demonstrating its dedication to financial innovation and operational excellence.
- · GAIL Director (Finance) Shri R K Jain
- GAIL (India) Ltd was incorporated in August 1984
- SAP ACE awards are an industry benchmark to recognise the best-run businesses in the Indian subcontinent

### CII working with MCA to roll out PM Internship Scheme



- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is working closely with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to facilitate the implementation of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme that was announced in the Budget.
- will be launched on October 3, 2024.
- The PM Internship Scheme aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth (between 21 and 24 years of age) in 500 top CSR spend companies in the next five years.
- the selected youth under the scheme will receive a monthly stipend of up to INR 5000. The applicants will also receive a one-time financial assistance of INR 6000.
- The PM Internship Scheme will enhance youth employability in India by offering them hands-on exposure to real-world business environments.
- The scheme will also benefit the industry by creating a pipeline of skilled, work-ready youth who can be employed post-internship both in large as well as micro, small and medium enterprise
- The MCA has also developed a dedicated portal to streamline the application process

#### Periodic labour force survey 2024

- Edition:7th
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the period between July 2023 and June 2024
- released by the Labour Bureau
- Published by: National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

 Increasing Trend in Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons of age 15 years and above

| : Servery: | Rend |        |       |      | Orber   |        |      | Restriction |        |  |
|------------|------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|------|-------------|--------|--|
| period     | make | femals | 28000 | mete | Partule | person | mele | Parmois     | person |  |
| (10)       | (8)  | (10    | (4)   | 99   | 99      | (n     | (91) | 109         | CHIL   |  |
| 2023-24    | 80.7 | 47.6   | 63.7  | 79.8 | 28.0    | 52.0   | 28.8 | 43.7        | 80.3   |  |
| 2622-29    | 100  | 41.5   | 90.8  | 74.5 | 25.4    | 50.4   | 743  | 30738       | 971    |  |
| 1027-22    | 38.7 | 34.6   | 57.5  | 74.7 | 23.8    | 49.7   | 27.2 | 12.8        | 55     |  |
| 3620-21    | 16.1 | 34.5   | 52.4  | 24.6 | 35.0    | 49.1   | 77 A | 30.5        | 141    |  |
| 2019-20    | 77.9 | akd    | 963   | 79.6 | 28.0    | 49.0   | 74.0 | N/A         | 54.    |  |
| 2015-19    | 76.6 | 39.4   | 40.6  | 39.7 | 20.6    | 47.6   | 764  | 24.6        | 44     |  |
| 2017-18    | 76.6 | 246    | 967   | 76.5 | 20.4    | 619    | 75.6 | 29.9        | 44.    |  |

- in rural areas, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased from 50.7% in 2017-18 to 63.7% in 2023-24
- while for urban areas it increased from 47.6% to 52.0%.
- LFPR for male in India increased from 75.8% in 2017-18 to 78.8% in 2023-24
- corresponding increase in LFPR for female was from 23.3% to 41.7%,"
- Decreasing Trend in Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons of age 15 years and above

| Indicator    |             | Aural       |           |             | SVSet.    |             |            | Russin-Urban |            |  |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|--|
| HORSEL .     | mate        | Approals    | 201540    | make        | female    | person      | male       | female:      | penen      |  |
| (r)          | [2]         | (N)         | (4)       | (%)         | 361       | 121         | -980       | 191          | inet       |  |
| 2023-24      | 2.7         | 2.3         | 2.5       | 4,4         | 7.1       | 51          | 12         | 5.2          | 5.2        |  |
| 2022-23      | 2.7         | 1.0         | 24        | 4.7         | 7.6       | 54          | 3.3        | 2,9          | 3,3        |  |
| 2021-22      | 3.6         | 2.1         | 1.1       | 5.8         | 7.0       | 41          | 4.4        | 1.6          | - 61       |  |
| 2020-21      | 1.6         | 2.1         | 335       | 6.1         | 8.6       | 67          | 45         | 3.5          | 6.7        |  |
| 2019-20      | 45          | 1,6         | 1.9       | - 64        | 6.9       | 6,0         | 5.0        | 4.3          | 4.9        |  |
| 2018-19      | 1.5         | 80          | 10        | 2,9         | 9.6       | 7.6         | 41         | 11           | 13         |  |
| 2017-18      | 1.7         | 3.8         | 3.3       | - 17        | 10.6      | 17          | 1.1        | 3.4          | 6.0        |  |
| Mater (Imme) | s) distante | end control | mong both | principal i | scowy out | er And auto | distry and | NOTE ALTO    | dy.startus |  |

- In rural areas, the unemployment rate (UR) decreased from 5.3% in 2017-18 to 2.5% in 2023-24
- while for urban areas it decreased from 7.7% to 5.1%.
- UR for male in India decreased from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24
- corresponding decrease for female was from 5.6%
   to 3.2%
- The overall unemployment rate is 3.2%, similar to last year.

### Top 5 States & UTs with highest unemployment rate

| Ra<br>nk | Indian State/Uni on Territory | Male<br>unemplo<br>yed (%) | Female<br>unemplo<br>yed (%) | Total<br>unemplo<br>yed (%) |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1        | Lakshadw                      | 26.2                       | 79.7                         | 36.2                        |
| l        | еер                           |                            |                              | VV .                        |

| 2   | Andaman   | 24   | 49.5 | 33.6 |
|-----|-----------|------|------|------|
| - 7 | & Nicobar |      |      | 360  |
| 60  | Islands   | _ ^  |      | 223  |
| 3   | Kerala    | 19.3 | 47.1 | 29.9 |
| 4   | Nagaland  | 27.9 | 26.6 | 27.4 |
| 5   | Manipur   | 19.9 | 27.5 | 22.9 |

#### Top 5 states and UTs with the lowest youth unemployment rate

| Ran<br>k | Indian<br>State/Un<br>ion<br>Territory | Male<br>unemplo<br>yed (%) | Female<br>unemplo<br>yed (%) | Total<br>unemplo<br>yed (%) |
|----------|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1        | Madhya<br>Pradesh                      | 2.8                        | 2.1                          | 2.6                         |
| 2        | Gujarat                                | 3.3                        | 2.7                          | 3.1                         |
| 3        | Jharkhan<br>d                          | 4.8                        | 1.5                          | 3.6                         |
| 4        | Delhi                                  | 4.6                        | 4.8                          | 4.6                         |
| 5        | Chhattisg<br>arh                       | 6.6                        | 5.8                          | 6.3                         |

#### RBI's proposed LCR norms will curtail banks' lending to NBFCs further

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed new liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) norms for banks in India, under Basel-III norms, which are expected to take effect on April 1, 2025
- Under the new LCR norms, banks will be required to assign an additional 5% run-off factor for retail deposits enabled with internet and mobile banking facilities.
- As a result, banks will have fewer funds for lending.
- The RBI's new draft norms propose that banks increase the liquidity cover for 'stable deposits'those from which withdrawals are infrequent from 5% to 10%.
- For 'less stable deposits,' which are more prone to withdrawal, the required liquidity cover will rise from 10% to 15%.
- The RBI's guidelines also require that the valuation of government bonds used to maintain liquidity be based on their current market price, rather than their printed price.
- This change aims to ensure that banks hold accurate amounts of liquid assets.
- The new norms could force banks to invest more in government securities and slow credit growth.
- If implemented in the current form, is likely to make it more difficult for low-rated non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to obtain cheaper credit from banks

- The draft guidelines are expected to skew bank lending towards NBFCs with AAA or AA ratings.
- The year-on-year growth in bank credit to nonbanking finance companies (NBFCs) has dropped sharply to 8.5% as of June 2024 from 36% in October 2022.

#### Liquidity coverage ratio (LCR)

It is a measure of the proportion of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) that financial institutions must hold to meet their liquidity needs for a 30-



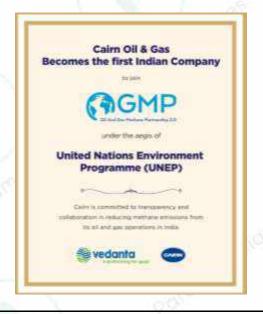
day period under severe liquidity stress.

The LCR is calculated by dividing a firm's HQLA by its net cash outflow amount.

#### Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)

- A NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956
- engaged in the business of loans and advances, the acquisition of
  - shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities
- Example Bajaj Finserv, Power Finance Corporation Limited, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Service, Muthoot Finance Ltd
- The functions are managed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the RBI.
- RBI has the authority to issue licenses to NBFCs

#### Cairn becomes India's 1st oil & gas company to join UNEP's OGMP 2.0.



- Cairn Oil & Gas, part of Vedanta Group, has signed a memorandum of understanding with United Nations Environment Programme's flagship methane reporting and mitigation initiative - Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0,
- making it the first oil and gas producer in India to commit to effective reduction of methane emissions.
- OGMP 2.0 provides a comprehensive framework for emissions management, supporting Cairn's goal of Net Zero by 2030.
- Cairn will establish a 5-year methane reduction target and transparently report its progress to OGMP.

### ABB India gets SEBI warning for breach of norms by employees

- ABB India on Friday (November 15, 2024) said it has received a warning letter from stock markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for violation of insider trading rules by two of its employees.
- ABB is a global technology leader in electrification and automation.

#### **Insider Trading**

- Insider trading refers to the illegal practice of trading a company's securities (such as stocks or bonds) based on material, non-public information about the company. This can give insiders an unfair advantage over other investors who do not have access to this information.
- Legal vs. Illegal: While some insider trading is legal
   (e.g., when corporate insiders trade their own
   stock in compliance with regulatory requirements),
   illegal insider trading occurs when the
   information is not publicly available and is used
   for personal gain
- In India, insider trading is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) through the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015. These regulations have been amended to strengthen the framework and ensure better enforcement

### India's Outward FDI Hits \$3.7 Billion in October 2024

- India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments rose to \$3.24 billion in October 2024, up from \$2.55 billion in October 2023.
- However, sequentially, they declined from \$3.77
   billion in September 2024, according to data from

the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Outbound FDI, expressed as a financial commitment, comprises three components: equity, loans, and guarantees.



#### **Outward FDI**

- Outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) refers to investments made by a domestic company in a foreign country. This can take various forms, such as:
- Greenfield Investments: Establishing new operations or subsidiaries in a foreign country from scratch.
- Mergers and Acquisitions: Acquiring or merging with existing businesses in the foreign country.
- Expansion of Existing Facilities: Expanding the operations of an existing foreign subsidiary.

### RBI's New Framework for Converting FPI Holdings to FDI

- The Reserve Bank of India on Monday issued an operational framework for reclassification of investment made by a foreign portfolio investor to foreign direct investment (FDI) if the entity breaches the prescribed limit.
- Any FPI investing in breach of the prescribed limit
  has the option of divesting their holdings or
  reclassifying such holdings as FDI subject to the
  conditions specified by the RBI and Sebi within
  five trading days from the date of settlement of
  the trades causing the breach.
- For reclassification, the entire investment held by such FPI should be reported within the timelines as specified under the Foreign Exchange Management (Mode of Payment and Reporting of Non-Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2019.

### SEBI:Ban on futures trading on 7 Agricultural commodities till Jan 25



- India extended the suspension of trading in derivative contracts for key farm commodities until January, as the world's largest importer of vegetable oils and a major producer of wheat and rice seeks to curb food inflation.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) initially ordered a year-long suspension of futures trading in key farm commodities in 2021 a significant move since futures trading was allowed in 2003.
- The suspension was first extended until Dec. 20, 2023, and later to Dec. 20, 2024.
- SEBI said the suspension of trading in futures contracts would now continue until Jan. 31, 2025, on soybean and its derivatives, crude palm oil, wheat, paddy rice, chickpeas, green gram and rapeseed.

### SEBI Mandated MF Companies to Process Cancellations of SIP in 2 Days



- Mutual fund investors can now cancel their
   Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) faster, as the
   Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has
   reduced the processing time to two working days.
   This updated guideline, effective from December 1,
   2024, replaces the earlier timeline of 10 working
   days.
- Mandatory Reason for Cancellation: When cancelling an SIP, investors must provide a reason

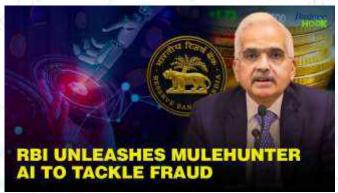
from a predefined list. This requirement helps fund houses collect data on investor behaviour, which



#### could lead to improvements in their offerings.

 If Investors face temporary financial constraints, pausing a SIP may be a better option than cancelling it. SIP pause options are available but come with restrictions, such as limits on duration and frequency, which vary by fund house. A cancelled SIP, on the other hand, requires reregistration to restart.

### RBI Unveils MuleHunter.AI to Fight Financial Fraud



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has created an artificial intelligence (AI) powered model that could reduce digital fraud by helping banks deal with the increasing problem of "mule" bank accounts.
- The model, called MuleHunter.AI, has been developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), Bengaluru, a subsidiary of the central bank.
- MuleHunter.Al enables detection of mule bank accounts in an efficient manner

#### What is a mule bank account?

- A mule account is a bank account that is used by criminals for illegal activities, including the laundering of illicit funds.
- A mule account is typically bought over by the criminals from their original users, individuals who are often from lower income groups, or have low levels of technical literacy.

 The related term "money mule" is used to describe the innocent victims who are used by the criminals to launder stolen or illegal money via their bank accounts.

### FDI inflows into India cross \$1 trillion between 2000-2024: DPIIT

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is when a company or individual from one country invests in a company or assets in another country. It can involve acquiring a stake in an existing business or starting a new subsidiary.
- FDI inflows into India have crossed the \$1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-September 2024 period
- About 25% of the FDI came through the Mauritius route. It was followed by Singapore (24%), the
   U.S. (10%), the Netherlands (7%), Japan (6%), the
   U.K. (5%)
- Key sectors attracting the maximum of these inflows include the services segment, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, trading, construction development, automobile, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals

### **RBI Launches Podcast Series for Public Communication**



- Reserve Bank of India has decided to launch podcasts for wider dissemination of information that is of interest to the public.
- podcasts will help explain things simply among the wider section of the society.

### RBI Leads Global Gold Purchases with Record Reserves Surge

- RBI added 27 tonnes of gold in October 2024, increasing India's total reserves to 882 tonnes.
- Total reserves: 882 tonnes, with 510 tonnes held domestically.

- RBI bought 77 tonnes, a five-fold increase compared to the same period in 2023.
- Turkey: 72 tonnes, Poland: 69 tonnes, India: 77 tonnes (January-October).

#### Hinduja Tech finalizes acquisition of Tecosim

- Hinduja Tech Ltd has completed the acquisition of Germany-based engineering services provider TECOSIM Group, marking a significant milestone in its vision to be among the top 10 global mobility engineering companies.
- Hinduja Tech Ltd, a subsidiary of heavy commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland, is a mobility-focused global engineering, research and development technology company.

### Government scraps windfall tax on crude oil, petrol, diesel and ATF

- According to the Ministry of Finance notification, the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) commonly referred to as the windfall tax—on the production of petroleum crude and the export of ATF, petrol, and high-speed diesel will no longer apply.
- The windfall tax, which was reviewed every 15 days based on fluctuations in global crude oil prices,

### SEBI pushes for interoperability between NSE and BSE during outages from April 1

 It has been decided that to begin with, NSE would act as an alternative trading venue for BSE and vice-versa. Both exchanges would prepare a joint SOP that would include a plan to be invoked at the time of outage on one exchange along with the flow of activity involving the affected exchange and its alternative trading venue and the roles/responsibilities of each of them.

### PhonePe Ends Partnership with Juspay, Opts for Direct Integration with Merchants

- Digital payments major PhonePe discontinued its partnership with payment orchestration platform Juspay citing its plans to directly integrate its payments solutions for its merchants.
- Juspay is an online payment aggregator (PA). It received a final nod to operate as a PA in February this year.

## Morgan Stanley has revised India's GDP growth projection for FY25 down to 6.3%, from its previous estimate of 6.7%

- Morgan Stanley has again cut its GDP growth projection for India to 6.3 per cent for this fiscal year, down from its earlier estimate of 6.7 per cent. This come days after India's GDP slowed to a seven quarter low in the July-September quarter. Morgan Stanley had cut India's growth target for FY25 to 6.7% earlier in November.
- Despite this moderation, Morgan Stanley maintains an optimistic view for the second half of FY25, projecting a rebound in growth.

### ADB Revises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5% for FY25, 7% for FY26

 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday lowered its India growth forecast for the current financial year (FY25) to 6.5 per cent from 7 per cent earlier.



 "India's growth in Q2 slowed more than expected due to weak industrial output as tighter prudential norms by the central bank curtailed growth in unsecured personal loans, along with muted public capital spending and elevated food prices," the latest Asian Development Outlook noted.

### OECD Raises India's FY25 Growth Forecast to 6.8%

- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Tuesday raised India's economic growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.8% from 6.6% in May, driven by strong investment and agricultural output.
- It had earlier forecast 6.7% growth for the country in its September interim outlook.

### Coca-Cola Sells 40% Stake in India Bottling Business to Jubilant Bhartia Group



- Coca-Cola Company will offload 40% in its wholly-owned Indian bottling arm, Hindustan Coca-Cola
  Beverages (HCCB), to Jubilant Bhartia Group for
  ₹12,500 crore (\$1.47 billion).
- The deal is the biggest by Jubilant Bhartia, promoter of the pizza-to-pharma conglomerate that has exclusive franchise rights for Domino's Pizza. India's largest foods services brand is operated by Jubilant Foodworks.

### Home ministry ropes in Razorpay to boost cyber security around digital payments



- Fintech firm Razorpay has has partnered with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and will lead an extensive campaign to educate businesses and consumers on critical topics concerning cybersecurity
- India contributes to 46 per cent of the world's digital payment volume.
- Recent data from the National Cybercrime
  Reporting Portal revealed a sharp revealed a sharp
  increase in digital fraud incidents across India,
  with over 7,000 complaints reported daily
  (between January and April 2024). 85% of these
  complaints involve financial fraud

## The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will establish a subsidiary at GIFT City



The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has established a subsidiary at the **Gujarat** 

- **International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City),** India's international financial services centre.
- The subsidiary has been granted regulatory approval by the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and is now operational.

#### NIPL & Trinidad and Tobago Partners to Develop UPI-like Payments System



- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- partnered with the Ministry of Digital
   Transformation (MDT) of Trinidad and Tobago to develop a real-time payments platform similar to India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- for both person-to-person (P2P) and person-tomerchant (P2M) transactions
- In June, NIPL inked an agreement with the central bank of Peru
- In May this year, the payments body entered into an agreement with the Bank of Namibia (BoN)

## RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting: policy rate unchanged at 6.5% for 10th time in a row



- RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for a tenth time in row.
- SDF (Standing Deposit facility) rate at 6.25%, MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) and bank rates were kept unchanged at 6.75%.

- GDP: The GDP growth forecast for FY25 retained at 7.2%. Across quarters, GDP growth rate was pegged at 7% in Q2, followed by 7.4% in both Q3 and Q4, and a slight dip to 7.3% in Q1 of FY26.
- Rupee update: Indian rupee continues to be the least volatile among other currencies, said RBI governor.
- Inflation: Inflation for FY25 is projected at 4.5%,
   with quarterly figures at 4.1% in Q2, rising to 4.8% in Q3, and easing slightly to 4.3% in Q1 FY26.
- FPIs: FPI flows seen a turnaround from net outflows to net inflows to \$19.2 bn during June-Oct

#### RBI takes a 'neutral' stance

- The Reserve Bank of India, in its 51st Monetary
   Policy meeting, announced a shift of stance
- from 'withdrawal of accommodation' to 'neutral', signalling an upcoming interest rate change
- A neutral stance indicates that the RBI maintains flexibility in adjusting policy rates based on prevailing economic conditions.
- The neutral stance is generally adopted when both inflation control and economic growth are given equal priority, allowing for adjustments in either direction (increase or decrease) as new information arises.

#### What's 'withdrawal of accommodation'?

- When the RBI withdraws accommodation, it signals that it is less inclined to support economic growth through lower rates, focusing instead on stabilising prices.
- A withdrawal of accommodation refers to a more restrictive monetary policy stance where the RBI aims to reduce the money supply in the economy.
- This involves increasing interest rates to curb inflationary pressures.
- The government reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee, appointing three external members —
  - 1. Ram Singh
  - 2. Saugata Bhattacharya
  - 3. Nagesh Kumar
- The MPC has been pivotal since its first formation on September 29, 2016, following amendments to the RBI Act in 2016, which established the committee's role in setting the benchmark interest rate.

### India 4<sup>th</sup> country in the world to have \$700 billion Forex Reserves



- India is now the fourth country in the entire world to cross \$700 billion in foreign exchange reserves, currently preceded by China, Japan, and Switzerland
- India's foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$700 billion mark for the first time ever in September
   2024
- India's foreign exchange reserves comprise of;
  - Foreign currency assets (FCAs): These are maintained in currencies like the US dollar, euro, pound sterling, Australian dollar and Japanese yen.
  - ➢ Gold
  - > SDR (Special Drawing Rights): This is the reserve currency with IMF.
  - > RTP (Reserve Tranche Position): This is the reserve capital with IMF.
  - The biggest contributor to India's Forex reserves is foreign currency assets, followed by gold.

#### ADB Approves \$162 Million Loan to Boost Sustainable Tourism Development project in Himachal Pradesh

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

#### **Key Points**

- Type: Regional multilateral institution.
- Founded: December 19, 1966, with 31 founding member countries, including India.
- Headquarters: Philippines.
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

### ADB Approves \$434M Loan for 500 MW Solar Plant in Assam

 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a USD 434.25 million loan to support Assam's renewable energy ambitions by constructing a 500 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in the Karbi Anglong district.

## Centre, ADB sign \$50 million loan agreement for climate-adaptative water harvesting project in Meghalaya

- The Government of India and the Asian
   Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$50 million loan
   aimed at enhancing water security by constructing
   water-harvesting systems to improve access to
   water and reducing community vulnerability
   against climate change impacts in Meghalaya.
- The project will support the construction of 532 small water-storage facilities across 12 districts.
   These facilities will incorporate climate-resilient designs to capture and manage heavy rainfall and flash floods during monsoon season
- the project will train farmers, especially women, to increase livelihood productivity in irrigated agriculture such as horticulture and fishery techniques

### World Bank Approves \$188.28 Million Loan for Maharashtra's Backward Districts

- The World Bank has approved a \$188.28 million loan to support economic growth in Maharashtra, particularly in underdeveloped districts. The initiative aims to enhance district-level planning and growth strategies, the bank announced.
- The loan, provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity period of 15 years, including a five-year grace period.
- One of the key features of the program includes the creation of a Maha Databank, a data governance framework designed to address development challenges, including gender disparities. Moreover, districts achieving annual performance targets will receive fiscal incentives.
- The project will also enhance Maharashtra's online service portals, MAITRI 2.0 for business services and the RTS portal for government services, enabling seamless access to resources for the private sector.

### World Bank approves USD 225.5mn for ELEMENT Project in Tripura, Nagaland

- World Bank approves USD 225.5mn for ELEMENT Project in Tripura, Nagaland.
- Maturity period is 12 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years.
- It is For the Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management (ELEMENT) Project, aimed at

- improving forest management and enhancing economic opportunities in Tripura and Nagaland
- The project will also receive a complementary grant of USD 2.4 million from the Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes (PROGREEN).
- ELEMENT Project will conserve and restore 100,000 hectares of forest for biodiversity and tribal livelihoods. It prevents 435,000 tons of carbon emissions annually to mitigate climate change.

### World Bank okay \$325.10 million loan for U P to boost farmer income



- The World Bank has approved a \$325.10 million loan to the Uttar Pradesh government to boost the farmers' income in the state. The loan will finance the Rs 3,903 crore or \$500 million. Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Growth and Rural Enterprises Ecosystem Strengthening (UP-AGREES) Project.
- The project aims to improve crop productivity and increase farmer's income in the state.
- The World Bank will provide a \$325.10 million loan or Rs 2,737 crore.
- The state government will provide Rs 1,166 crore.
- The private sector is expected to contribute \$15 million to the project.
- The Project is also supported by the governments of France, Israel and the Gates Foundation.
- The duration of the UP-AGREES scheme is six years.
- The UP-AGREES Project aims to increase agricultural productivity and farmers' income in the state's eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand areas.
- The government will send 500 farmers abroad to learn about advanced agricultural techniques.
- The UP AGREES project will be launched in 21 districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh Azamgarh,
   Mau, Bahraich, Balrampur, Gonda, Siddharthnagar,
   Deoria, Basti, Maharajganj, Sant Kabir Nagar,
   Kushinagar, Shravasti,, Gorakhpur,, Jaunpur, Ballia,
   Ghazipur, Varanasi, Chandauli, Mirzapur,
   Sonbhadra and Sant Ravidas Nagar.
- In Bundelkhand, it will be implemented in Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, and Chitrakoot.

### \$98 million ADB loan for Govts Building India's Clean Plant Programme

- India has signed a \$98 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve horticulture crop productivity.
- The project aims to set up clean plant centers equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories for disease diagnostics, staffed with trained experts.

### SEBI Fines Reliance Securities ₹9 Lakh for Rule Violations

- The order came after the regulator and exchanges, NSE and BSE, had conducted a thematic onsite inspection of the books of accounts, records and other documents of authorised persons (APs) of Reliance Securities Ltd (RSL), a Sebi-registered stock broker.
- The inspection was conducted for the period from April 2022 to December 2023.
- Sebi has mandated brokers to retain verifiable evidence of client orders to ensure transparency and prevent unauthorised trades.

## After JP Morgan & Bloomberg, FTSE Russell to include Indian bonds in EMGB index from Sept 2025

- London based Global index provider FTSE Russell to include India's sovereign bonds in its Emerging Markets Government Bond Index (EMGBI) from September 2025
- In September 2023, JP Morgan Chase & Co had announced the inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan GBI-EM Global index starting in June 2024.
- In March this year, Bloomberg said that it will include Indian bonds in its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices, effective January 31, 2025.

## SEBI Proposes Reforms to Enhance business Flexibility and investment Protection for REITs and InvITs



SEBI PROPOSES REFORMS TO ENHANCE FLEXIBILITY AND PROTECTION FOR REITS AND INVITS

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
  has proposed measures aimed at enhancing the
  operational framework for Real Estate Investment
  Trust (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts
  (InvITs).
- SEBI is considering allowing REITs and Small and Medium REITs (SM REITs) to utilise interest rate derivatives, such as swaps, to hedge against fluctuations in interest rates.

#### REIT

 Real Estate Investment Trust invests in real estate projects like offices, malls, industrial parks, and warehouses.

#### InvIT

 Infrastructure Investment Trust invests in infrastructure projects like highways, power plants, and roads.

EITs and InvITs are similar to mutual funds, and investors can make money from them through **periodic payouts and appreciation in the unit price**.

They are also known for their **favorable tax treatment**, such as exemption from dividend distribution tax and relaxation of capital gains tax.

# RBI Publishes Research Study titled "Status of Digital Financial Literacy in Lakshadweep Islands: Bottlenecks and Way Forward"

- RBI placed this research on its website under the Project Research Study.
- The study is based on the primary data collected from all the ten inhabited islands in Lakshadweep

   Agatti, Amini, Andrott, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy - to analyse the present status of digital financial literacy and digital financial inclusion.

#### Major findings of the study are the following:

- All respondents in the surveyed islands reported access to bank deposit accounts.
- about 90% of the respondents reporting an operation of their accounts for the purposes of savings.
- Though there was no gender gap in the access to bank deposit accounts, there was a considerable difference between men and women with regard to banking habits in general, and usage of deposit accounts in particular.

- While about 91% of the men operated their accounts by themselves, the corresponding figure among women was 71%.
- Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) were the most popularly used means of digital banking in the islands
- About 90% of the respondents in the islands had ATM cards, while 80% reported an actual usage of these cards.
- Internet banking was not widely prevalent in the islands and only about 38% of the respondents used mobile banking.
- Only about 30% of the survey respondents were familiar with digital hygiene habits assessed in terms of usage of public Internet connections.

### UP's Rural Women Drive Rs 27,000 Crore in Financial Transactions

- Enterprising women business correspondents, known as BC Sakhis, have facilitated transactions worth Rs 27,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh, over the past four and a half years.
- BC Sakhis, appointed under the nationwide women empowerment programme, are members of self-help groups (SHGs) who are trained and certified to provide banking and financial services in rural areas - unbanked and under-banked regions
- Uttar Pradesh leads the nation in the number of BC Sakhis, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
- The program was launched in May 2020.
- provides livelihood opportunities for literate women in rural areas while offering doorstep banking services in the absence of physical bank branches.
- The program works with banks like State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and Union Bank.
- The program prioritizes women from families of teachers, bankers, and ex-servicemen.
- The central government aims to appoint at least one BC Sakhi in each of India's gram panchayats.

### **Indian Navy Partners with Bajaj Allianz for Naval Civilians' Insurance Coverage**

- The Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Allianz Life
   Insurance Company (BALIC), a private life insurer, to provide tailored life insurance solutions to its civilian personnel.
- aligns with the Indian Navy's "Year of Naval Civilians" initiative, offering affordable,

- comprehensive coverage and educational sessions on the importance of life insurance.
- Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

#### SEBI Allows MFs to Sell Credit Default Swaps to Boost Corporate Bond Liquidity



- Securities and Exchange Board of India
   (SEBI) announced that mutual funds can now sell
   credit default swaps (CDS) citing the need to aid
   liquidity growth in corporate bond market
- So far, only buying CDS's were permitted.
- Allowing both purchase and sale of the instrument will improve flexibility for MFs
- It facilitates the swapping of the risk of default through a derivative contract and is akin to insurance.
- CDS allows an investor to offset their credit risk with another investor, who is willing to reimburse or pay a notional amount in case the borrower or the issuer of the bond defaults.
- Such flexibility to participate in CDS shall serve as an additional investment product for mutual funds and also aid in increasing liquidity in the corporate bond market
- MF schemes may sell CDS only as part of investment in synthetic debt securities.
- Overnight and liquid schemes shall not sell CDS contracts.
- Exposure through CDS (notional amount of both CDS bought and sold) to not exceed 10% of AUM of scheme
- Assets Under Management (AUM) refer to the total market value of the assets managed by the mutual fund or scheme. This includes all the investments that the fund holds, such as stocks, bonds, and other securities.

Freo Secures IRDAI License to Expand Insurance Offerings



- Freo, a digital finance app, has secured a corporate agent license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to offer insurance products
- The license allows Freo to offer a variety of insurance products for life, general, and health categories.
- Freo can partner with insurance providers to offer these products to its 25 million registered users.
- Freo aims to address the gap in insurance penetration in India, which is currently at approximately 4.2%, lower than the global average of 7%.

#### **About IRDAI:**

 It is a statutory body formed under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (IRDAI Act 1999), for the overall supervision and development of the insurance sector in India.

#### Objectives:

- To protect the interests and fair treatment of the policyholder.
- To regulate the insurance industry in fairness and ensure the financial soundness of the industry.
- Head Office: Hyderabad

Phonepe has partnered with Jar, a microsavings platform, to launch a new feature called 'Daily Savings' on its app



- The feature will enable users to save money in 24K digital gold through daily contributions, starting from as little as Rs 10 and going up to Rs 5,000 per day.
- The initiative aims to help people develop consistent saving habit by making small, incremental investments in digital gold.

- This technology was initially only for Jar's users but with the current collaboration, it will now be available to PhonePe customers as well.
- The saved gold is stored digitally in a user's account
- Additionally, they can convert their digital gold into jewelry through Jar's in-house brand, Nek.

## Neowise, has launched the country's first generative AI-powered debt collection tools

- Neowise has unveiled India's first generative Alpowered debt collection tools, NeoBot and NeoSight.
- Developed in partnership with Bangalore-based Al startup Sarvam Al,
- NeoBot, a voice-activated debt collection assistant and
- · NeoSight, an advanced AI call analytics tool,
- are designed to streamline the debt recovery process by improving collection efficiency by 15 per cent and lowering operational expenses by 33 per cent.

### Abu Dhabi World's Richest In Terms Of Sovereign Wealth Funds



- Global SWF released a new global ranking of cities in terms of capital managed by their Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs).
- Abu Dhabi is the world's richest city by SWFs, with US\$ 1.7 trillion as of October 2024.
- Followed by Oslo, Beijing, Singapore, Riyadh and Hong Kong.
- Collectively, these six cities account for two-thirds of the capital managed by sovereign wealth funds worldwide, totaling \$12.5 trillion as of October 1, 2024.
- A sovereign wealth fund (SWF) is an investment fund owned by a state that invests in financial and real assets.

## GST Council sets up GoM on compensation cess, panel to submit report by Dec 31

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has set up a 10-member Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to decide on the future of compensation cess.
- The GoM, which includes members from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, will submit its report to the Council by December 31.
- The Terms of Reference of the GoM is to make taxation proposal to replace compensation cess after its abolition
- In the GST regime, compensation cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods over and above the 28 per cent tax.
- The proceeds from the cess, which was originally planned for five years after GST rollout or till June 2022, was used to compensate states for GST revenue loss.
- Since the government had borrowed Rs 2.69 lakh crore in fiscals 2021 and 2022 to make good states' revenue loss during Covid years, the GST Council had then decided to extend the compensation cess levy till March 2026 to repay the loan and interest.
- The 10-member GoM would now suggest the future of compensation cess.

### **SEBI Changes Nomination Rules for Demat Account, Mutual Fund Investments**



- The primary objective behind Sebi's initiative is to streamline the asset transfer process to nominees, thereby minimising red tape.
- The maximum number of nominees will be increased to 10 now from 3 earlier.
- nominees will be allowed to act on behalf of incapacitated investors, with certain risk mitigation checks and balances.
- The unique identifiers for nominees to be obtained will be either PAN, Passport number or Aadhar, as per new rules.

- However, previously it was KYC documents.
- Additionally, the transmission of assets to joint holders will require minimal documentation - rule of survivorship will apply
- For joint demat accounts and mutual fund folios, nomination will be optional.
- In cases of singly held accounts, opting out will require confirmations.
- Investors can also change nominees as many times as needed, with no limit on updates.

### SEBI's New Securitisation Rules: Key Investor Safeguards

- Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed new regulations that include a minimum investment threshold of Rs 1 crore for participants engaged in securitisation activities.
- Purpose: This threshold is likely intended to attract institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals, who can afford such minimum investments, thereby ensuring that the investors are relatively sophisticated and capable of understanding the risks associated with securitised products.
- SDIs (Securitised Debt Instruments) are financial products created by pooling together various types of debt -- such as loans, mortgages, or receivables -- and then selling them as securities to investors.
- This process, known as securitisation, allows the originator (such as a bank) to convert illiquid assets into liquid ones, providing an alternative source of funding.
- The current framework is based on SEBI's 2008 regulations, with updates from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2021 directions on securitising standard assets
- SEBI is a statutory body established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- Before SEBI came into existence, Controller of Capital Issues was the regulatory authority; it derived authority from the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947.
- In April, 1988 the SEBI was constituted as the regulator of capital markets in India under a resolution of the Government of India.
- Initially SEBI was a non statutory body without any statutory power.
- It became autonomous and given statutory powers by SEBI Act 1992.
- The headquarters Mumbai

### Navi ons 5<sup>th</sup> Spot in UPI Rankings for Second Time

- Navi, a fintech company owned by Flipkart cofounder Sachin Bansal,
- has taken over Amazon Pay to emerge as the country's fifth-largest for the second consecutive time in September 2024
- The NBFC, whose main line of business is lending, has grown its volume 30 times in six months from 3 million UPI transactions in March to 89 million in August
- Top 3 UPI players in India are PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm

### RBI temporarily Bars Navi Finserv, 3 NBFCs for Lending Violations



- RBI has barred four non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), including two microfinance institutions (MFIs), from sanctioning and disbursing loans for charging exorbitant interest rates to the borrowers:
  - Navi Finserv: Led by Sachin Bansal
  - DMI Finance: Backed by Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group
  - Asirvad Micro Finance Ltd: Backed by Manappuram Finance
  - Arohan Financial Services Ltd
- The ban took effect on October 21

#### Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Attended FE Best Banks Awards



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest at the Financial Express (FE) Best Banks Awards, celebrating outstanding performances by banks, non- banking finance companies (NBFCs), small finance banks, and fintechs in India.
- V Vaidyanathan, MD&CEO, IDFC First Bank, the Banker of the Year
- Dinesh Kumar Khara, former Chairman, State Bank of India - the Lifetime Achievement Award
- The winners are chosen by an independent jury, which this year is chaired by S Ramadorai, former Vice Chairman of Tata Consultancy Services.
- The jury evaluated candidates based on three years of Reserve Bank of India data.

### RBI and Maldives Monetary Authority Sign \$400 Million Currency Swap Agreement



- RBI entered into a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27
- A currency swap agreement between two countries is a contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions for liquidity support, or to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid the Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis till longer arrangements can be made.
- These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance.
- Under the agreement, Maldives Monetary
   Authority (MMA) is eligible for financing support
   from the RBI amounting to \$400 million under the
   U.S. Dollar/ Euro Swap Window and ₹30 billion
   under the INR Swap Window.
- The agreement would be valid till June 18, 2027.
- PM Modi and visiting Maldivian President
   Mohamed Muizzu also launched the Rupay card in the Maldives,
- inaugurated a new runway at the Hanimadhoo
   International Airport, and
- agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations that had hit a rocky patch last year.

#### **SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27**

- came into operation on November 15, 2012.
- to provide a backstop line of funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or short-term balance of payments stress till longer term arrangements are made.
- RBI will continue to offer swap arrangement for SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries for the period 2024 to 2027:
  - in US\$ and Euro under a separate swap window with an overall corpus of US\$ 2 billion.
  - a separate INR (Indian Rupee) swap window has been introduced with various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupee.
  - ➤ The total corpus of the rupee support is ₹250 billion.

#### Tricks SAARC countries



#### MBBS PAIN

- M- Maldives
- B-Bangladesh B-Bhutan
- S- Srilanka
- P-Paksitan
- A-Afghanistan I-India
- N-Nepal

### BEL set to enter space sector, signs agreement with Canada's Reliasat

- Navaratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics
   Limited (BEL) signed a teaming agreement
   with Reliasat Inc. Canada to collaborate in the area of space products
- To collaborate in the area of space products.

#### **About BEL**

ESTD: 1954

• HQ: Bangalore, Karnataka

CMD : Manoj Jain

### RBI approves ISG to operate as payment aggregator



JP- Morgan-backed fintech company In-Solutions Global (ISG) has secured full authorisation as a payment

**aggregator** under the Reserve Bank of India's regulatory framework. The approval further empowers **ISG** to streamline **digital payments** for

Examples

Razarpay, Mobikwik, Airpay

Razorpay, PayU, CC Avenue

merchants across various sectors, ensuring fast, secure, and reliable transactions while advancing financial inclusion

| Parameters    | Payment Aggregator  | Payment Gateway  |
|---------------|---|--|
| Definition    | A third-party provider that offers a unified platform for processing multiple payment methods | A communication software<br>that acts as an intermediary<br>between customer and<br>merchant banky |
| Primary Focus | Payment acceptance and service delivery.  | Data security and transaction verification   |
| Function      | Collects customer data and processes transactions through its own MID                         | Transmits encrypted payment data and verifies transactions   |

### SEBI proposes retail investors participate in algo trading

 The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Friday proposed a regulatory framework to enable retail investors to participate in algorithmic trading, while outlining the roles and responsibilities of stock brokers and exchanges

#### Let's Go, Algo

Algo trades account for over 43% of India's stock market turnover

In the US, where retail investors also engage in algo trades, 90% of the turnover is from automated systems. The global average is 75%

Sebi was among the first regulators to issue a discussion paper proposing strengthening of rules on algo trading last year

It produced a set of seven proposals aimed at creating a level playing field between institutional investors " using colocation facilities offered by the stock exchanges and retail investors



#### What is algo trading?

 Algo trading, also known as algorithmic trading, is a method of executing orders by providing a predefined set of rules to a computer program.
 When the predefined conditions are met, orders are placed at a speed and frequency that is impossible for a human trader.

### RBI Eases FCNR(B) Deposit Rates to Boost Foreign Inflows Amid Global Softening

 The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) decision to raise the interest rate ceilings on foreign currency nonresident bank [FCNR(B)] deposits is expected to have a limited impact on attracting inflows.



- An FCNR(B) account lets customers maintain a fixed deposit in India in freely convertible foreign currencies for a tenure ranging from one to five years.
- Since the account is maintained in foreign currency, it secures funds against currency fluctuations during tenure of the deposit.

#### LIC launched Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme 2024 for Economically Weaker Students

 The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced a new scholarship scheme called-Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme 2024 for students from economically weaker families.



 Golden Jubilee Foundation Scholarship Scheme 2024 is available on an India basis to students who have passed standard Xth/XIIth/diploma or equivalent examination with minimum 60% or equivalent CGPA grade in the academic year 2021-22, 2022-23, or 2023-24 and have taken first year admission in the academic year 2024-25.

#### **General Scholarship**

- An amount of Rs 40,000 per annum, will be awarded to the selected Scholar who pursues higher education in the field of Medicine (MBBS, BAMS, BHMS, BDS).
- An amount of Rs 30,000 per annum, will be awarded to the selected Scholar who pursues



- higher education in the field of Engineering (BE, BTECH, BArch).
- An amount of Rs 20,000 per annum will be awarded to the selected Scholars who pursues education in the field of Graduation in any discipline,

#### Special Scholarship for Girl Child

 An amount of Rs 15,000 per annum will be awarded to selected Girl Child for Special Scholarship after class 10th for pursuing higher studies in Intermediate/10 + 2 pattern/ Vocational or Diploma Courses through Government recognized colleges/ institutions or courses in Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) for two years

### SEBI Announced Expansion of T+0 Settlement Cycle for Top 500 Stocks



 From January 31, 2025, for the top 500 stocks in India, investors will start getting an option to have T+0 settlement in systematic manner. Moreover, stockbrokers have been permitted to charge differential brokerage for consumers opting for T+1 and T+0 settlement of shares.

#### 55th GST Council Meeting



**55th GST Council** met under the **Chairpersonship of**Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan** 

#### **Recommendations:**

- Used Electric Vehicle (EVs): GST council decided to raise the rate of tax to 18% from 12% on all used EV sales, just as in case of non-electric vehicles.
- GST will apply only to the margin value (difference between purchase and selling price, adjusted for depreciation if claimed) in case of business sales. No GST applies to individual-toindividual sales.

- Bank's Penal Charges: No GST applies to penal charges by banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for loan term violations.
- Payment Aggregators: Payment
   aggregators handling payments of less than Rs
   2,000 will be eligible for an exemption.
- Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF): GST council did not agree on bringing ATF under the ambit of GST because states refused to accept it. 5 products i.e., crude oil, petrol, diesel, ATF and natural gas were kept out of purview of GST. The central government levies excise duty on them and states levy VAT.
- GST Exemption: Black pepper and raisins supplied directly by farmers will be exempt from GST.
- Gene therapy is fully exempt from GST, and <u>Integrated GST</u> exemption on surface-to-air missiles is extended.
- Compensation Cess: Reduced <u>compensation</u> <u>cess</u> rate to 0.1% on supplies to merchant exporters.
- This Cess is collected on the supply of select goods and or services to compensate the states for any revenue loss on account of implementation of GST.
- Popcorn: GST Council clarified (no new tax imposition) that caramelized popcorn is taxed at 18% GST.
- Ready-to-eat popcorn with salt and spices attracts
   5% GST if not pre-packaged and labeled,
   and 12% if pre-packaged and labeled.
- Caramelised popcorn is classified as sugar confectionery, and attracts 18%
   GST while salted popcorn is a namkeen and subject to 5% GST.

#### **GST Council**

- It a constitutional body under Article 279-A (101st Amendment, 2016), makes recommendations on GST implementation.
- GST is a value-added (Ad Valorem) and indirect tax system that is levied on the supply of goods and services in India.
- Members: The Council includes the Union Finance Minister (Chairperson), Union Minister of State (Finance), and a finance or any other minister from each state.
- Nature of Decisions: In the Mohit Minerals case, 2022, the Supreme Court ruled GST Council recommendations are not binding, as Parliament and states have simultaneous legislative powers on GST.

### Sports News

#### **KHELO INDIA GAMES**

- 14. Khelo India Youth Games
- 15. Khelo India Winter Games 2024
- 16. Khelo India University Games
- 17. Khelo India's ASMITA Yogasana League
- 18. Khelo India ASMITA Wushu League



### 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of Khelo India Youth Games inaugurated in Tamil Nadu

- PM Modi inaugurated the opening ceremony of 6th Khelo India Youth Games 2023 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
- This is the first time that Khelo India Youth Games are being held in South India From 19 -31 January, 2024
- 4 venue cities Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy
- The mascot for the games is Veera Mangai. Rani Velu Nachiyar, fondly called Veera Mangai, was an Indian queen who waged a war against British colonial rule.
- The logo for the games incorporates the figure of poet
   Thiruvalluvar.
- Maharashtra leads the tally with the highest number of total medals, followed by Haryana and Tamil Nadu.
- Maharashtra defended their Khelo India Youth Games title after topping the medals tally with 57 gold medals, 48 silver and 53 bronze.
- It was their fourth KIYG title.

#### Medal tally of the Khelo India Youth Games 2024:

| Rank | State         | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total medals |
|------|---------------|------|--------|--------|--------------|
| 1    | Maharashtra   | 57   | 48     | 53     | 158          |
| 2    | Tamil Nadu    | 38   | 21     | 39     | 98           |
| 3    | Haryana       | 35   | 22     | 46     | 103          |
| 4    | Delhi         | 13   | 18     | 25     | 56           |
| 5    | Rajasthan     | 13   | 17     | 17     | 47           |
| 6    | Telangana     | 13   | 4      | 9 7    | 24           |
| 7    | Uttar Pradesh | 11   | 13     | 18     | 42           |
| 8    | Punjab        | 11   | 13     | 15     | 39           |
| 9    | Kerala        | 11   | 9      | 15     | 35           |
| 10   | Manipur       | 10   | 11     | 10     | 31           |

#### Lieutenant Governors of J&K and Ladakh Launch Logo and Mascot for 4<sup>th</sup> Khelo India Winter Games 2024





 Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha and Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brigadier (Retd) Dr. B.D. Mishra

- It Will be held in Ladakh for the first time from February 2-6. The second portion is scheduled in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir from February 21-25.
- Snow skating, ice hockey and curling are shifted to Ladakh while other sports events will be held at ski resort, Gulmarg.
- 'The Mascot for Winter Games, Snow Leopard ('Sheen-e She' (Shan)), is the symbol of Himalaya's natural heritage and reflects the commitment of the government towards the protection and preservation of wildlife.

### First part of Khelo India Winter Games in Leh Concludes

- Maharashtra won 20 skating medals that include 6 golds
- Army clinched the Gold Medal in Ice Hockey
- ITBP Women won the gold
- Ladakh hosted the Khelo India Winter Games for the first time. Leh hosted two disciplines - Ice Hockey and Speed Skating.
- The second part of the KIWG has been scheduled in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir from February 21-25 in four other sports.

### Gulmarg hosting 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the 4th Khelo India Winter Games

- The 2nd Chapter of winter games 2024 i.e in 4 snow sports (Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Snowboard & Nordic Skiing) are being held at Gulmarg, J&K from February 21–25, 2024
- The 1st Chapter of winter games 2024 i.e in 2 ice sports (Ice Hockey & Ice Skating) was held from 2nd Feb to 6th Feb 2024 at Leh, Ladakh
- The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- Snow Leopard mascot of Khelo India Winter Games

### 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Khelo India Winter Games conclude in Gulmarg



- 4<sup>th</sup> edition of KIWG Army clinched the top position with 10 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze medals
- First runner up Karnataka with 9 gold & 2 silver medals
- 2nd runner up Maharashtra with 7 gold, 8 silver & 7 bronze medals.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Khelo India University Games

 PM Modi virtually inaugurated the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Khelo India University Games - 2023, Ashtalakshmi at Sarusajai Sports Complex in Guwahati.



- The fourth edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will be held from February 19 - 29 2024.
- A total of 16 sporting disciplines are being held in Guwahati of the total 20 sporting disciplines and the rests 4 disciplines at other North- Eastern states.
- Over 215 universities are participating in this mega university event.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Khelo India University Games 2023 concludes in Guwahati



- 4th Khelo India University Games 2023,
   Ashtalakshmi held from 19-29 Feb, 2024
- The Games were played across seven sister states of the North-East
- Chandigarh University clinched the overall championships - 71 medals, including 32 gold, 18 silver and 21 bronze.
- Lovely Professional University were second with 20 gold, 14 silver and eight bronze
- Guru Nanak Dev University finished third with 12 gold, 20 silver and 19 bronze and was only contingent apart from the champions to cross the 50-medal mark.

### Khelo India medal winners now eligible for government jobs



- Medal winners in all Khelo India competitions will now be eligible for government jobs as per a revised criteria.
- The eligibility will extend to winners of medals from the Khelo India Youth, University, Para, and Winter Games.
- Khelo India Games were first organised in 2018 as part of the Modi Government's initiative to revitalise sports culture at the grassroots level.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Of North East Games 2024 Begins In Nagaland



- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially declared open the 3rd North East Games 2024 at Regional Centre for Sporting Excellence, Sovima.
- More than 3000 athletes from 8 North Eastern states are competing in 15 disciplines.

### Khelo India's ASMITA Yogasana League to begin in Bihar



- Khelo India's ASMITA Yogasana League (East Zone)
   began at Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna,
   Bihar.
- The three-day East Zonal League will conclude on 24th of August.
- These states are Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha.

# Khelo India ASMITA Wushu League (West Zone) to begin on August 25 in Uttar Pradesh



- The Khelo India ASMITA Wushu League (West Zone) is all set to begin from 24<sup>th</sup> august at Godwin Public School in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- The four-day league will last till the 27th of August.
- Women athletes from various West Zone states including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and others will be participating in this event.

### Bihar to host Khelo India Youth Games and Para Games in April 2025



- A flagship event of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,
- There will be a gap of 10 to 15 days between KIYG and KIPG.
- The first edition of the Para Games was held in Delhi last year.
- Previously the Khelo India Youth Games 2023 were held in Tamil Nadu in January

| Edition | Witner      | Burner up   | Most.     |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
|         |             |             |           |
| 2018    | Haryana     | Maharashtra | New Delhi |
| 2019    | Maharashtra | Haryana     | Puoe      |
| 2020    | Maharashtra | Haryana     | Guwahati  |
| 2021    | Haryana     | Maharashtra | Panchkula |
| 2022    | Maharashtra | Haryana     | Bhopal    |
| 2023    | Maharashtra | Tamil Nadu  | Chennai   |
|         |             |             |           |

### Khelo India winter games scheduled in Ladakh in January 2025

- featuring ice sports like ice hockey and ice skating from January 23 next year.
- from January 23 to 27, 2025



#### **ARCHERY**

- 1. Women's Archery compound event in Luxembourg
- 2. Swiss Open Indoor Archery

Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinches gold medal in women's Archery compound event at GT Open in Luxembourg



### India bags 14 medals, including 9 Golds at Archery Asia Cup 2024 in Baghdad, Iraq



India finished the Archery Asia Cup 2024 with 14 medals, including 9 golds, 4 silvers and 1 bronze in Baghdad, Iraq.

- India swept the top podiums in all the individual events
- Deepika Kumari (three-time Olympian)- gold medal (women's recurve individual)
- Dhiraj Bommadevara gold medal (men's recurve individual)
- Parneet Kaur gold medal (women's compound individual)
- Prathamesh Jawkar gold medal (men's compound individual)

India's Atanu Das bags Bronze Medal in Swiss Open Indoor Archery



 India's Atanu Das won the bronze medal in the men's recurve event at the Swiss Open 2024 archery competition in Lausanne, Switzerland

#### **SHOOTING**

- Men's air rifle event at ISSF World Cup in Cairo
- 2. Olympic Selection Trials
- World Shooting Para Sport Tournament
- 4. Indian Sports Honours 2024

### Indian Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar wins gold in men's air rifle event at ISSF World Cup in Cairo

In air rifle shooting, Indian Olympian Divyasnsh Singh Panwar had struck gold in the men's event with a world record score in the final

 The 21-year-old shot a world record 253.7 in the 24-shot final

- Panwar's score broke the previous record of 253.3 set by China at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou.
- While **Sonam Uttam Maskar, competing** in her first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup, **bagged silver** in the women's 10-metre event in Cairo



### Arjun Babuta breaches Air Rifle world record in Olympic Selection Trials



- in men's 10M Air Rifle.
- His tally of 254.0 was 0.3 above the mark set by fellow finalist and India teammate Divyansh Singh Panwar, at the Cairo World Cup earlier this year.

#### Indian Para-Shooter Mona Aggarwal Claimed A Gold Medal At World Shooting Para Sport Tournament



- At the World Shooting Para Sport tournament in Changwon, Korea
- Aggarwal claimed a gold medal in women's 10m
  air rifle
- Army man Amir Ahmed Bhatt secured a silver in 25m pistol
- The Asian Shooting Championships 2024 was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from January 8 to 17.
- The event also doubled as the qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics for rifle and pistol shooters.



- Indian shooters won 26 medals 14 gold, seven silver and five bronze
- India have now secured 17 Olympic quotas in shooting for the Paris 2024 Summer Games - the country's best-ever tally in the sport.

| Name         | Individual Category          | Medal      |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Varun Tomar  | men's 10m air pistol         | Gold Medal |
| Esha Singh   | women's 10m air pistol       | Gold Medal |
| Nancy        | women's 10m air rifle        | Gold Medal |
| Akhil        | men's 50m rifle 3            | Gold Medal |
| Sheoran      | positions                    | LESON.     |
| Yogesh Singh | men's 25m centre fire pistol | Gold Medal |
| Yogesh Singh | men's 25m standard pistol    | Gold Medal |

#### Raiza Dhillon, Gurjoat Khangura Clinch Skeet Mixed Team Bronze Medal



 India's Raiza Dhillon and Gurjot Singh Khangura won the mixed skeet team bronze medal at the Asian Shotgun Championships 2024 in Kuwait City.

# Suma Shirur Wins 'Coach of the Year (Female)' Award at Indian Sports Honours 2024

- The Olympian and former chief coach of the Indian Shooting Team, Suma Shirur was awarded the Coach of the Year (Female) award by the Indian Sports Honours 2024.
- She was recognized for her role in guiding the Indian shooting team to success at the Paris Olympics and Paralympics, and for her work promoting gender parity in Indian sports



#### Kiran Ankush Jadhav clinches Men's 50m Rifle 3P title at 67th National Shooting Championship



# India to host ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup for first time in 2025

 This will be the 11th edition of the junior shooting World



Cup and the first one in India.

#### **HOCKEY**

- 1. FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup
- 2. Hockey5s World Cup
- 3. National Women's Hockey League
- 4. Hockey India Awards
- 5. Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024.
- 6. FIH Hockey Star Award 2024



### India Named Hosts for 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup

- India is set to host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in December 2025.
- It will be the first time that a Junior Hockey World Cup will be comprising as many as 24 teams.
- FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2023 was held in Malaysia. Germany won their seventh title.
- India has previously hosted the tournament thrice in 2013 (New Delhi), 2016 (Lucknow) and 2021 (Bhubaneswar).
- They have won the title twice in 2001 and 2016.
- Dr. Dilip Tirkey, President of Hockey

### Sreejesh and Camila Caram appointed as co-chairs in FIH Athletes Committee

- International Hockey Federation (FIH) has named legendary goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh and Chile's Camila Caram as the co-chairs of the FIH Athletes Committee.
- The FIH Athletes Committee is a consultative body that provides recommendations to the FIH Executive Board and other bodies.
- FIH President Tayyab Ikram



#### Hockey5s World Cup: Rajni Etimarpu, Simranjeet Singh to lead Indian men's and women's teams



The inaugural Hockey5s World Cup, both the Men's and Women's, will be held in Muscat, Oman between January 24 and 31.

**Hockey5s**, the shortened format of the traditional 11-a-side game, **features five players per team.** 

### Japan Wins its Maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy



- Japan won its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey trophy by defeating Pakistan in the final.
- The final was played at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, 2024.
- The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup is an annual international men's field hockey tournament held in Malaysia.

### FIH World rankings: Indian men slip to 4th, women's team ranked 9th

- India had directly qualified for the Paris Olympics through an Asian Games gold last year and didn't need to play in the recently-concluded Olympic Qualifiers.
- In the Women's Rankings, India failed to make the cut for the Paris Games

# Coca-Cola India announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League

 Anandana, The Coca-Cola India Foundation, announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024.

- Under Coca-Cola India's #SheTheDifference campaign, the partnership is aimed at the advancement of women's hockey in India by providing essential resources and support to players.
- · Hockey India President: Dr. Dilip Tirkey

# Hockey India Awards: Hardik Singh and Salima Tete win Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year 2023



- Salima Tete received the Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for Player of the Year 2023 in the women's category,
- Hardik Singh (also the FIH Player of the Year) won the award in the men's category and won a cash prize of ₹25 lakhs.
- Olympian and World Cup winner Ashok Kumar was honored with the Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2023.

### Netherlands defeated India to win FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup

The 2024 Hockey5s
 World Cup was the
 first edition of the
 FIH Women's
 Hockey5s World Cup,



- It is the quadrennial world championship for women's national hockey5s teams organized by the FIH.
- It was held from 24 to 27 January 2024, in Muscat,
   Oman.
- The Netherlands won the final against India to claim the first gold medal.

# Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka announces international retirement



 She hails from Odisha and represented India in two Olympic Game (2016 Rio Olympics, 2020 Tokyo Olympics)

#### ALFA Hockey Launches #BankeDikhaAlpha Campaign: India's Only Hockey Campaign Ahead of Paris Olympics



- ALFA Hockey, Asia's no 1 manufacturer of field hockey sticks and accessories, is proud to announce the launch of its #BankeDikhaAlpha campaign.
- ALFA Hockey stands out as the only brand in India to have launched a dedicated hockey campaign.

#### Indian men's hockey team win bronze



- The Indian hockey team has claimed a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics after defeating Spain
- The medal is India hockey team's 13th in history.
- The bronze in men's hockey is India's fourth bronze medal of the Paris Olympics, with the previous three coming in the Shooting discipline, two of which Manu Bhaker won.

# Hockey India announced national men's hockey squad, led by Harmanpreet Singh for the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024.

- The 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 will be held at Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, People's Republic of China
- from 8-17 September 2024.
- India is the defending champion of the Men's Asian Champions Trophy, having won the 7th edition in Chennai in 2023.
- Harmanpreet Singh, who was the leading goal scorer at the 2024 Paris Olympics, will lead the

- **Indian team**. Midfielder **Vivek Sagar Prasad** has been named **vice-captain** of the team.
- The Indian team coach is Craig Fulton.
- The men's Champions Trophy is a sixnation hockey tournament where the six topranked Asian hockey teams participate.
- China, India, Japan, South Korea,
   Malaysia, and Pakistan are participating in the 8th edition.

### Hockey India retires jersey number 16 in honour of PR Sreejesh



- Hockey India has retired jersey number 16 from the national senior men's team in honour of goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.
- Hockey India termed Sreejesh the 'God of Modern Indian Hockey'.
- Sreejesh recently announced his retirement from Hockey after a successful Paris Olympics.
- Hockey India has also decided to appoint Sreejesh as the coach of the junior men's hockey team.

### Harmanpreet Singh & PR Sreejesh wins FIH Hockey Star Award 2024



- Indian men's hockey team captain Harmapreet
   Singh and former Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh
   won the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024.
- FIH announced the winner of its annual Hockey Star award for the year 2024 in a ceremony held in Muscat on 8 November 2024.
- Harmanpreet Singh won his third FIH Player of the Year award in 2024, having won it in 2021 and 2022.
- Hardik Singh, won the 2023 Award.

#### Winners of the 2024 FIH Hockey Star Awards

#### Player of the Year

- · Male- Harampreet Singh of India
- Women- Yibbi Jansen of Netherlands

#### Goalkeeper of the Year

- Male- PR Sreejesh of India
- Women- Ye Jiao of China

#### Rising Star of the Year Award

- Male-Sufyan Khan of Pakistan
- Women-Zoe Diaz of Argentina

#### Coach of the Year Award

- Men- Jeroen Delmee of Netherlands
- Women-Alyson Annan of China

#### **Umpire of the Year**

- Male Steve Rogers of Australia
- · Women-Sarah Wilson of Scotland

### Hockey: India wins Women's Asian Champions Trophy beating China 1-0



 The <u>Women's Asian</u> <u>Champions Trophy</u>, 2024, took place in Rajgir,



#### Bihar from 11th November to 20th, 2024.

- India's Women's Hockey Team successfully defended their title
- India won their third Women's Asian Champions
   Trophy, after previous wins in 2016 and 2023.
- Player-of-the-tournament: Deepika (India);
- Goalkeeper-of-the-tournament: Yu Kudo (Japan)
- Mascot 'Gudiya' Inspired by the house sparrow
- Logo Design: The logo features the Bodhi Tree

### Odisha defeated Haryana, bags its maiden gold

- Hockey India-14th Senior National championship at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai
- maiden gold medal for Odisha

# Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024: India beat Pakistan for record-extending fifth title



- · in Muscat, Oman
- a record-extending fifth title (2024, 2023, 2015, 2008 and 2004)
- Bronze Medal Japan

# Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Hockey India to provide live broadcast of upcoming Hockey India League



- The upcoming Hockey India League, which is being revived after seven years
- Set to commence on December 28 in Rourkela,
   HIL will be broadcast live across the nation through
   Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati's new OTT
   platform Waves.

#### India wins Women's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 against China



- in Muscat, Oman
- India won their maiden Women's Hockey Junior
   Asia Cup title last year by defeating the Republic of
   Korea in the final.
- Earlier the Indian hockey team beat Pakistan to win the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 in Muscat, Oman

#### **CRICKET**

- ICC Players of the Month for December 2023
- ICC Players of the Month for February 2024
- 3. ICC Player of the Month for October 2024

#### ICC Players of the Month for December 2023, Australia's Pat Cummins and India's Deepti Sharma



### Joseph, Hunter win ICC Player of the Month awards





- Pace bowler Shamar Joseph became the first West Indian to win the Men's ICC Player of the Month award (January)
- Ireland's batter Amy Hunter claimed the honour in the women's category

### Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sutherland Named ICC Players of the Month for February 2024



- Indian opener Yashasvi Jaiswal claims ICC Men's Player of the Month
- Australia's record-breaking all-rounder Annabel
   Sutherland wins ICC Women's Player of the Month

Sri Lankan Star Kamindu Mendis and England's Maia Bouchier Crowned ICC Players of the Month March



#### ICC Players of the Month for April 2024



- Hayley Matthews, the West Indies captain, has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month
- Muhammad Waseem, the UAE captain and opener, has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month

**Gudakes Motie and Chamari Athapaththu Named ICC Players of the Month for May** 



- West Indies' left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award
- Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu secured her second ICC Women's Player of the Month

Jasprit Bumrah, Smriti Mandhana named ICC Player of the Month for June



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the recipients of the ICC Players of the Month awards for July 2024



England's Gus Atkinson and Sri Lanka's Chamari
 Athapaththu have been crowned as the standout
 performers in men's and women's cricket,
 respectively.

Dunith Wellalage and Samarawickrama Named ICC Players of the Month for August 2024



International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the Players of the Month for September 2024.



 Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis and England's Tammy Beaumont for their outstanding performances in international cricket.

### The ICC Player of the Month for October 2024

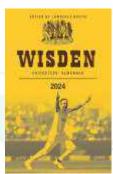




- Pakistan spinner Noman Ali claim the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for October 2024.
- New Zealand's star all-rounder Melie Kerr has been awarded the ICC Women's Player of the Month for October 2024

### Pat Cummins, Nat Sciver-Brunt named as Wisden's Leading Cricketers in the World

 England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt and Australia captain Pat Cummins have been named as the Leading Cricketers (Women and Men) in the World in the 2024 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.



- Sciver-Brunt becomes the first English woman to be given the honour
- Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, or simply Wisden, colloquially the Bible of Cricket, is a cricket

reference book published annually in the United Kingdom.

### Haris and Wyatt-Hodge Shine as ICC Players of the Month

 The International Cricket Council (ICC) has today announced the ICC Players of the Month for November 2024 as Pakistan's Haris Rauf and England's Danni Wyatt-Hodge.



#### Retirement

- 1. Wisden's Leading Cricketers in the World
- Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli announce retirement from T20Is
- 3. Ravindra Jadeja retired from T20 internationals.
- Kedar Jadhav Retires from all forms of Cricket
- 5. David Wiese announces international retirement
- 6. Mohammad Nabi to Retire from ODI Cricket
- 7. Shikhar Dhawan announces retirement from Cricket

#### **Rohit Sharma**

- The 37-year-old becomes only the third Indian captain to have won a World Cup across formats after Kapil Dev (1983) and MS Dhoni (2007 and 2011).
- Career began in 2007
- first-ever captain to lead a team to 50 T20I games.
- Under Rohit, India have also become the first team to win the T20 World Cup without losing a single game.
- 159 T20 International matches played
- Highest run-scorer in T20I history (4231)
- Mist sixes in T20I (205)

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja announced his retirement from the T20 internationals

### Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli announce retirement from T20Is



#### Virat Kohli's

- Virat Kohli's T20 international career began on June 12, 2010
- 125 T20 International matches
- Second-highest run-getter in T20Is (4188), behind only Rohit Sharma
- The Man of the Match award (T20 World Cup 2024)



### Indian All-rounder Kedar Jadhav Retires from all forms of Cricket



- He played for Maharatsra in domestic cricket
- Jadhav made his One Day International (ODI)
   debut for India in 2014, against Sri Lanka
- He played 73 ODIs and nine T20Is for India
- Kedar Jadhav, who donned the Indian jersey in the 2019 World Cup, last represented the national team in an One Day International (ODI) against New Zealand in Auckland in 2020
- Earlier, former Indian wicketkeeperbatsman Dinesh Karthik announced his retirement

### Dinesh Karthik Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket



- He made his India debut when he was 19 in an ODI against England at Lord's in 2004. He announced retirement on his 39th birthday.
- He has played in 6 IPL teams since the tournament's inception in 2008.
- He last played for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL 2024 Eliminator on 22 May.
- Having represented the country in 180 games across three formats - scored 3463 runs with a lone Test hundred and 17 half-centuries
- Karthik also had 172 dismissals to his credit, most of them behind the stump

### T20 veteran David Wiese announces international retirement



Namibia all-rounder David Weise

#### David Warner Announces Retirement from One Day International Cricket

David Warner - Australian batter



 Warner is only second to former captain Ricky Ponting's tally for most Centuries for Australia in ODIs.

### **England cricketer James Anderson** announced retirement



- England pace legend James Anderson's international career that has lasted close to 22 years, having made his England debut in 2002.
- He became the first fast bowler ever to take 700 wickets in Test cricket.

- Overall, Anderson is the third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket history. The two bowlers above him are spinners:
  - Muttiah Muralitharan 800
  - Shane Warne 708

### **Kenyan Allrounder Collins Obuya Retires** from Cricket Career



 Obuya had made his international debut in 2001 against the West Indies retired from a 23-year old international career

### Mohammad Nabi to Retire from ODI Cricket After ICC Champions Trophy 2025



**Afghanistan all-rounder** Mohammad Nabi has announced that he will retire from One-Day Internationals

### Seasoned pacer Siddarth Kaul announces retirement from Indian cricket



- Represented the country in three ODIs and as many T20s in 2018-19.
- was a member of India's U-19 World Cup winning campaign in 2008
- Kaul is the highest wicket-taker in Vijay Hazare
   Trophy history as well as in the Syed Mushtaq Ali

   Trophy
- His last appearance in competitive cricket was in the Ranji Trophy earlier this month.

#### Dawid Malan, England's former topranked T20 batter, retires from international cricket



# Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan announces retirement from International and Domestic Cricket



- The 38-year-old represented the national team in all three formats since making his international debut in 2010 in an ODI against Australia in Visakhapatnam.
- He created a world record by scoring the fastest century by a debutant in a Test match, an 85-ball hundred against Australia in Mohali in the 2013 Test match.
- He is one of the eight batsmen in the ODI with over 5000 runs at a 40-plus average and a 90-plus strike rate. The list includes Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.
- In the IPL, Shikhar Dhawan is the second-highest run-scorer after Virat Kohli.

### Ace off spinner R Ashwin announces retirement from international cricket



- India's premier spinner Ravichandran Ashwin announced his immediate retirement after the 3rd Test in ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, in Brisbane.
- Debut in 2010. 14-year career

- He is India's second-highest Test wicket-taker. He scored 537 wickets in 106 games; Anil Kumble took 619.
- The 38-year-old bagged **37 Test five-fors, only** second to Muttiah Muralidaran (67).
- A five-for, also known as a five-wicket haul or fifer, is when a bowler takes five or more wickets in a single innings of a cricket match
- The Tamil Nadu spinner bagged 765 wickets across formats, the second-highest behind Anil Kumble's 956 scalps and the 11th-highest overall.
- Ashwin was the first bowler to record 100 World Test Championship wickets and is currently the highest-wicket taker with 195 scalps from in 41 matches, followed by Australia's Nathan Lyon (190).
- He was part of India's ODI World Cup-winning team in 2011.

#### **World Cup**

- 1. T20 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024
- 2. Women's T20 World Cup
- 3. Usain Bolt as T20 World Cup ambassador
- 4. Yuvraj Singh as ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador
- 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka for T20 World Cup

### ICC announces groups for T20 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024



- 9th edition
- will be jointly hosted by the West Indies and the United States
- Kick-start from 1st June.
- Final on June 29 in Barbados
- A total of 20 team will play 55 matches across 9 venues (3 in USA 6 in the Caribbean)

#### **List of ICC T20 Cricket World Cups**

| No  | Year/Host         | Year/Host Winner |           |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | 2007/South Africa | India            | Pakistan  |
| 2.  | 2009/England      | Pakistan         | Sri Lanka |
| 3.  | 2010/ West Indies | England          | Australia |
| 4.  | 2012/Sri Lanka    | West Indies      | Sri Lanka |
| 5.  | 2014/Bangladesh   | Sri Lanka        | India     |
| 6.  | 2016/India        | West Indies      | England   |
| 7.  | 2021/UAE &        | Australia        | New       |
| 30  | Oman              | W. /             | Zealand   |
| 8.  | 2022/Australia    | England          | Pakistan  |
| 9.  | 2024/ USA & West  |                  | 0.        |
|     | Indies            | 11/1/1           |           |
| 10. | 2026/ India & Sri | -50VV            | -         |
|     | Lanka             | O.               |           |

### ICC announced Women's T20 World Cup Schedule



- 9th Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will be held in Bangladesh from October 3-20
- 23 matches featuring the top 10 women's teams in the world from 3 to 20 October in Bangladesh
- CEO of the ICC Geoff Allardice
- Group A: Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan,
   Sri Lanka
- Group B: Bangladesh, England, South Africa, West Indies, Scotland

### BCCI announces 15-member squad for upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup

- Chairman of Selection Committee, Mr Ajit Agarkar
- ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be hosted in the West Indies and USA
- Rohit Sharma will be leading the team
- · Hardik Pandya has been named the vice-captain.
- Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant
- India will begin their World Cup campaign against



Ireland on June 05 in New York.

### ICC ropes in Usain Bolt as T20 World Cup ambassador



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) named sprint legend Usain Bolt as the ambassador of the upcoming T20 World Cup to be played in the West Indies and USA from June 1 to 29.
- Jamaica-born Bolt had created history at the 2008
   Olympic Games in Beijing where he won the
   100m, 200m and 4x100m races in world record times.
- An eight-time Olympic gold medallist, Bolt is the only sprinter to win Olympic 100 m and 200 m titles at three consecutive Olympics (Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016).

### Yuvraj Singh Named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador

 Yuvraj joins West Indies icon Chris Gayle and eighttime Olympic Gold Medalist Usain Bolt as first ambassadors to be revealed



### Shahid Afridi Appointed as ICC Men's T20 World Cup Brand Ambassador



- Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi was unveiled as the latest ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, set to be held in the Unites States and the West Indies from June 1.
- Afridi joins Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt among the ambassadors chosen by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the maiden 20-team T20 World Cup.

### ICC T20 World Cup 2024: Amul to sponsor USA's cricket team





- Amul is set to sponsor the USA and South Africa in the upcoming T20 World Cup in June
- Amul was associated with the South Africa team in the 2019 ODI series and 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup
- Amul has a history of sponsoring cricket teams, with the Netherlands, South Africa, and Afghanistan among their previous beneficiaries.
- As co-hosts of this major ICC event, the USA will make its debut appearance in this global championship.
- Managing Director of Amul Jayen Mehta

### KMF to sponsor Scotland and Ireland cricket teams during T20 World Cup



- The **Karnataka Milk Federation**, the dairy cooperative from the State which sells various dairy products under the **brand name Nandini**, will be sponsoring **Scotland and Ireland cricket teams**' jerseys in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup (to be cohosted by the West Indies and the United States in June 2024)
- Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) aims for global recognition through sponsorship, also introducing 'Nandini Splash' energy drink in the US during the tournament.
- The sponsorship is estimated at Rs 2-2.5 crore per team

#### Amul appointed as 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka for T20 World Cup



 Previously Amul sponsored both the USA and South African cricket teams for the upcoming World Cup

#### Andre Russell becomes highest wickettaker for WI in T20 WC History

 Andre Russell surpassed Dwayne Bravo to become the highest wicket-taker for

the highest wicket-taker for West Indies in T20 World Cup history with 29

wickets.

 The previous best was held by Bravo who had a total of 27 wickets.



- T20 World Cup: Organised by International Cricket Council
- Current champion: England (2nd title)
- Host: USA and West Indies.

### India won the T20 World Cup for the second time



- India beats South Africa by 7 runs and lifts ICC T20
   World Cup 2024 at Barbados' Kensington Oval
- Player of the match Virat Kohli (India)
- Player of the tournament Jasprit Bumrah (India)
- Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz finished the tournament with most runs – 281
- highest wicket-taker Afghanistan's Fazalhaq
   Farooqi along with India's Arshdeep Singh 17
   wickets.
- The Trophy was made of silver and rhodium metals.

| T20 World Cup Winners List from 2007 to 2024 |             |           |              |  |  |
|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|--|--|
| Year   | Winner      | Runner Up | Host Country |  |  |
| 2007   | India       | Pakistan  | South Africa |  |  |
| 2009   | Pakistan    | Sri Lanka | England      |  |  |
| 2010   | England     | Australia | West Indies  |  |  |
| 2012   | West Indies | Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka    |  |  |
| 2014   | Sri Lanka   | India     | Bangladesh   |  |  |
| 2016   | West Indies | England   | India        |  |  |
| 2021   | Australia   | New       | UAE/Oman     |  |  |
|  |             | Zealand   |              |  |  |
| 2022   | England     | Pakistan  | Australia    |  |  |
| 2024   | India       | South     | USA and West |  |  |
|  |             | Africa    | Indies       |  |  |

### Suryakumar Yadav takes the Best Fielder award from Jay Shah

- Suryakumar Yadav received the coveted 'Best
  Fielder' award from the BCCI secretary Jay Shah for
  his magnificent catch to dismiss the dangerous
  David Miller which turned out to be the decisive
  moment in the final triumph.
- India fielding coach: T Dilip

#### **Indian Premier League (IPL)**

- principal sponsor of Chennai Super Kings.
- 2. highest IPL total of all time
- 3. First wicketkeeper to complete 300 dismissals in T20 cricket
- 4. first bowler with 200 IPL wickets
- 5. KKR Lifts Their Third Trophy In IPL
- 6. youngest player to get IPL contract

### Etihad Airways becomes "principal sponsor" of Chennai Super Kings



**Abu Dhabi-headquartered Etihad Airways -** in September 2023, had signed up Bollywood star, **Katrina Kaif, as the brand ambassador** 

#### **CEAT** picked as official partner for IPL



- CEAT has been selected as the official partner of this year's IPL. The company will spend about ₹240 Crore over five years.
- BCCI reportedly sold 4 IPL sponsorship slots for a cumulative sum of ₹1,485 crore to Ceat, My11Circle, Angel One and RuPay.

#### Ruturaj Gaikwad takes over Chennai Super Kings captaincy from Dhoni



- Chennai Super Kings has named Ruturaj Gaikwad as the new captain of the franchise for the 2024 IPL season.
- 17th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) kicks off on March 22, 2024.
- The event is organised by the Board of Cricket Council of India (BCCI) and TATA is the official sponsor.

#### 10 teams are

- Chennai Super Kings,
- Delhi Capitals,
- · Gujarat Titans,
- Kolkata Knight Riders,
- Lucknow Super Joints,
- Mumbai Indians,
- Punjab Kings,
- Rajasthan Royals,
- Royal Challengers Bangalore,
- Sunrisers Hyderabad.



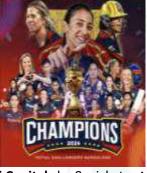
### Sunrisers Hyderabad record for highest IPL total of all time



 Sunrisers Hyderabad scored 277/3 in 20 overs in Hyderabad against Mumbai Indians to break the record of RCB's total of 263/5 in 2013

#### Royal Challengers Bangalore Lift Women's Premier League Title

 In the Final of the TATA Women's Premier League (WPL) Cricket, Royal Challengers



Bangalore (RCB) beat Delhi Capitals by 8 wickets at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

| Player of the series | Deepti Sharma (UP Warriorz)  |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Most runs            | Ellyse Perry (Royal          |
| 9                    | Challengers Bangalore) (347) |
| Most wickets         | Shreyanka Patil (Royal       |
|                      | Challengers Bangalore) (13)  |

- Total teams: 5 (Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, UP Warriorz )
- Format: Twenty20 cricket
- First edition: 2023; winner Mumbai Indians
- WPL is owned and operated by Board of Control for Cricket in India.

### MS Dhoni becomes first wicketkeeper to complete 300 dismissals in T20 cricket



- Chennai Super Kings' wicket-keeper MS Dhoni made also history by becoming the first Indian keeper to score 7,000 runs in T20 cricket.
- The 42-year-old veteran achieved this feat during a match against Delhi Capitals (DC) in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in T20s
  - > 300 MS Dhoni
  - 274 Dinesh Karthik
  - > 274 Kamran Akmal

### Yuzvendra Chahal becomes first bowler with historic 200 IPL wickets



 The leg-spinner accomplished the milestone in Rajasthan Royal's match against Hardik Pandya's Mumbai Indians.

### Marcus Stoinis registers highest individual score during run-chase in IPL history



- Australia and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) allrounder Marcus Stoinis registered the highest individual score ever during a run-chase in the Indian Premier League (IPL)
- made an unbeaten 124\* in 63 balls
- Chris Gayle, holds the record of highest individual score in IPL cricket - 175\* runs of 66 ball. Gayle made the record as a part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore against Sahara Pune Warriors in IPL 2013.

### **Sunrisers Hyderabad recorded the highest** runs of the Indian Premier League History



- Sunrisers Hyderabad broke their record of scoring the highest runs in the IPL, as they hammered 287 runs in 20 overs again Royal Challengers Bengaluru
- Their previous record was scoring 277 runs against Mumbai Indians.
- Their 287 for 3 was also the second highest in all men's T20 cricket, and included the most sixes (22) in an IPL innings
- The only one higher is 314 for 3 by Nepal against Mongolia in the Asian Games.



- Travis Head of Sunrisers Hyderabad hits 4th fastest
   IPL century 39 balls
- Fastest hundreds in IPL history Chris Gayle (RCB) -30 balls - 2013

#### Highest successful IPL, T20 run chases: Punjab Kings set world record in 262 chase vs Kolkata Knight Rider



- Punjab Kings broke the world record for the highest successful chase in T20 history, chasing down a mammoth 262-run target against Kolkata Knight Riders
- Punjab not only registered highest successful run chase in IPL but also set a new world record for the highest run chase in the history of T20 cricket

### Sunrisers Hyderabad enter IPL record books for most sixes in single season



 The Hyderabad-based franchise achieved the landmark of striking 100 sixes in just their 8 match in the ongoing IPL season.

#### KKR Lifts Their Third Trophy In IPL



- In Cricket, Riders (KKR) lifted their third trophy in the Indian Premier League (IKolkata Knight PL) with a crushing eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).
- Mitchell Starc was declared Player of the Match (KKR).

| Emerging player of the season      | Nitish Reddy ( <u>SRH</u> )                 |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Purple cap                         | Harshal Patel (24 wickets, PBKS)            |
| Orange cap                         | Virat Kohli (741 runs, RCB)                 |
| Most valuable player of the season | Sunil Narine (482 runs and 17 wickets, KKR) |
| Fairplay award                     | Sunrisers Hyderabad                         |

### 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi becomes youngest player to get IPL contract

- Vaibhav Suryavanshi, a 13-year-old cricketer from Bihar, entered history books as he became the youngest-ever player to be bought at an IPL auction.
- Rajasthan Royals bought Suryavanshi for ₹1.10 crore.



#### YOUNGEST-EVER TO BE SOLD IN IPL HISTORY

Vaibhay Suryayanshi (13) from Bihar, who went to RR for ₹ 1.1cr, is the youngest player to be picked at an IPL auction. The left-handed batter and spinner made his Ranji debut at 12. He clobbered a 58-ball 100 for U-19 Indian team in a four-dayer vs Australia. Also scored a triple-century in an U-19 tournament in Bihar

Top Buys On Day 2 Of Auction Bhuvneshwar Kumar | RCB 210.75cr

Deepak Chahar | MI 39,25 Gr

Akash Deep | LSG REGIT

Mukesh Kumar | DC Regre Marco Jansen | Punjab Kings | 7707

#### **Rankings and Records**

- 1. list of batters with most hundreds in T20I
- 2. first Indian to hit 500 T20 sixes
- 3. first batsman to hit 200 Sixes in T20Is
- 4. First Indian to Score 12,000 T20 Runs
- 5. first Indian pacer to reach No. 1 in ICC **Test rankings**
- 6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian to take 500 Test wickets.
- 7. Fastest woman double centurion in Test cricket
- 8. first Sri Lankan to smash ODI double century
- 9. Women's ODI rankings

#### Rohit Sharma tops list of batters with most hundreds in T20I



- Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has created history by becoming the first batsman to score five centuries in T20 Internationals (T20Is).
- This milestone was achieved during the third T20I match against Afghanistan in Bengaluru on January 17, 2024.
- Rohit Sharma surpassed fellow cricketers like Suryakumar Yadav and Australia's Glenn Maxwell, who each have four T20I hundreds.



#### Rohit becomes first Indian to hit 500 T20 sixes

### 500 Sixes in T20 Rohit Record Sharm

#### Most Sixes in T20 cricket

- » Chris Gayle 1056
- Kieron Pollard 860
- Andre Russell 678
- » Colin Munro 548
- » Rohit Sharma 500\*
- India and Mumbai
  - Indians star batter Rohit Sharma became the first Indian to smash 500 sixes in T20 cricket.
- He achieved this milestone during Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at Wankhede Stadium.
- Rohit's six tally has gone up to 502 sixes.
- Only Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell, **Colin Munro** have more T20 sixes to their name.

#### Rohit Sharma becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> player to play 250th game in IPL



- The match against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in Chandigarh was Rohit's 250th in the Indian Premier League.
- He became the only 2nd player in the league's rich **history** to reach the mark **after** Chennai Super Kings' legend Mahendra Dhoni.

- Dinesh Karthik (249) and Virat Kohli (244).
- Rohit also reached 6500 runs in the IPL, becoming the only fourth batter.
- Virat Kohli 7624
- Shikhar Dhawan 6769
- David Warner 6563

### Rohit Sharma became first batsman to hit 200 Sixes in T20Is



- during the T20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight
   Group 1 match against Australia at the Daren
   Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St. Lucia
- Sharma broke several records:
  - most sixes by an Indian in a T20 World Cup match (8)
  - first-ever player to smack 600 sixes across formats.

#### List of batters with the most T20I sixes.

| Position | Player         | Country     | Matches | Russe | Siem |
|----------|----------------|-------------|---------|-------|------|
| 1        | Rohit Sharma   | india       | 157*    | 484*  | 200  |
| 2        | Martin Guptill | New Zealand | 122     | 3531  | 173  |
| 3        | Jos Buttler    | England     | 123     | 3241  | 137  |

### Virat Kohli Becomes First Indian to Score 12,000 T20 Runs



- Kohli achieved this remarkable feat during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 opening clash between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
- With this, Kohli is now among the world's six players after T20 stalwarts Chris Gayle, Shoaib
   Malik, Kieron Pollard, Alex Hales, and David Warner to achieve this record.

### Tanmay Agarwal Smashes Fastest Triple Century In First-Class Cricket



 Hyderabad's Tanmay Agarwal scored an unbeaten 323 off just 160 balls against Arunachal Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy.

# Jasprit Bumrah becomes first Indian pacer to reach No. 1 in ICC Test rankings, replaces Ravichandran Ashwin

- He also becomes first-ever bowler to reach No.1 in all three formats in his career
- Rankings is credited to his outstanding performance in the second Test against England in Vizag, where he claimed match figures of 9/91



- Bumrah is only the fourth from India to attain number one position.
- Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Bishan Singh Bedi are the other Indians who have been at the top of the charts.

### R. Ashwin becomes 2nd Indian to take 500 Test wickets



- Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the second Indian bowler after former skipper Anil Kumble to take 500 Test wickets during the third Test against England in Rajkot.
- Having made his Test debut in 2011.

### Shabnim Ismail bowls fastest delivery in women's cricket



- South African pacer Shabnim Ismail created history by bowling the fastest delivery ever recorded in women's cricket.
- **breaching the 130kph barrier** for the first time since the introduction of speed guns.
- Playing for Mumbai Indians in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Ismail shattered the record by clocking 132.1km/h (82.08mph)
- only retired from international cricket

### Shafali Verma becomes fastest woman double-centurion in Test cricket



- Against South Africa.
- Shafali also became the second Indian after former skipper Mithali Raj to hit a double century in Test cricket.

# Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian woman to hit consecutive ODI hundreds, equals Mithali Raj's century tally

 Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to record two consecutive ODI hundreds during the second ODI against South Africa at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru Mandhana also equalled Mithali Raj for the most

ODI centuries among Indian women

 Most ODI hundreds among women Suzie
 Bates (New Zealand) – 12

- Most ODI hundreds for India (women)
- 7 Mandhana
- 7 Mithali Raj
- 6 Harmanpreet Kaur



### India claims top spot in ICC Test rankings, now No. 1 in all three formats



- The Indian cricket team, under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, has ascended to the top of the ICC Test rankings
- India now leads the World Test Championship (WTC) standings and boasts the top position across all three formats – Test, ODI, T20I

India retains top spot in white-ball formats, Australia reclaims world no. 1 rankings in Tests



 India have retained their top position in ODIs and T20Is but slipped to the second position in the men's Test Team Rankings in the latest ICC annual ranking

### Pathum Nissanka becomes first Sri Lankan to smash ODI double century



- Nissanka scored the Sri Lanka's first-ever double century in the ODI format against Afghanistan in Pallekele.
- He also became the player who now has the highest individual score in Sri Lanka's ODI history (210\*), surpassing the iconic 189 scored by Sanath Jayasuria against India in 2000.
- Pathum Nissanka is now the third-fastest doubleton in ODI history (136 balls).
- Fastest double-ton Ishan Kishan against
   Bangladesh in 2022 (off 126 balls). Second Maxwell (201\* against Afghanistan came off 128
   deliveries).
- 210\* Nissanka's score in Pallekele is the highest for any batter in ODIs against Afghanistan, bettering Glenn Maxwell's 201\* at the Wankhede during the 2023 ODI World Cup.

### Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee created history to hit 6 sixes in an over



- Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee became only the third batter to hit 6 sixes in an over in a men's T20I match after India's Yuvraj Singh and West Indian Kieron Pollard
- In Kamran Khan's over during Nepal's match against Qatar at the ACC Men's Premier Cup, in Oman

### Namibia batter Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton smashes fastest-ever T20I hundred

Namibia batter Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton hit a hundred off just 33 balls against Nepal, making him the

quickest man to reach the milestone in T20 Internationals.



 He broke Nepal's Kushal Malla's record of the fastest T20I hundred which the latter scored off 34 balls against Mongolia last year.

#### Fastest hundreds in Men's T20Is

| Batter                 | Country        | Opponent   | Year | Balls |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|------|-------|
| Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton | Namibia        | Nepal      | 2024 | 33    |
| Kushal Malla           | Nepal          | Mongolia   | 2023 | 34    |
| David Miller           | South Africa   | Bangladesh | 2017 | 35    |
| Rohit Sharma           | India          | Sri Lanka  | 2017 | 35    |
| Sudesh Wickramasekara  | Czech Republic | Turkey     | 2019 | 35    |

### Pakistan's Babar Azam becomes quickest to 10,000 runs in T20s



- Pakistan batter Babar Azam has created by becoming the fastest to reach 10,000 T20 runs, going past former West Indies batter Chris Gayle and India's Virat Kohli in the list.
- Babar has reached the 10K-run mark in his 271st innings while Gayle had done so in 285th innings and Kohli in 299th.

### Jos Buttler becomes first England player to make 3,000 T20I runs



- · Buttler reached this milestone against West Indies.
- The highest-run-scorer in T20I cricket Virat Kohli (4,037 runs)

### Estonia's Sahil Chauhan beats Chris Gayle's Fastest T20 Century Record



- Estonia's Sahil Chauhan scored 100 runs in just 27 balls against Cyprus.
- Chauhan broke the record set by West Indies batter
   Chris Gayle, who reached 100 from 30 balls during the Indian Premier League in 2013.
- Chauhan's unbeaten 144 included 18 sixes, also setting the record for the most sixes in a men's T20I innings.

| Payer         | Sine | Total<br>ness | Team           | Opposition      | Year |
|---------------|------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------|
| Chris Gayle   | 18   | 146"          | Rangour Riders | Dhaka Dynamites | 2017 |
| Sahil Chauhan | 18   | 144*          | Estonia        | Cypnia          | 2004 |

### Goa's Kauthankar, Bakle set record for highest-ever partnership in Ranji history



 The duo of Snehal Kauthankar and Kashyap Bakle scored triple centuries and recorded the highest partnership in Ranji Trophy's history, adding 606 runs against Arunachal Pradesh in their plate group match

# Women's ODI rankings: Harmanpreet Kaur rises to ninth, Smriti Mandhana remains fourth



- Australia and England are at the top
- India are placed in third position in the ICC Women's Championship standings released in Dubai

# Hardik Pandya reclaims top spot as world's no. 1 all-rounder in ICC Men's T201 rankings

ICC Top 5 T20 batters

- 1. Travis Head
- 2. Philip Salt
- 3. Tilak Varma
- 4. Suryakumar Yadav
- 5. Babar Azam



#### **ICC Top 5 T20 bowlers**

- 1. Adil Rashid
- 2. Wanindu Hasaranga
- 3. Adam Zampa
- 4. Akeal Hosien
- 5. Maheesh Theekshana

### Eden Gardens to rename stand in honour of Jhulan Goswami



 India bowling legend Jhulan Goswami was honoured by the Eden Gardens in Kolkata after the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) announced

- that a stand will be renamed in her honour at the iconic venue.
- The stand will be officially unveiled on January 22,
   2025, when the India men's team will take on
   England in a T20I.

### Pace Bowler Jasprit Bumrah Reclaims Number One Spot in ICC Test Rankings



- India pacer Jasprit Bumrah rose to the top of ICC Test rankings for bowlers after picking eight wickets in the first Test against Australia at Perth.
- Indian batter Yashasvi Jaiswal, moved up to second amongst batters, just 78 behind England's Joe Root who is at the No. 1 spot.

#### Ben Stokes achieved Historic Doubles in Test and International Cricket



Ben Stokes became the third player and first
 England cricketer to achieve over 6,000 runs and
 200 wickets in Test cricket, joining Garry Sobers
 and Jacques Kallis.

#### Scotland's Charlie Cassell Sets ODI Record; Takes 7 Wickets For 21 Against Oman

• In the ICC Men's Cricket ODI World Cup League 2, Scotland fast bowler Charlie Cassell scripted history on his debut breaking an all-time ODI record by taking 7 wickets for 21 against Oman, in Dundee.



- Cassell broke the 2016 record of 6 for 16 of South African paceman Kagiso Rabada on his debut against Bangladesh.
- Apart from Rabada, West Indies pacer Fidel
   Edwards also had taken 6 for 22 on his ODI debut.

#### Harmanpreet Kaur Surpasses Smriti Mandhana To Become India's Highest T20I Run-Getter



 This milestone was achieved during India's Women's Asia Cup T20 match against the UAE in Dambulla.

Hardik Pandya becomes first Indian to occupy top spot in ICC T20I all-rounders' rankings



### Smriti Mandhana moves to third in ICC ODI rankings



- India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has jumped one spot to third in the latest ICC ODI rankings for women
- Mandhana, is the top-ranked Indian batter in the 50-over format while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur retained her ninth position.
- Mandhana also held on to her fourth spot in the T20 rankings.

### Hardik Pandya most Searched Indian Sportsperson



- According to the Google Year in Search 2024, cricketer Hardik Pandya was the most searched Indian sportsperson across the globe.
- Overall, he was ranked the seventh most searched sportsperson in the world in 2024.
- The list was topped by the female Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who won a gold medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

# Joe Root breaks Sachin Tendulkar's record to become highest 4<sup>th</sup> innings run-scorer in Test history



 England batter Joe Root surpassed the legendary Sachin Tendulkar for most runs in Test run chases during his team's win against New Zealand

#### Most 4th innings runs in Test cricket:

- 1630\* Joe Root (49 innings)
  - 1625 Sachin Tendulkar (60)
  - 1611 Graeme Smith (41)
  - 1611 Alastair Cook (53)

1587 – Shivnarine Chanderpaul (49)

1552 - Rahul Dravid (56)

### Afridi Becomes Youngest to Achieve 100 Wickets in All Formats



- Shaheen Afridi, 24, became the youngest bowler overall and the first bowler from Pakistan to complete 100 wickets in all three formats of international cricket
- After he took three wickets in the first T20I against
   South Africa in Durban

#### **Trophy**

- 1. Under-19 Men's World Cup
- 2. Ranji Trophy 2024
- 3. Senior Women's T20 Trophy
- 4. Women's Asia Cup Final 2024
- 5. World Championship of Legends 2024
- 6. Sir Richard Hadlee Medal

### Australia lifts Under-19 Men's World Cup beating India in South Africa



 In Cricket, Australia have won the Under 19 Men's ODI World Cup beating India by 79 runs in the final at Benoni in South Africa.

### Mumbai Wins Ranji Trophy 2024 After Beating Vidarbha

#### RANJI TROPHY FINAL 2024: MUMBAI BEAT VIDARBHA



 Mumbai won record extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title as they defeated Vidharbha by 169 runs in the final at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

| Ranji Trophy winners and runner-ups |            |                |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|--|--|
| Season                              | Champion   | Runner-up      |  |  |
| 2023-24                             | Mumbai     | Vidharbha      |  |  |
| 2022-23                             | Saurashtra | Bengal         |  |  |
| 1934-35 (first                      | Bombay     | Northern India |  |  |
| edition)                            |            |                |  |  |

#### Mumbai beats Bengal to win Senior Women's T20 Trophy for second time in a row

- Humaira Kazi led her Mumbai team to thier second Senior Women's T20 trophy title by beating Bengal in the final by 10 wickets.
- The final of the 16th Senior Women's T20 trophy was played at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, Maharastra on 12 November 2024.
- The Senior Women's T-20 Trophy is organised by the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) and was first held in 2008-09.
- Mumbai is now the only team to win consecutive titles after Railways, which has won the tournament 11 times



#### **Awards**

- Jagravi Pawar of Mumbai -Player of the match
- Humairaa Kaazi Player of the Series.

### Women's Asia Cup Final 2024: Sri Lanka beat India in Finals



- The host Sri Lankan women's cricket team lift their maiden Women's Cricket Asia Cup.
- the 9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup was played at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, on 28 July 2024
- India is the only team that has played in the finals
  of all the Asia Cups and has been the most
  successful team, with 7 title wins.
- Player of the Series- Chamari Athapaththu

### India Champions Triumph in World Championship of Legends 2024



India Champions emerged victorious over Pakistan Champions in the 2024 World Championship of Legends final held in Birmingham.

#### Ravindra becomes youngest recipient of Sir Richard Hadlee Medal



- The Sir Richard Hadlee Medal is an annual award introduced in 2011 by New Zealand Cricket to recognise the best New Zealand men's cricketer of the previous year.
- It is named in honour of New Zealand cricketer, Sir Richard Hadlee.

#### **Short News**

Bangladesh win U19 men's Asia Cup (cricket), defeat India in final to retain title.

- The Under-19 Asia Cup is being organized since 1989
- Team India has won the Under-19 World Cup title in the years 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018 and 2022
- Bangladesh has won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2023 title

### Mumbai wins Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024, beats Madhya Pradesh

- Mumbai wins its second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy
   title
- Tamil Nadu max wins has won the tournament thrice.
- TN also won the first edition held in 2006-07



#### **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy**

- The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is India's domestic
   T20 cricket tournament, organised annually by the
   Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- Initially played as the Inter-State T20 Twenty-20
   Tournament in the 2006-07 season, ahead of the franchise-based Indian Premier League (IPL), which began in 2008.
- Renamed in 2010 to honour Syed Mushtaq Ali,
   India's first overseas Test centurion and a domestic cricket stalwart.

Indian U19 team lifts inaugural T20 Asia Cup Title



 In Women's Cricket, India clinched the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup title at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after defeating Bangladesh

#### Coach / Umpire

- 1. Pakistan appointed Gary Kirsten coach
- 2. first ICC-appointed female neutral umpire
- 3. India's First Female Pitch Curator
- 4. Indian Men's Cricket Team Head Coach
- Head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA)
- 6. Chairman of ICC
- 7. New president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)

### Pakistan appointed Gary Kirsten as ODI and T20I head coach



- The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed World Cup-winning Gary Kirsten as their head coach for ODIs and T20Is, while former Australian pacer Jason Gillespie will take over that role in Test cricket.
- Gary Kirsten, former South Africa opener, was the head coach of the Indian cricket team which won the 2011 World Cup under MS Dhoni.

### Sue Redfern to be the first ICC-appointed female neutral umpire in bilateral series

 England's Sue Redfern is the first female neutral umpire appointed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to work in a bilateral series.



 She will officiate in the upcoming ICC Women's Championship and T20I matches between Australia and South Africa

# Bangladeshi Umpire to be inducted into the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires

Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid became the first



- The Elite Umpires' Panel is responsible for umpiring most men's Tests and One-Day Internationals
- India's Nitin Menon entered the top panel for an unprecedented 5th time.

### Uganda name Abhay Sharma as Head coach ahead of T20 World Cup



- Uganda has booked its place in the competition for the first time and will be among 20 teams at the tournament
- Abhay Sharma has previous coaching stints with India A and India Under-19s, as well as the Indian women's cricket team and the Delhi Ranji Trophy team.

### Jacintha Kalyan India's First Female Pitch Curator



- India's first woman curator Jacintha Kalyan will be overseeing pitch preparations for the Bengaluru leg of the Women's Premier League, starting at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium
- Jacintha Kalyan walk into the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) for the first time in 1994.

# Ravi Shastri and Wasim Akram among 54 named as Cricket Australia's Multicultural Ambassadors



Former India coach Ravi Shastri and legendary
 Pakistan cricketer Wasim Akram has been named
 as Cricket Australia's Multicultural Ambassadors,
 among others, for two years.

### Gautam Gambhir Appointed As Indian Men's Cricket Team Head Coach



- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed former batter and World Cup winner Gautam Gambhir as the new head coach of the senior men's team.
- replaced Rahul Dravid as head coach.

### Gambhir confirms Nayar and Ryan Ten Doeschate as assistant coaches



 Gautam Gambhir, India's head coach, confirmed that he will have two new assistants in Abhishek Nayar and Ryan ten Doeschate

#### Ajinkya Naik becomes Mumbai Cricket Association youngest-ever President



 Ajinkya Naik, at 37, has become the youngest president of Mumbai Cricket Association

Royal Challengers Bengaluru announced the recently retired Dinesh Karthik as its batting coach and mentor



### PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi set to become next ACC President



- Pakistan Cricket Board's incumbent chairman
   Mohsin Naqvi is set to become the next president
   of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) later this year as
   per its rotation policy, for a two-year term.
- BCCI secretary Jay Shah is the incumbent ACC president, having got one-year extension in January this year for a third consecutive term.

Former India cricketer VVS Laxman is set to extend his term as the Head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA)



- VVS Laxman is the current chief of the NCA.
- The current campus of NCA, located in Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium in Karnataka
- Established in 2000 as a cricket facility of BCCI to train young cricketers identified as potential members of the Indian Cricket Team in future.
- It is also used for rehabilitation when players go through an injury

Former South African pacer Morne Morkel has been appointed as India's new bowling coach.



He has been appointed **till the end of the 2027 ODI World Cup** in South Africa.

#### Jay Shah Elected Unopposed as Independent Chair of ICC

 Jay Shah, the incumbent secretary of the Board of Cricket for Cricket in India (BCCI), is set to become the youngest chairman (age 35) of the International Cricket Council (ICC).



- He will take over from New Zealand's Greg Barclay on December 1.
- He was elected unopposed as the BCCI secretary in October 2019.
- Since 2021, he has also been serving as the Asian Cricket Council Chairperson.

Suryakumar Yadav named India T20I captain;



 The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has confirmed the passing of the captaincy baton to star batter Suryakumar Yadav succeeded Rohit Sharma to become the new T20I captain.

Former cricketer and chief selector
Faruque Ahmed has replaced Nazmul
Hasan Papon as the new president of the
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)



### Alexandersson named India women's U-20, U-17 coach



 Swede Joakim Alexandersson was appointed chief coach of the India women's U-20 and U-17 national teams by the All India Football Federation.

#### Saikia will remain Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) acting secretary till elections are hosted for the post in September 2025.

- replacing Jay Shah, who has taken over as International Cricket Council's new chairman from 1 December 2024.
- Recently Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva had taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding India's Jay Shah

#### Jay Shah takes over as new ICC chairman



- The BCCI's outgoing secretary Jay Shah (December 1, 2024) took charge as the chairman of the International Cricket Council, becoming the fifth Indian to head the global body.
- Replaced New Zealand attorney Greg Barclay

#### **Shammi Silva Takes Over as ACC President**



- Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the
  president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC),
  succeeding India's Jay Shah, who recently became
  the chairman of the International Cricket Council
  (ICC).
- Mr. Shah had vacated the position after three terms as ACC President.

BCCI appoints Devajit Saikia as BCCI Acting Secretary



#### Miscellaneous

- 1. Rights for All ACC Tournaments (2024 2031)
- 2. ICC lift Sri Lanka Cricket's ban
- 3. India's first hybrid pitch
- 4. BCCI Awards
- 5. ICC Men's Awards 2023
- 6. Naman Awards ceremony 2024
- 7. Men's Asia Cup Cricket in 2025
- 8. new T20 international record with 39run over

### Sony Sports Secures Rights for All ACC Tournaments (2024-2031)



- The **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** announced that **Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI)** (Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited) has secured the **exclusive media rights for all ACC tournaments from 2024 to 2031.**
- The deal encompasses all editions of the Men's and Women's Asia Cups, the Men's and Women's Under-19 Asia Cups, and the Men's and Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cups.

# Asian Cricket Council awards exclusive Asia Cup sponsorship rights to TCM Sports Management until 2031



 TCM Sports Management (TCM) has been awarded exclusive commercial sponsorship rights for all Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Asia Cup tournaments through 2031.

#### ICC lift Sri Lanka Cricket's ban



- On 10 November 2023, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) were suspended for violation of responsibilities as an ICC Member
- The ICC lifted the ban after Colombo promised to end political interference in the board's administration.
- But the ongoing U19 Men's Cricket World Cup was moved to South Africa

### Historic Day-Night Women's Ashes Test at MCG



- In a historic move, the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) will host a day-night Test match between the Australian and English women's cricket teams.
- This will be the first time a pink-ball Test is played at the iconic venue.
- The four-day match is scheduled from January 30 to February 2, 2025.
- 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground is Australia's largest stadium
- It will be the first women's Test match at the MCG since 1949, and the first day-night Test at that historic ground.

### Dharamsala to get India's first 'hybrid pitch'



- Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium has become the first BCCI-accredited venue to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch' and future international and IPL matches will be held on this track.
- The Netherlands-based 'SISGrass', a part of the SIS Pitches group of companies, has been roped in for the first-ever hybrid pitch installation.
- this cutting-edge technology will transform the game by providing a more durable, consistent, and high-performing playing surface."

#### ICC Imposes Five-Year Ban On West Indies Cricketer Devon Thomas For Anti-Corruption Breaches



- The International Cricket Council imposed a fiveyear period of ineligibility from all cricket on West Indies player Devon Thomas after he accepted breaching 7 counts of the anti-corruption codes of Sri Lanka Cricket, the Emirates Cricket Board and the Caribbean Premier League.
- This period of ineligibility has been backdated to May 23, 2023

#### **BCCI Awards**

- Former India all-rounder and Head Coach Ravi
   Shastri will be honoured with BCCI's Lifetime
   Achievement Award.
- Shubman Gill will be presented with Cricketer of the Year award
- The BCCI awards will be held for the first time since 2019



Shastri, 61, represented India in 80 Tests and 150
 ODIs



### Virat Kohli wins ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year Award for fourth time



 This is the seventh individual ICC award won by Kohli during his glittering career, and his fourth in the ODI category after previous wins in 2012, 2017 and 2018.

### Suryakumar Yadav named ICC T20I Player of the Year for 2023



 Big-hitting batter was named the T20I Player of the Year for a second consecutive time by the International Cricket Council (ICC)

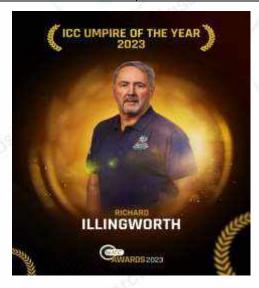
#### ICC Men's Awards 2023

| Category                        | Winner              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cricketer of the Year 2023      | Pat Cummins         |
| (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy)    | (Australia)         |
| ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023  | Virat Kohli (India) |
| Test Cricketer of the Year 2023 | Usman Khawaja       |
| ~0M                             | (Australia)         |
| T20I Cricketer of the Year 2023 | Suryakumar Yadav    |
| S                               | (India)             |
| Emerging Cricketer of the year  | Rachin Ravindra     |
| 2023                            | (New Zealand)       |

#### ICC Women's Awards 2023

| Category                   | Winner   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Cricketer of the Year      | Nat Sciver-Brunt   |
| 2023                       | (England)  |
| (Rachael Heyhoe Flint      | 25   |
| Award)                     | The state of the s |
| ODI Cricketer of the Year  | Chamari Athapaththu  |
| 2023                       | (Sari Lanka)   |
| T20I Cricketer of the Year | Hayley Matthews (West  |
| 2023                       | Indies)  |
| Emerging Cricketer of      | Phoebe Litchfield  |
| the year 2023              | (Australia)  |

| Category                | Winner                 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ICC Umpire of the Year  | Richard Illingworth    |
| 2023                    | He had previously won  |
| (David Shepherd Trophy) | this award in 2019 and |
|                         | 2022.                  |



#### Naman Awards ceremony 2024



- The Naman Awards ceremony, also known as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Awards,
- was held on January 23, 2024 in Hyderabad.
- The Naman Awards ceremony is an annual award ceremony. The ceremony returned for the first time since 2019.
- Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award: Ravi Shastri, Farokh Engineer (2019-20).

- Polly Umrigar Award for Best Men's Cricketer of the Year: Shubman Gill (2022-23), Jasprit Bumrah (2021-22), Ravichandran Ashwin (2020-21), Mohammed Shami (2019-20).
- Best International Cricketer, Women: Deepti Sharma (2019-20, 2022-23), Smriti Mandhana (2020-21, 2021-22).
- Best performance in domestic tournaments: Mumbai (2019-20).

#### BCCI Announces Massive Prize Money Of 125 Crore Rupees For Team India After Winning T20 World Cup 2024



# ICC Honoured Six Nations In Associate Cricket With ICC Development Award For 2023

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has honoured:

- Mexico, the South American country known for its excellence in the world of football, for its excellence in Cricket.
- Oman, the Netherlands, the United Arab
   Emirates, Nepal, and Scotland for their efforts in the sport during the last calendar year.
- The ICC Development Award was started in 2002 to recognise the efforts and achievements of ICC associate member nations.

### Sri Lanka Cricket set to host ICC Annual Conference from July 19 to 22





- The International Cricket Council (ICC) is set to make history as it holds its Annual Conference in Sri Lanka from July 19th to 22nd, 2024.
- This marks the first time the prestigious event will be hosted in the Asian region
- The theme of this year's conference, "Capitalizing on the Olympic Opportunity"

#### International Cricket Council (ICC)

- Formation 15 June 1909
- Headquarters Dubai, UAE
- Chairman Greg Barclay (New Zealand)
- Membership 108 members

#### India to Host Men's Asia Cup Cricket in 2025



- Asia Cup 2025 in India will be held in T20 format
- It will serve as a precursor to the T20 World Cup
- ICC Men's T20 World Cup is a biennial Twenty20 International cricket tournament, organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) every 2 years
- The 2027 Asia Cup will be held in ODI format in Bangladesh as the 50-over World Cup is scheduled in South Africa in the same year.

#### Rohit Sharma Virat Kohli honoured at the **26th CEAT Cricket Awards**



- 26th CEAT Cricket Awards ceremony held in Mumbai.
- It is one of the most prestigious awards in cricket. It honours the exceptional performance of cricketers worldwide.

- The CEAT Cricket Awards started in 1995-96, is sponsored by RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres.
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Rahul Dravid
- International Cricketer of the Year: Rohit Sharma

#### Performance in Test Match (Men's)

- > Test Batter of the Year: Yashashvi Jaiswal
- Test Bowler of the Year: Ravichandran Ashwin

#### Performance in ODI (Men's)

- Batter of the Year: Virat Kohli
- Bowler of the Year: Mohammad Shami

#### Performance in T20 (Men's)

- Batter of the Year: Phil Salt (England)
- Bowler of the Year: Tim Southee (New Zealand)

#### Performance in Domestic Cricket (Men)

Cricketer of the Year: Sai Kishore. Left-arm spinner from Tamil Nadu.

#### **Best Indian Women cricketer**

- Batter of the Year: Smriti Mandhana
- Bowler of the Year: Deepti Sharma

#### Memento

> Fastest Double Century in Women's Test Match: Shafali Verma

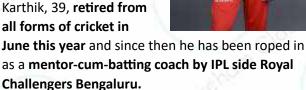
#### **Other Award**

Excellence in Sports Administration: BCCI Secretary Jay Shah.

#### **Dinesh Karthik joins Paarl Royals;** becomes first Indian player in the South

#### African league

- Former wicketkeeper **batter** Dinesh Karthik signed by Paarl Royals for the third season of the SA20.
- Making him the first Indian cricketer to participate in the South African league.
- Karthik, 39, retired from all forms of cricket in





### Afghanistan cricketer Ihsanullah Jannat banned for 5 years for match-fixing



- Jannat breached ICC's Anti-Corruption Code during the second season of the Kabul Premier League this year, Involves improper influence or efforts to fix the result,

## First-ever Women's Test match between India and England to be played in 2026 at Lord's Cricket Ground



Telangana government to give Group-I posts of DSP cadre to Nikhat Zareen and Mohd. Siraj



- Telangana Government has resolved to sanction Group-I posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police cadre to Boxer Nikhat Zareen and cricketer Mohammed Siraj in appreciation of their outstanding performance in their respective sports fields.
- The State Government has amended the Telangana (Regulation of appointments to public services and rationalisation of staff pattern and pay structure) Act, 1994 to facilitate the appointments.
- Nikhat Zareen won the World Championship Gold medal at Istanbul in 2022 and New Delhi-2023 IBA Women's World Boxing championships
- Mr. Siraj represented the country in prestigious tournaments including World Test Championship, One Day International world cup finals.
- Recently, the country had won the T-20 world cup after 13 years and Mr. Siraj was the only cricketer from Telangana who was part of the T-20 winning squad

### Samoan batter Darius Visser sets new T20 international record with 39-run over



- In the World Cup East Asia-Pacific Region Qualifier in the capital city of Apia.
- Previous record 36 runs in an over

## India spinner Ashwin questions RTM (The Right to Match) rule ahead of IPL 2025 auction

- RTM is a rule through which franchises can retain a player, who represented them in the previous season and whom they didn't retain before the auction, if they match the highest bid placed by a franchise during the auction.
- The RTM rule was first introduced in 2014 and has not been used in IPL auctions since 2018.

## The 9<sup>th</sup> ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 venue has been shifted to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from Bangladesh.



#### **Short NEWS**

 Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) appoints Mithali Raj as Mentor of Women's Cricket Operations for 3 years



### India to host first ever women's T20 World Cup for Blind in 2025



 Hosting rights were granted to India last year, but the event gains significance after India withdrew from the Men's T20 Blind Cricket World Cup in Pakistan due to security concerns.

#### Lok Sabha Speaker XI wins TB Mukt Bharat Awareness Cricket Match, defeats Rajya Sabha Chairman XI



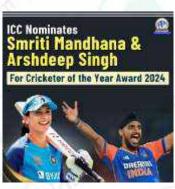
- In a friendly cricket match organised to create awareness of tuberculosis (TB), the Lok Sabha Speaker XI defeated the Rajya Sabha Chairman XI in New Delhi.
- BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh Anurag Singh Thakur was the man of the match

### Champions Trophy 2025: PCB confirms UAE as neutral venue

- The Pakistan Cricket Board has chosen the United Arab Emirates as a neutral venue to host India's games at next year's Champions Trophy.
- India had refused to travel to tournament host Pakistan for the eight-team, 50-over Champions Trophy, amid its security concerns.
- Pakistan will not play in India in ICC events in the 2024-27 cycle.
- Pakistan will also go to a neutral venue when India hosts the 2025 Women's World Cup and co-hosts the 2026 men's T20 World Cup with Sri Lanka.

## ICC Nominates Smriti Mandhana & Arshdeep Singh for Cricketer of the Year Award 2024

- Indian Pacer
   Arshdeep Singh has been named among the nominees for the T20I Cricketer of the Year award.
- Jasprit Bumrah was nominated for the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year award



- In the Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year category India's Shreyanka Patil is nominated.
- while Smriti Mandhana is nominated for the Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award.
- The ICC Awards 2024 comprises 12 individual awards
- Winners of the ICC Awards will be announced in late January, next year.

### Sachin Tendulkar Accepts Prestigious MCC's Membership

· Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar has accepted

an invitation to become an honorary member of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC).



- MCC is one of the oldest sports clubs
  - **in Australia** and is responsible for managing the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
- Earlier in 2012, the Indian batter was awarded the Order of Australia, one of the country's highest honours.

#### **CHESS**

- 1. Men's Chess Candidates2024
  Tournament
- 2. India's number one Chess player
- 3. International Chess Federation Awards
- 4. 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland
- 5. India's 85th Chess Grandmaster
- 6. Leon Masters Chess title
- 7. U8 World Cadets Chess Championship

### Gukesh Secures Spot in Men's Chess Candidates 2024 Tournament



- The prestigious Candidates tournament will take place in Toronto, Canada from April 2 to 25, 2024.
- Gukesh became the third Indian to make the Candidates tournament, joining R Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi.
- This is the first time in history that three Indians are playing the Candidates.
- The winner gets the chance to take on **China's Ding Liren** in the next World Chess Championship.

#### Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa surpasses Viswanathan Anand to become India's number one Chess player

- India Chess Wizard R
   Praggnanandhaa defeated
   World Chess Champion Ding
   Liren in the Tata Steel
   Masters in the Netherlands.
- As a result of this victory,
  Praggnanandhaa became
  only the second Indian after Vishwanathan Anand
  to defeat a reigning champion.
- He also overtook Anand to become India's new number one Chess player in terms of live ratings.

# Praggnanandhaa the only player in recent times to have beaten both world champions in open and women's categories

- Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa defeated the reigning and four-time women's world champion Wenjun Ju from China in the ninth round of the Tata Steel Masters.
- Just a week ago in the same tournament, the Indian ace had beaten Ding Liren of China.
- The Tata Steel Chess Tournament is an annual chess tournament taking place from Jan 12-28 in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands.
- It is a single round-robin tournament, with 14
   players facing off against each other once.
- It is open to both men and women.

### IIT Madras to host the 6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament



- An International Chess Federation (FIDE)-rated Rapid Chess Tournament will be hosted on March 30 and 31, 2024.
- The '6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess
   Tournament' will witness the participation of 6
   Grandmasters, 16 International Masters, 3 Women
   Grandmasters and a Women International Master.

## India's Gukesh D Makes History, Becomes Youngest To Win Candidates Chess Tournament



- D Gukesh, the 17-year-old from Chennai has become the youngest ever winner of the prestigious Candidates tournament (which will also make him the youngest ever to compete at the World Chess Championship) after his draw against Hikaru Nakamura in the final round of the Candidates chess tournament.
- D Gukesh will take on reigning world champion,
   China's Ding Liren, for the crown later this year
- D Gukesh became only the second Indian after the great Viswanathan Anand to win the Candidates.
   Five-time world champion Anand's triumph came in 2014.

## Arjun Erigaisi replaces Viswanathan Anand to become India's No. 1 in latest FIDE Rankings



- India has a new number 1 in the latest chess rankings: Arjun Erigaisi was the top-ranked Indian in the latest FIDE rankings
- · Erigaisi is ranked 9th in the world.
- Following him is five-time world champion
   Viswanathan Anand, who is the second ranked
   Indian on the FIDE list.

#### Praggnanandhaa beats World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen For First Time In Classical Event At Norway Chess 2024



 The 18-year-old Indian prodigy took down the World No. 1 in the 3rd round of Norway Chess 2024.

## International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu



- Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation.
- This makes Vaishali the third Indian female
   Grandmaster, joining Koneru Humpy and Harika
   Dronavalli.
- She and her brother, Rameshbabu
   Praggnanandhaa, became the world's first
   Grandmaster brother-sister duo.
- Vaishali is the 84<sup>th</sup> Indian grandmaster. In January, she was presented with the Arjuna Award.

#### Some Prominent Indian Chess Grandmasters (Requires Elo rating of above 2500):

- 1987 Vishwanathan Anand, Tamil Nadu
- 2002 Koneru Humpy, Andhra Pradesh
- 2011 Harika Dronavalli, Andhra Pradesh
- 2023 Vaishali Rameshbabu, Tamil Nadu

#### Note: Woman Grandmaster (WGM) Requires a minimum Elo rating of 2300

- Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi first to claim the WGM title in India 2001.
- Jayshree Khadilkar first Woman International Master (WIM) title in India in 1979

#### GM Arjun Erigaisi Triumphs in Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024



- Indian GM Arjun secured victory in the Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024 held in Jermuk, Armenia, with a round to spare.
- Erigaisi, India's highest-rated chess player at 20 years old, achieved this feat by defeating Russian GM Volodar Murzin in 63 moves during the penultimate round.
- Placing him at a career-high 4th spot in live chess ratings.

### Magnus Carlsen Wins 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland



### P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster



- R Vaishali was the 84th Indian GM.
- Vishwanathan Anand was the first Indian to become the Grandmaster in 1988.
- There are three female Indian Grandmasters
   Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika and R. Vaishali.

### Divya Deshmukh Wins World Junior Girls' Chess Championship



 Divya Deshmukh won the World junior girls' chess championship after beating Bulgaria in the final round at the Gift City Club.

### Sports Minister handed over Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest



- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, along with International Chess Federation FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich, handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, Hungary, the host of the 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad.
- The transfer of the torch took place at the Major Dhyanchand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- The 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad held in Chennai in 2022

#### Winners:

- Uzbekistan team won the gold medal in open event
- Ukraine won the gold medal in the Women's event
- India won Bronze in both events

### Viswanathan Anand Wins Leon Masters Chess title for the 10th time



- Five time world champion Viswanathan Anand defeated Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain
- The Leon Masters chess tournament is held in the Leon city of Spain. The tournament features four players.

#### **About Viswanathan Anand**

 At the age of 15 years he became the youngest Indian to earn the International Masters (IM) norms.

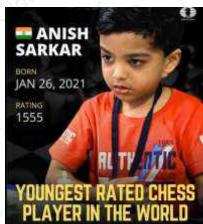
- India's first chess Grand Master in 1988.
- world chess champion five times, FIDE World Chess Champion.
- Anand, in April 2006 became the fourth player after Garry Kasparov, Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov, to pass the 2800 Elo rating marks.
- He has been a world number ranked player for 21 months.

### IIT Madras Aims to Make India Global Chess Powerhouse



- IIT Madras Centre of Excellence in Sports Science and Analytics (CESSA) unveiled plans to make India a global chess powerhouse using technologydriven tools.
- The initiative is aimed at enhancing fan engagement, providing solutions for federations to flag cheating and chess training programmes to further grow the sports at the grassroots level, the institute said.
- This was revealed at the Sports Tech Start Up Conclave' being organised in New Delhi by IIT Madras CESSA.
- The conclave is sponsored by Dream Sports, Vedanta and SFA Play.

### Anish Sarkar Becomes Youngest-Rated FIDE Chess Player Globally



- Anish Sarkar of Kolkata, West Bengal, has become the youngest-rated FIDE chess player in the world.
- At the age of three years, eight months, and 19 days, Anish secured a FIDE rating of 1555.

 The International Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE, the world's governing body for chess

#### World No 1 Magnus Carlsen wins Tata Steel Chess India Blitz event



- · securing both the rapid and blitz titles.
- This victory marks Carlsen's second double win in Kolkata, having previously achieved the same feat in 2019.
- In the women's section, grandmaster Kateryna
   Lagno emerged victorious in the blitz section
- In the women's rapid event, GM Aleksandra Goryachkina emerged champion.

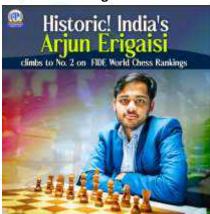
Divith Reddy (Hyderabad) becomes World Champion in U8 World Cadets Chess Championship, in Montesilvano, Italy.



### Arjun Erigaisi makes history by climbing to No. 2 on FIDE World Chess Rankings

- Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi jumped to the world No.2 in the live chess ranking and is now only behind five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen.
- The 21-year-old Arjun Erigaisi, who hails from Warangal in Telangana, had last month created

history by becoming the youngest Indian and only the second Indian player to cross the 2800 Elo rating mark in live ratings.



 The great Viswanathan Anand was the first Indian chess player to cross the 2800 barrier.

#### Karthik Venkataraman Clinches Second Indian National Title

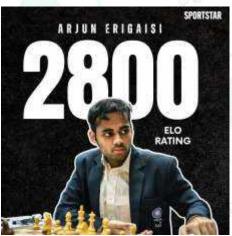


 Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st edition of the Indian National Championship at the event organised by the Haryana Chess Association.

### Pranav Venkatesh wins FIDE World U-18 Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess titles in Slovenia



### Arjun Erigaisi becomes 2nd Indian to breach 2800 ELO rating in chess



 Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi became the second Indian after legendary Viswanathan Anand and 16th worldwide to reach the gold-standard ELO rating of 2800, while also occupying the fourth spot in the latest rankings.

### 9-Year-Old Aarit Kapil Stuns Chess Grandmaster



- Nine-year-old Delhi boy Aarit Kapil has become the youngest Indian to beat a chess Grandmaster as he emerged victorious against Raset Ziatdinov of United States in the ninth and penultimate round of the KIIT International open tournament
- At 9 years, 2 months and 18 days, Aarit is the youngest Indian and third in the world to beat a GM under the classical time control.

### Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh becomes youngest World Chess Champion



- Gukesh Dommaraju became the youngest world champion in chess history, beating Ding Liren (China) in the World Chess Championship 2024 in Singapore.
- The 18-year-old from Chennai broke the record held by the Russian Garry Kasparov for nearly four decades
- This was the first-ever World championship match contested by two Asian countries. And it was a match between the players from India and China
- Gukesh is only the third Asian to win the World championship.
- Viswanathan Anand, who is now a mentor for Gukesh, was the first, and Ding Liren the second.
- The top three youngest players to beat a
   Grandmaster: 1. Ashwath Kaushik (Singapore) 8
   years 2 months 2. Leonid Ivanovic (Serbia) 8
   years 11 months 3. Aarit Kapil 9 years 2 months.

#### Koneru Humpy is World rapid champion

- Indian Chess Grandmaster Koneru Humpy won her second Women's World Rapid Chess Championship title, beating Irene Sukandar of Indonesia.
- Her first title in 2019 at Georgia.
- The top ranked Indian is only the second player after China's Ju Wenjun to clinch the title more than once.
- Humpy is India's first female grandmaster (in 2002)
- GM Volodar Murzin from Russia won the 2024
   FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship

#### **FOOTBALL**

- All India Governor's Gold Cup
   International Football Tournament
- 2. Premier League
- 3. Women's Asian Cups
- 4. 36<sup>th</sup> La Liga title
- 5. FIFA World Cup 2026
- 6. Santosh Trophy
- 7. Durand Cup Trophy 2024
- 8. 16th Copa America title
- 9. AFC President's Recognition Award

40<sup>th</sup> All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament concluded in Gangtok



- NorthEast United FC emerged victorious
- The **Sikkim Gold Cup, known as the All India Governor's Gold Cup**, is an Indian football tournament held in Sikkim and organized by the Sikkim Football Association (SFA).

#### U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher retiring



 She was the starting goalkeeper as the US won the World Cup in 2019, as well as Olympic gold in Paris this summer.

### Manchester City wins historic fourth in row title at Premier League



- Manchester City won its fourth straight Premier League title, making it the first team to achieve this feat.
- Manchester City's earlier three consecutive
   Premier League titles: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- The Premier League is the top professional football (soccer) division in England and is widely regarded as one of the most competitive and popular football leagues in the world.

### Lionel Messi's Iconic No.10 Argentina Jersey to be Retired



### Australia and Uzbekistan to host AFC Women's Asian Cups



**AUSTRALIA, UZBEKISTAN TO HOST WAG** 

The Asian Football Confederation have confirmed Australia and Uzbekistan as the hosts of the next two AFC Women's Asian Cops in 2026 and 2029 respectively. Australia were lest hosts in 2006, while Uzbekistan will hold a rugor tournament for the first time.

- Australia and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as hosts for the 2026 and 2029 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cups, respectively
- This marks Australia's second time hosting after 2006 and makes Uzbekistan the first Central Asian nation to host the event.
- AFC President Shaikh Salman
- AFC Current champions: China

#### Brazil to Host 2027 Women's World Cup

Soccer



- Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's
   World Cup at the FIFA Congress
- to become **the first South American** country to hold the tournament.

### Spanish football club Real Madrid wins 36th La Liga title



The La Liga is a professional men's club-based football championship in Spain.

#### Mumbai City FC regain the Indian Super League crown over Mohun Bagan SG



 Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant at the Salt Lake Stadium to emerge as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 Cup Winners at the final in Kolkata.

#### ISL 2023-24 Season Awards

- Golden Glove Phurba Lachenpa (Mumbai City FC)
- Golden Boot Dimitrios Diamantakos (Kerala Blasters FC)
- Player of the League Dimitrios Petratos (Mohun Bagan Super Giant)

#### About Indian Super League (ISL):

- It is a professional football league in India.
- The league was officially founded in 2013.
- It operates on a franchise system
- The league was established through a partnership between the All India Football Federation (AIFF), Reliance Industries, and Star Sports.
- ISL is recognized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and global governing body FIFA

### India Draws 0-0 With Kuwait In Chhetri's Last Match: FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier

- Indian star football player Sunil Chhetri's last game for India ended in a goalless draw against Kuwait.
- It was a FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata.



- Sunil Chhetri retires as India's highest goal scorer with 94
- Sunil Chhetri, the Indian football captain, had announced his retirement from international football after playing his last match against Kuwait on 6 June 2024

| Awards and | l Ach | nievements                          |
|------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Trophies   | •     | AFC Challenge Cup: 2008             |
|            | •     | SAFF Championship (4): 2011,        |
|            |       | 2015, 2021, 2023                    |
|            | •     | Nehru Cup (3): 2007, 2009, 2012     |
|            | •     | Intercontinental Cup (2): 2018,     |
|            |       | 2023                                |
|            | •     | Tri-Nation Series: 2023             |
| National   | •     | Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:       |
| Awards     |       | 2021                                |
|            | •     | Padma Shri: 2019                    |
|            | •     | Arjuna Award: 2011                  |
| Awards     | •     | AIFF Player of the Year (7): 2007,  |
| and        |       | 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018–19,    |
| Accolades  |       | 2021–22                             |
|            | •     | FPAI Indian Player of the Year (3): |
|            | 60    | 2009, 2018, 2019                    |
|            | •     | SAFF Championship Player of the     |
|            |       | Tournament (4): 2011, 2015, 2021,   |
|            |       | 2023                                |
|            | •     | SAFF Championship Top Scorer (3):   |
|            |       | 2011, 2021, 2023                    |
|            | •     | Football Ratna Award (first         |
|            |       | recipient) by Football Delhi: 2019  |

#### FIFA World Cup 2026 schedule revealed

- Mexico will play the World Cup opener at Estadio
  Azteca on June 11.
- New York New Jersey's MetLife Stadium will host the World Cup final on 19 July
- Co-hosted by the USA, Canada and Mexico, the FIFA World Cup will be played across 16 host cities in three countries.

- FIFA President Gianni Infantino
- FIFA world cup Qatar 2022 : Argentina winning the final against the title holder France
- The first football FIFA World Cup for men was held





in **1930** while the **women's** tournament debuted in **1991**.

- The men's Brazil football team has the most FIFA World Cup wins (5 times)
- In the women's FIFA World Cup, the USA are the most successful nation (4 times)

## Hyderabad to host FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers between India and Kuwait on June 6



- FIFA World Cup is set to take place from June 11 to July 19, 2026.
- It will be jointly hosted by 16 cities in three North American countries: Canada, Mexico, and USA

### Education Ministry ties up with FIFA to promote sporting culture through football

 The Education Ministry and FIFA have partnered to promote football in schools across India.  The joint initiative aims to distribute 11 lakh footballs to more than 1.5 lakh schools, making the sport accessible to students nationwide.



 under the Footballs for Schools (F4S) programme, footballs to be distributed in Odisha, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu in a phased manner.

### National Football League bans Hip-Drop Tackle in 2024

- In 2024, the NFL banned the hipdrop tackle during its annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.
- The decision was driven by concerns over player safety, as the hip-drop tackle had been linked to numerous player injuries over the years.
- NFL is the major American professional football organization.



#### **Ivory Coast win Africa Cup of Nations**



#### **Aramco And FIFA Forge Global Partnership**



 Aramco, the Saudi state-owned oil and gas major, agreed a four-year global partnership with FIFA, global soccer's governing body. The deal makes Aramco FIFA's Major Worldwide
Partner and gives it sponsorship rights at the 2026
FIFA Men's World Cup being hosted in the U.S.
Mexico and Canada, as well as the 2027 Women's
World Cup.

www.parchamclasses.in

### Santosh Trophy: Services beats Goa to lift title for seventh time



- In the 77th National Football Championship,
   Services lifted the Santosh Trophy for the seventh time
- beating Goa 1-0 in the Santosh Trophy final at the Golden Jubilee Stadium at Papum Pare District in Arunachal Pradesh.

#### Real Madrid Wins Against Barcelona in Spanish Super Cup



- It took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Supercopa de Espana or Spanish Super Cup is an annual club tournament in Spanish football.
- Barcelona are the most successful team in the competition with 14 titles.
- It is contested between four teams which included the winners and runners-up of the Copa del Rey and La Liga.

#### Manipur's Panthoi Chanu makes history: First Indian to play in Australian Professional League



She assumes her position to the Metro United
 WFC in the esteemed South Australian Women's
 National Premier League.

### India has maintained its 124th position in the latest FIFA men's rankings



- Argentina, the reigning world champion and Copa America winner, - at the top of the FIFA rankings.
- France maintains its position as the second-ranked team

### President Murmu Unveils Durand Cup Trophy 2024



 The Trophies unveiled include the Durand Cup, the President's Cup and Shimla Trophy.



#### **Durand Cup**

- It is Asia's oldest and the world's third oldest football tournament, in which top Indian football clubs from across the country participate.
- The inaugural edition took place in Shimla in 1888, when it started off as an Army Cup, open only to the British Indian Army troops in India.
- The tournament is named after its founder Sir Henry Mortimer Durand.
- The Durand Cup tournament is unique where in the winning team walks away with three trophies:
  - 1. The **Durand Cup** (a rolling trophy and the original prize).
  - The Shimla Trophy (also a rolling trophy and first given by the residents of Shimla in 1904).
  - 3. The **President's Cup** (for permanent keep and first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956).

#### NorthEast United win maiden Durand Cup title



- Defeated defending Mohun Bagan Super Giant, at the Salt Lake Stadium (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan), Kolkata
- Durand Cup Asia's oldest football tournament
- Gurmeet Singh won Golden Glove

- Noah Sadaoui (6 goals) won the Golden Boot
- Jithin M.S was awarded the Man of the Tournament

#### 133rd Durand Cup Expands to New Venues



- Two new cities, Jamshedpur and Shillong, along with Kolkata and Kokrajhar, will host the 133rd edition of the Durand Cup (football).
- The 133rd edition shall see 24 teams divided into six groups.
- A total of 43 matches would be played, with the finals scheduled at the iconic Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata.

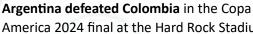
## **UEFA European Championship 2024: Spain Defeat England To Clinch Record 4th Championship Title**



• In Football, Spain won its record fourth European soccer championship after defeating England in the finals of Euro 2024 in Berlin.

### Argentina wins record 16th Copa America title

Argentina wins record 16th Copa America title



America 2024 final at the Hard Rock Stadium **in Miami** to lift its 16th title to become the most successful team in the competition's history.

#### **Thomas Müller retired from International**

Football



- Thomas Müller announced his retirement from international soccer, ending a 14-year career with the German national team.
- Müller was instrumental in Germany's 2014 World Cup victory, scoring five goals in the tournament and ten goals overall in World Cups.

### Olivier Giroud announced International Retirement after Euro 2024



- France's all-time leading goal scorer, Olivier Giroud, announced his retirement from international football
- His international career includes winning the 2018
   World Cup

### AIFF awards 2024, Chhangte, Indumathi Win Top Male and Female Awards



- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) recently held its annual awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding achievements in Indian football for the 2023-24 season.
- The top honours went to Lallianzuala Chhangte and Indumathi Kathiresan, who were named the male and female Players of the Year respectively.

### Manolo Marquez Appointed Head Coach Of Indian Men's Football Team



FC Goa coach Manolo Marquez will be the next Indian national men's team head coach while continuing to manage the Indian Super League side simultaneously for another year.

### Bangladesh crowns new champion of SAFF U-20 Championship



- Bangladesh has been crowned the new champion of the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-20 Championship football tournament after defeating hosts Nepal in the final
- This is the first time that Bangladesh has won this Championship.
- India had won SAFFU-20 in 2019, 2022 and 2023.

### Riiohlang appointed Asst. Referee for 8th FIFA U17 Women's World Cup



 The world football governing body FIFA has selected Meghalay's Riiohlang Dhar as an assistant referee for the eighth U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in the Dominican Republic.

#### FIFA Unveils NASA-Inspired Trophy for Expanded 2025 Club World Cup



- FIFA has revealed the new 2025 Club World Cup trophy, a golden masterpiece created in collaboration with Tiffany & Co.
- The trophy, which will be awarded at the **first-ever 32-team tournament** in June and July 2025.
- Its design is inspired by NASA's 1970s Voyager missions, the periodic table, and the mapping of celestial journeys, linking football to exploration and global unity.
- The trophy includes engravings in 13 languages,
   Braille, and a world map with the names of all FIFA member associations.

### AIFF Clinches AFC President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver)



- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) was conferred with the prestigious President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver) during the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Annual Awards in Seoul, South Korea.
- Nagendra Prasad Sarbadhakari, known as the Father of Indian Football
- AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey

### Vinícius Júnior and Aitana Bonmati win FIFA best player of the year 2024 awards



- Spain's FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 winner Aitana Bonmatí has been named The Best FIFA Women's Player
- Brazil's Vinícius Jr has won The Best FIFA Men's Player
- at The Best FIFA Football Awards 2024 ceremony in Doha, Qatar.

#### FIFA names Saudi Arabia as 2034 World Cup host; Spain, Portugal and Morocco to co-host 2030 edition



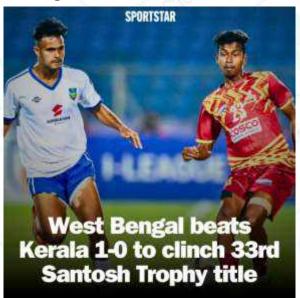
- Saudi Arabia has been officially confirmed as host of the 2034 FIFA World Cup in men's soccer
- Spain, Portugal and Morocco will co-host in a sixnation project, with Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay
- Saudi Arabia will become the second nation from the Middle East to host the mega football event,
   12 years after neighbours Qatar staged the 2022 edition, where Argentina defeated France.
- FIFA President Gianni Infantino.
- 2026 FIFA venue Canada, Mexico, and the United States

### Real Madrid won Intercontinental Cup title against Pachuca



- · final at the Lusail Stadium in Qatar
- FIFA restarted the Intercontinental Cup this year, which features six continental club champions

### West Bengal lifts Santosh Trophy by defeating Kerala



- West Bengal clinched the title for a record 33<sup>rd</sup> time with a 1-0 win against Kerala in the final of the 78th edition at the GMC Balayogi Stadium, Hyderabad.
- Santosh Trophy is India's premier football competition for states and union territories.
- Started in 1941
- West Bengal, then named Bengal, went on to win the inaugural Santosh Trophy title in 1941-42 after beating Delhi

#### **Award winners:**

- Winners West Bengal, Santosh Trophy, and a cash prize of Rs 5 Lakhs.
- Runners Up Kerala, Kamla Gupta Trophy, and a cash prize of Rs 3 lakhs.
- The Santosh Trophy is named after the former Maharaja of Santosh (now in Bangladesh), Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury, a legendary figure in Indian football.

#### **TENNIS**

#### **Grand slam**

- Jannik Sinner won his maiden Grand Slam title
- 2. Aryna Sabalenka first woman to defend singles title in a decade
- Rohan Bopanna wins Australian Open Doubles
- 4. Wimbledon 2024
- 5. **US Open 2024**
- 6. Miami Open 2024
- 7. Monte-Carlo Masters singles
- 8. Novak Djokovic breaks Federer's record to be Oldest No.1 Player
- 9. India No.1 TT player
- 10. Cincinnati Open titles
- 11. 2025 Tennis Hall of Fame Class
- 12. Billie Jean King Cup

### Jannik Sinner won his maiden Grand Slam title, defeating Daniil Medvedev



- Italy's Jannik Sinner won the Australian Open final in Melbourne, his maiden Grand Slam title, defeating Daniil Medvedev from Russia
- Italy's first men's singles winner since 1976
- Most Australian Open titles:

| Men's singles   | Novak Djokovic  | 10 |
|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| Women's singles | Serena Williams | 7  |

### Aryna Sabalenka first woman to defend singles title in a decade



 Aryna Sabalenka defeated China's Zheng Qinwen to successfully defend her Australian Open title.

### French Open: Iga Świątek & Carloz Alcaraz Win Singles Title



- Iga Swiatek (Poland) won her third consecutive
   French Open championship and fourth in five years.
- The world No.1 became the third player in the Open Era, after Monica Seles (1990 to '92) and Justine Henin (2005 to '07) to win the French Open women's singles title three years in a row.
- Swiatek also won the French Open in 2020 and the U.S. Open in 2022.
- After Serena Williams in 2013, she's only the second woman to win the Madrid, Rome and Roland Garros titles in the same year.
- Carlos Alcaraz beats Alexander Zverev to win first French Open title and become the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces.

#### Rohan Bopanna wins Australian Open Doubles



- Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew
   Ebden beat the Italian pair of Simone Bolelli and
   Andrea Vavassori to clinch the men's doubles final.
- At 43, <u>Bopanna became the oldest man</u> to win a Grand Slam doubles title in the Open Era.

### Wimbledon 2024: Barbora Krejcíkova and Carlos Alcaraz Winners



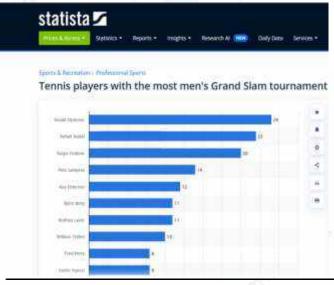


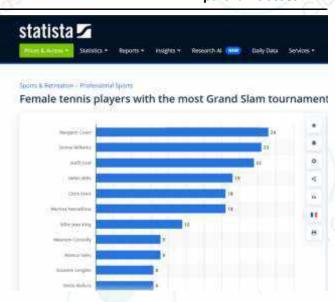
- Barbora Krejcikova (Czech Republic) defeated Jasmine Paolini (Italy) to win her maiden Wimbledon women's singles title in London.
- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) defended his Wimbledon title as he defeated Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- Roger Federer has won most 8 Wimbledon titles.

Grand Slam tournaments, **also called majors**, are the four most important annual tennis events.

The Grand Slam itinerary consists of:

- 1. The Australian Open in mid-January,
- 2. The French Open in May June,
- 3. Wimbledon in June-July
- 4. The US Open in August-September.
- The Australian and United States tournaments are played on hard courts, the French on clay, and Wimbledon on grass.
- Wimbledon is the oldest, founded in 1877, followed by the US in 1881, the French in 1891, and the Australian in 1905.
- As of July 2024, Novak Djokovic held the record for the most men's tennis Grand Slam titles, with a total of 24.
- As of February 2024, Margaret Court holds the record for the most Grand Slam tournament victories by a woman with 24.





#### **US Open 2024**



- The 2024 US Open, held from August 19 to September 8 at Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York City.
- Jannik Sinner of Italy and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus emerged as champions, each claiming their first US Open title and adding to their growing list of Grand Slam achievements.

| Event   | Winner                 | Runners-UP         |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 100     | (Nationalities)        | (Nationalities)    |
| Men's   | Jannik Sinner (Italy ) | Taylor Fritz (USA) |
| Single  |                        | 490                |
| Women's | Aryna Sabalenka        | Jessica Pegula     |
| Single  | (Belarus)              | (USA)              |
| Men's   | Max Purcell and        | Kevin Krawietz     |
| Double  | Jordan Thompson        | and Tim Puetz      |
|         | (Both Australian)      | (Both from         |
|         |                        | Germany)           |
| Women's | Lyudmyla Kichenok      | Kristina           |
| Double  | (Ukraine)and Jelena    | Mladenovic         |
|         | Ostapenko (Latvia)     | (France) and       |
| 400     | V: 1                   | Zhang Shuai        |
| (E)     | Α.                     | (China)            |
| Mixed   | Sara Errani and        | Donald Young and   |
| Doubles | Andrea Vavassori       | Taylor Townsend    |
|         | (Both from Italy)      | (Both American)    |

#### 2024 Madrid Open





| Title           | Winner                 |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| men's singles   | Andrey Rublev (Russia) |
| women's singles | Iga Swiatek (Poland)   |

#### **Barcelona Open 2024**



| Title           | Winner         |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Men's singles   | Casper Ruud    |
| women's singles | Elena Rybakina |

#### Miami Open 2024



| Title           | Winner                     |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Men's singles   | Jannik Sinner              |
| Women's singles | Danielle Collins           |
| men's doubles   | Rohan Bopanna and his      |
| 1965.           | Australian partner Matthew |
| 3               | Ebden                      |



#### Italian open 2024



| Title             | Winner           |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Men's singles     | Alexander Zverev |
| Women's singles   | Iga Swiatek      |
| Qatar Open        | Iga Swiatek      |
| Mexican Open 2024 | Alex De Minaur   |
| San Diego Open    | Katie Boulter    |
| Mumbai Open 2024  | Jessica Pegula   |

#### Prithvi Shekhar won the title in Slovenia Deaf Tennis Open



- Prithvi Shekhar won the title in the Slovenia Deaf Tennis Open by winning the title in the men's singles category.
- Earlier he claimed a singles title at the Australian
   Open Deaf Championship.

#### Sumit Nagal becomes First Indian Man in 35 Years to Beat Seeded Player at Australian Open



 He secured his spot in the second round of the Australian Open after defeating world number 27 Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan.

### Sumit Nagal lifts Chennai Open ATP Challenger trophy



- In the Tennis Chennai Open ATP Challenger finale,
   India's top-ranked Sumit Nagal emerged victorious
   and wins his 5th Challenger Title.
- · He defeated Luca Nardi of Italy
- The Chennai Open is the first in a series of ATP Challenger 100 events to be held in India.

### Sumit Nagal attains career-high ATP ranking of 95

- Ace Indian tennis
   player Sumit Nagal
   achieved a career-high
   ranking of 95 in the
   ATP singles chart.
- He recently won the Chennai Open, an ATP Challenger series event.
- Nagal made headlines in January after he made it to the main draw of the Australian Open and also became the first Indian to beat a seeded player (Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan) in the same

## Sumit Nagal becomes first Indian to win Monte-Carlo Masters singles main draw in 42 years

 Sumit Nagal created history, becoming the first Indian to record a main-draw win at Monte Carlo Masters, beating Italy's Matteo Arnaldi in the first

round



- He is only the third Indian to feature in the main draw in Monte Carlo after Vijay Amritraj (1977) and Ramesh Krishnan (1982)
- Nagal is also the first Indian to win an ATP Masters 1000 match on clay since the series began in 1990.

## Tennis: India's Sumit Nagal Clinches Heilbronn Neckarcup Challenger In Germany



- He defeated Alexander Ritschard of Switzerland in the men's singles title clash.
- This is his 6th ATP Challenger title.
- With this victory, Sumit virtually qualified for the upcoming Paris Olympics. He also achieved an all time high World Ranking of 77 in the Live ATP ranking.

#### Arjun Kadhe and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan clinch ATP Challenger Tennis Tournament in Mexico



 ATP Challenger Tour is a series of international men's professional tennis tournaments that are a rung below the ATP Tour

### Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest player to hold No. 1 men's tennis doubles ranking



### Carlos Alcaraz & Iga Swiatek Indian Wells title champions



- He defeated Daniil Medvedev for the second straight year in the BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells Open) final.
- Iga Swiatek won the women's title defeating Maria
   Sakkari
- The Indian Wells Open is an annual professional tennis tournament held in Indian Wells, California, United States. It is played on outdoor hardcourts at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, and is held in March
- BNP Paribas Open is on ATP Masters 1000 and WTA 1000 tournaments each year.

### Novak Djokovic breaks Federer's record to be Oldest No.1 Player



- Novak Djokovic became the oldest World No. 1 in ATP Rankings history, a record previously held by Roger Federer.
- Serbia's Djokovic, male tennis player in the Open era with 24 Majors, is 36 years and 321 days old.
   He already holds the record for most weeks (419) spent as the top-ranked male player with secondplaced Federer (310 weeks) way behind.
- Djokovic first became World No. 1 on July 4, 2011 at the age of 24

### Stefanos Tsitsipas wins Monte Carlo Masters 1000 for third time



- 25-year-old tennis player Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece defeated Casper Ruud of Norway to win his third ATP Monte Carlo Masters 1000 title.
- He also won the title in 2021 and 2022.

### Sreeja Akula surpasses Manika as India No.1 TT player



- CWG mixed doubles champion Sreeja Akula became the top-ranked Indian woman table tennis player after rising to career-high rank of 38 in latest ITTF Chart, replacing Manika Batra.
- Manika Batra slipped two places to 39
- Sreeja had won the mixed doubles gold medal at the 2022 CWG alongside veteran Sharath Kamal.

### Sreeja Akula creates history by winning WTT Contender singles title



Star paddler Sreeja Akula on Sunday scripted history as she won the **World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender singles title in Lagos**, becoming the first Indian to win the singles crown.

#### India's Paes, Amritraj make history joining Tennis Hall of Fame



Former doubles world number one Leander Paes and tennis broadcaster, actor and player Vijay

#### Amritraj became the first Asian men inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame

- Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj made India the 28th nation represented in the Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.
- Amritraj played from 1970 until retiring in 1993, winning 15 ATP singles titles and 399 matches and being ranked as high as 18th in the world and helped India to the Davis Cup finals in 1974 and 1987.
- Paes was an 18-time Grand Slam champion in doubles and mixed doubles who was selected in the player category after honing his trade in an Amritraj youth academy.
- Paes won the bronze medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta to become India's first, and so far, the only medallist in tennis at the Summer Games.

### Yuki Bhambri, Albano Olivetti Clinch Men's Doubles Title At ATP Swiss Open



 India's Yuki Bhambri and his French partner
 Albano Olivett clinched the men's doubles title at the Swiss Open ATP Tour tennis tournament

#### Nuno Borges Beat Nadal To Lift Swedish Open Men's Singles Trophy



- Nuno Borges of Portugal defeated Spaniard Rafael
   Nadal in the final to win the men's singles tennis title at Bastad in Sweden.
- It was Borges's first ATP Tour title.

## Rohan Bopanna announces retirement from Indian tennis after Paris Olympics exit



- India's campaign in tennis at the 2024 Paris
   Olympics ended after both Sumit Nagal and the
   pair of Rohan Bopanna and N Sriram Balaji lost
   their respective opening-round matches
- Bopanna confirmed his retirement from Indian tennis, thus ruling himself out from the 2026 Asian Games in Japan.
- He will, however, continue to represent India in ATP Tour events.
- Asian Games 2022 (Hangzhou): Bopanna clinched a gold medal in the mixed doubles event, partnering with Rutuja Bhosale.
- Asian Games 2018 (Jakarta): Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan had won gold medal in the men's doubles

#### **Grand Slams:**

- At the start of 2024, Bopanna, at the age of 43
  years and 9 months, became the oldest man to
  win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era of tennis.
- This remarkable feat was achieved when he and his partner Matthew Ebden won the men's doubles event at the Australian Open.
- French Open 2017: Bopanna secured his first
   Grand Slam title in the mixed doubles event.

### Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka win Cincinnati Open titles



### Sharapova, Bryan Brothers Inducted into 2025 Tennis Hall of Fame Class



- Sharapova became the first Russian woman to reach the world number one ranking in 2005.
- She also won a silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics.
- The Bryans won 16 Grand Slam men's doubles titles together and were the world's top-ranked team for a record 438 weeks.
- They won Olympic gold at London 2012

### Aryna Sabalenka WTA World No. 1 women's tennis player for 2024



- 26-year-old Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus was confirmed as the World No. 1 women's tennis player for 2024 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA).
- She won the **2024 Australian Open singles** title and the **2024 US Open singles title**.
- She also won the WTA 1000 Cincinnati Open and the Wuhan Open.

### Jannik Sinner ends 2024 as World number one in Men's Tennis

Sinner from Italy won the Australian
 Open and U.S. Open for his first two Grand Slam titles.

| Men's Grand Slam Title Winners |             |               |                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| YEAR                           | TOURNAMENT  | WINNER        | RUNNER-UP        |
| 2024                           | U.S. Open   | <u>Jannik</u> | Taylor Fritz     |
|                                | 100         | <u>Sinner</u> |                  |
| 2024                           | Wimbledon   | Carlos        | <u>Novak</u>     |
|                                | 700         | Alcaraz       | Djokovic         |
| 2024                           | French Open | <u>Carlos</u> | <u>Alexander</u> |
| Me.                            |             | Alcaraz       | Zverev           |
| 2024                           | Australian  | <u>Jannik</u> | <u>Daniil</u>    |
|                                | Open        | Sinner        | Medvedev         |



| Men's Grand Slam Title Winners |             |               |                 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| YEAR                           | TOURNAMENT  | WINNER        | RUNNER-UP       |
| 2024                           | U.S. Open   | <u>Jannik</u> | Taylor Fritz    |
| Wage.                          |             | <u>Sinner</u> | 200             |
| 2024                           | Wimbledon   | Carlos        | <u>Novak</u>    |
|                                | /           | Alcaraz       | <u>Djokovic</u> |
| 2024                           | French Open | <u>Carlos</u> | Alexander       |
|                                |             | Alcaraz       | <u>Zverev</u>   |
| 2024                           | Australian  | <u>Jannik</u> | Daniil          |
|                                | Open        | Sinner        | Medvedev        |

### Coco Gauff of the US wins the 2024 WTA Finals

 World No.
 3 Coco Gauff of the United States won her first WTA (Women Tennis



Association) Finals by **beating** world number 7 **Zheng Qinwen of China** 

- The doubles title was won by the pair of Gabriela
   Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe
- Saudi Arabia's Capital city of Riyadh hosted the 2024 WTA Finals from 2-9 November 2024.
- The WTA Finals is the season-ending tournament of the WTA, which has been held every year since 1972.
- The **top eight ranked** women's singles and doubles **players participate** in the WTA Finals.
- The WTA finals are organised by the professional women's tennis global governing body Women Tennis Association (WTA).
- The WTA has signed a three-year deal under which Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will host the 2024, 2025, and 2026 WTA Finals.

### Jannik Sinner defeats Taylor Fritz to win ATP Finals

- World number one Jannik
   Sinner became the first Italian
   to win the ATP Finals title
- Defeated American Taylor Fritz



#### N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli clinch Men's Doubles title at ATP Challenger Tour in Italy



### Anders Antonsen becomes first Dane to clinch China Masters 2024



 Young An Se of South Korea won women's singles final in the China Masters 2024

### Italy beat Slovakia to win Billie Jean King Cup



- · Italy won the Billie Jean King Cup for the fifth time
- The Billie Jean King Cup (or the BJK Cup) is the
  premier international team competition in
  women's tennis, launched as the Federation Cup in
  1963 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the
  International Tennis Federation (ITF).

### Indian Tennis Star Prajnesh Gunneswaran Announces Retirement



- From Chennai
- won singles bronze in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games,
- rose to world No.75 in the ATP rankings in 2019,
- Gunneswaran also competed in all four Grand Slams
- He won only a title in the doubles Egypt F25,
   Sharm El Sheikh (ITF Futures Tour) -- in 2018 with his Egyptian partner Issam Haitham Taweel.

### Rafael Nadal retires from tennis with loss in Davis Cup



- Retiring tennis superstar Rafael Nadal lost to Netherlands' Botic van de Zandschulp in a Davis Cup quarterfinal in Málaga, Spain
- 22 Grand Slam titles, 4 Davis Cup victories, and 2 Olympic golds
- Claimed his maiden title at the 2005 French Open.
- Total Titles: 22 Grand Slam titles (2nd in men's history).
- French Open Dominance (14 titles at Roland Garros),
- Won 4 consecutive French Opens twice (2005– 2008 and 2017–2020).
- Other Slams:
  - 2 Australian Open titles (2009, 2022).
  - 2 Wimbledon titles (2008, 2010).
  - > 4 U.S. Open titles (2010, 2013, 2017, 2019).
- 2 Olympic Golds
  - Singles (2008, Beijing)
  - Doubles (2016, Rio).

### **Zverev outclasses Humbert to win Paris Masters 2024**



 Germany's Alexander Zverev won the Paris Masters by defeating Ugo Humbert.

#### **Table Tennis**

- 1. World Table Tennis Feeder
- 2. WTT Youth Contender in Italy



#### Table Tennis: Syndrela Das clinches U-15 Girl's Singles title at WTT Youth Contender in Italy



### Team Asia of Manika Batra wins inaugural TT Waldner Cup 2024 in Norway



- Team Asia, led by six-time Olympic gold medallist Ma Long (China) won the inaugural Waldner Cup 2024 Table Tennis tournament, defeating Team World.
- Manika Batra was the only Indian player to be included in the Team Asia team.

#### **About the Waldner Cup**

- The Waldner Cup has been instituted by Swedish table tennis great Jan-Ove Waldner.
- It was an invitational tournament approved by the Norwegian Table Tennis Association.
- The Waldner Cup was held in Oslo, Norway, from 13-15 December 2024.

### India's Sathiyan Gnanasekaran Clinches Men's Singles Title At World Table Tennis Feeder

- In Table Tennis, India's Sathiyan Gnanasekaran has clinched the Men's Singles title at WTT Feeder Beirut tournament in Lebanon.
- Sathiyan defeated compatriot Manav Vikas Thakkar
- Sathiyan became the first-ever Indian to win a men's singles title at a WTT Feeder Series event.
- Diya Chitale-Manush Shah won mixed doubles

### Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus voted WTA Player of the Year 2024

 Sabalenka also finished the year as the topranked female player for the first time in her



career having won the Australian Open and US Open

- The Italian doubles duo of Sara Errani and Jasmine
   Paolini Doubles Team of the Year.
- The duo won Italy's first Olympic tennis gold at Paris 2024, and helped Italy to their fifth Billie Jean King Cup triumph in Málaga, Spain
- Women's Tennis Association (WTA) was founded by legendary tennis player Billie Jean King in 1973.
- It is the world governing body of women tennis professional players.

#### Youngest Brazilian Joao Fonseca wins 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals

In Tennis, Joao Fonseca
 of Brazil defeated
 Learner Tien of the
 United States to win
 the 2024 Next Gen ATP
 Finals title in Jeddah,
 Saudi Arabia.



- At just 18 years old,
   Fonseca ranked world No. 145, was the youngest participant in this year's tournament.
- His win makes him the second-youngest champion in the tournament's history, following Jannik Sinner's victory in 2019.
- With the win, Fonseca became the first Brazilian to win the title and the lowest-ranked player to do so in the tournament's seven-year history.

#### Squash: Anahat Singh won Western India Slam 2024



Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh won her 9th PSA Challenger title in 2024 - the Western India Slam 2024 women's singles in Mumbai.

#### **SHORT NEWS**

Russian Tennis Star **Deniil Saveley** Banned For 2 Years **Over Doping** 



#### **BADMINTON**

- 1. India Open title 2024
- 2. French Open doubles title
- 3. India Open 2024
- 4. Badminton Asia Team Championships title
- 5. BWF Rankings
- 6. Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024
- Asian U-15 champion

#### Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj finished second in the India Open title 2024



Winner - Korea

Venue - at the KD Jadhav Indoor stadium, New Delhi

Recently Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj finished second best at the Malaysia Super 1000

#### **Satwik-Chirag win French Open doubles** title



- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lifted the French Open badminton crown for the second time with a dominating straight game win over Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)
- The world No. 1 Indian pair had won the title in 2022.

#### Yathiraj, Pramod, Krishna win gold at Para **Badminton World Championships**

Suhas Yathiraj, Pramod Bhagat, and Krishna Nagar secured gold medals in the men's singles at the Para Badminton World Championship.

#### Tai Tzu Ying Clinches Victory In India Open 2024 Women's Singles

- Tai Tzu Ying the legendary player from Taiwan
- Men's Singles winner - China
- Satwik-Chirag 2nd in Men's doubles
- The 2024 India Open badminton

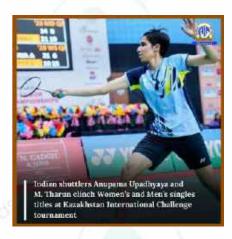
tournament took place from January 16-21 at the K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.



#### Indian Shuttlers Anupama Upadhyaya, M Tharun Clinch Their Singles Titles At



### Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge Tournament



## In Spain Masters 2024 Badminton Tournament, Kean Yew Loh Of Singapore Wins The Men's Title



- In Spain Masters 2024 Badminton tournament, Kean Yew Loh of Singapore has won the Men's title.
- In the Women's Singles, Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand has lifted the crown.

### Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth announces retirement from international badminton

- He won World Championships bronze medal in 2019, secured the Singapore Open title in 2017, and represented India at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- Praneeth reached a career pinnacle with a world ranking of number 10 in 2019.

### India beat Thailand to win first ever Badminton Asia Team Championships title



- The Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024 was held from February 13 to 18 in Shah Alam, Malaysia.
- Led by <u>PV Sindhu</u> and youngster Anmol Kharb, the Indian women's team won a historic gold medal at the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024 after beating Thailand
- The Indian men's team was defeated in the quarterfinals.
- This was India's first-ever gold medal at the Badminton Asia Team Championships. The Indian men's team had previously won two bronze - in 2016 and 2020 - but this was the first time the women made the podium.

### Thomas & Uber Cup 2024: China secure both men's and women's crowns



- In the Thomas Cup final, the host nation (China) defeated 14-time champions Indonesia to secure their 11th title.
- China also defeated Indonesia to lift their 16th women's team title in the Uber Cup.
- Held in Chengdu from 27 April to 5 May
- Men's Badminton Team Championship is popularly known as Thomas Cup
- Women's Badminton Team Championship is popularly known as Uber Cup

### Badminton: Satwik-Chirag Reclaim World No. 1 Spot In BWF Rankings



- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have regained their top spot in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Rankings after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok.
- HS Prannoy highest-placed Indian in men's singles world No. 9
- PV Sindhu world No. 15 in women's singles
- India's top women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa - world No. 19

## Khelo India athletes emerged as outperformers in Li Ning Sri Lanka International Badminton Challenge 2024



- The Sri Lanka Badminton Association conducted the Li Ning International Badminton Challenge 2024
- Isha Rani Baruah won a Gold medal in the women's singles category.
- Over 200 players from 14 countries took part in the challenge, which will be followed by the Li Ning Sri Lanka International Badminton Series 2024.

## India to host BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2025, Guwahati

- The tournament will be played at the newlychristened National Centre of Excellence.
- The World Juniors were last held in India in Pune in 2008.

- India's only gold medal in the junior major came that year when <u>Saina Nehwal</u> defeated Sayaka Sato to become world champion.
- The 2026 edition of the BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals go to Denmark.
- BWF President: Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen



#### Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia crowned Australian Open badminton champion



## Badminton: India's Tasnim Mir & Tharun Mannepalli Clinch Singles Titles At Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024

- Men's singles- India's Tharun Mannepalli
- While in women's singles, World No. 75, India's
   Tasnim Mir

Indian badminton star Ashwini Ponnappa announces retirement after playing her 'last Olympics'



 Ashwini's badminton journey began long ago, with her first national title coming in 2001

#### Partnership with Jwala Gutta (lasted until 2017). This duo achieved several milestones:

- Gold medal at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth
   Games
- Bronze medals at the Uber Cup (2014 and 2016) and Asian Championships (2014)
- In 2011, Ashwini and Jwala made history by becoming the first Indian pair to win a medal – a bronze – at the World Championships.
- Ashwini and Jwala competed together in two Olympics (2012 and 2016)

### Lakshya Sen becomes first Indian male shuttler to reach semifinals of Olympics



- Lakshya Sen beat Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in the guarterfinal.
- India has won two bronze medals in badminton through Saina Nehwal (2012) and PV Sindhu (2021)
- Saina Nehwal became the first Indian badminton player to win an Olympic medal by winning bronze in women's singles in 2012 London Olympics.

### **Shuttler Tanvi Patri crowned Asian U-15 champion**



India's **Tanvi Patri (Odisha)** clinched the under-15 girls singles title at the **Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 junior championships in China**.

### Para shuttler Promod Bhagat suspended for breaching anti-doping regulations



- Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat has been suspended by the Badminton World Federation for a period of 18 months for breaching the anti-doping regulations.
- Now, Pramod will miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

## Syed Modi International Tournament: PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen clinch singles titles





 Indian badminton stars PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen secured singles titles at the Syed Modi India International badminton tournament in Lucknow.

#### Sathish Karunakaran win Guwahati Masters 2024 badminton Singles title



- Indian badminton player Sathish Karunakaran won the BWF Super 100 Guwahati Masters
   2024 badminton singles titles.
- The \$100,000 lakh prize money BWF Super 100 Guwahati Masters 2024 was held in Guwahati, Assam, from 3 to 8 December 2024.
- It was the second BWF Super 100 Guwahati
   Masters after the inaugural edition of 2023.
- At the Guwahati Master 2024, India and China won two titles each, while Malaysia won the men's doubles title.

| Events  | Winner               | Runners-Up    |
|---------|----------------------|---------------|
| Men's   | Satish Karunakaran   | Zhu Xuan      |
| Singles | (India)              | Chen(China)   |
| Women's | Cai Yan Yan (China)  | Anmol         |
| Singles |                      | Kahrab        |
| 0       |                      | (India)       |
| Men's   | Chia Weijie/Lwi      | Huang Di/Liu  |
| Doubles | Sheng Hao (Malaysia) | Yang (China)  |
| Women's | Ashwini              | Li Hua        |
| Doubles | Ponnappa/Tanisha     | Zhou/Wang     |
|         | Crasto (India)       | Zi Meng       |
|         | (6)                  | (China)       |
| Mixed   | Zhang Han Yu/Bao Li  | Rory          |
| Doubles | Jing (China)         | Easton/Lizzie |
| 1       | 95                   | Tolman        |
| 1000    |                      | (England)     |

## Tan Kim Her Returns as India's Doubles Badminton Coach, Targets Asian Games & Olympics



The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has appointed Malaysian doubles specialist Tan Kim Her to work with the Indian national team

- With an eye on 2026 Asian Games and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics
- Tan Kim Her previously worked in India from 2015 to 2019.

### Rithvik Wins Maiden Super 100 Title at Odisha Masters



 India's Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar claimed his maiden BWF Super 100 title after defeating compatriot Tharun Mannepalli in the men's singles final at the Odisha Masters.

### Lakshya Sen Wins Bronze at Inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open 2024



- This tournament is launched by two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan of China, at Shenzhen, China
- The tournament features a men's singles competition with eight players in the fray.
- Lakshya Sen, who made the semi-finals at the Paris 2024 Olympics, was India's only representative in the invitational tournament.

#### **SQUASH**

- 1. TOPS SCHEME
- 2. Goodfellow Classic squash
- 2023 Scottish Junior Open Girls' Under-19 Squash Title
- 4. Saurav Ghosal Retires from Professional Squash
- 5. Asian Doubles Squash Championships

Next Generation Of Squash Players Inducted In TOPS With Eye On LA 2028 Olympic Games



- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Mission Olympics Cell (MOC) has inducted next generation squash
  players Anahat Singh, Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar into the Development Group of the Target
  Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- The squash players have been inducted into TOPS with a focus on 2028 Los Angeles Olympics as the sport is set to debut in that edition.
- For years, Saurav Ghosal, Dipika Pallikal and Joshna Chinappa have kept the flame burning in India and are now passing the baton to the next generation of players.

#### **TOPS SCHEME**

- In order to improve India's performance at
   Olympics and Paralympics, the Ministry of Youth
   Affairs and Sports (MYAS) started the Target
   Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in September
   2014. This was revamped in April 2018 to establish
   a technical support team for managing the TOPS
   athletes and providing holistic support.
- The Scheme looks to add a premium to the preparations of these athletes so that they can win medals in the Olympics.
- This includes foreign training, international competition, equipment and coaching camp besides monthly stipend of Rs. 50,000/- for each athlete.

### Indian Squash player Abhay Singh wins Goodfellow Classic squash in Toronto

 Indian Squash player Abhay Singh (from Chennai) clinched the Goodfellow Classic PSA Challenger Tour Title in Toronto, Canada.

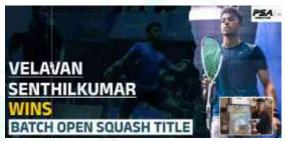


- With this win, the Asian Games Gold medalist has won his 8th PSA World Tour title.
- Future World Champions and World No.1s compete for glory on the PSA Challenger Tour
- The Goodfellow Classic is a squash event on the PSA Challenger Tour
- PSA Professional Squash Association

Anahat Singh Clinches 2023 Scottish Junior Open Girls' Under-19 Squash Title in Edinburgh



Velavan Senthil Kumar Wins His Eighth Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour Title In Paris



 India's Velavan Senthilkumar won his eighth Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour title by winning the Batch Open, a PSA Challenger event in Paris.

#### Saurav Ghosal Retires from Professional Squash



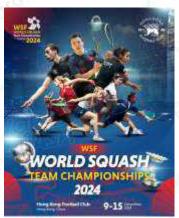
- He will continue to play for India. The PSA World Tour is a professional circuit for squash players, similar to the ATP and WTA in tennis.
- During his career, Ghosal won 12 Professional Squash Association (PSA) titles and multiple medals at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) and Asian Games.
- He the only Indian man to enter the top 10 in the World squash rankings.
- The nine-time Asian Games medallist gold medals in the teams event at 2014 and 2022 Asian Games.
- Ghosal has to his name 13 national titles, and three CWG medals.
- He has also won the World Doubles
   Championships gold medal with Dipika Pallikal
   Karthik in the mixed event at the 2022 Glasgow competition.
- He also became the first Indian male player to secure a CWG squash medal in a singles competition.

Asian Doubles Squash Championships: Abhay Singh Wins Both Men's Doubles And Mixed Doubles Titles



- The Indian team won the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles at the recently concluded Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024 held at the Arena Emas in Johor, Malaysia.
- Asian Games medallist Abhay won the men's doubles crown along with Velavan Senthilkumar.

#### World Team Squash Championship 2024



- held in Hong Kong from December 9-15
- The Indian men's team achieved fifth place
   Winner: Egypt
- Indian women secured seventh place
- Winner: Egypt

#### **PICKLEBALL**

- 1. India's first-ever professional pickleball league 'WPBL'
- 2. Asian Open Pickleball Championships
- 3. World Pickleball Championship.
- India set to get first-ever professional pickleball league 'WPBL'



- Arjuna Awardee Gaurav Natekar is set to launch the World Pickleball League (WPBL)
- WPBL professional pickleball league is envisaged by Natekar Sports and Gaming (NSG) and Sony Entertainment Talent Ventures India (SETVI).
- The inaugural edition of the World Pickleball League will witness six franchises compete for the title. Each team will have five to eight players including international stars.
- **Arvind Prabhoo: President of All India Pickleball Federation**

#### India Clinches 3 Gold, And 2 Bronze **Medals At Asian Open Pickleball Championships In Vietnam**

Pickleball - an American game resembling tennis, in which players use short-handled bats to hit a perforated plastic ball over a net.



- India hosted the 2024 World Pickleball Championship (WPC) in Mumbai from November 12-17.
- Team India stood out as the top-performing nation, clinching an impressive total of, 28 medals including 11 golds.
- the brand ambassador of pickleball in India, Mandira Bedi.



#### India secures 28 medals at World Pickleball Championship.

World Pickleball Championship (WPC) Series hosted by the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA).

#### **WRESTLING**

India wins its first Gold medal at Zagreb Open

2024

- 1. Zagreb Open 2024
- 2. Grand Prix De France 2024
- 3. U23 Asian Wrestling Championship
- 4. U17 Wrestling World championship
- The Asian champion Aman Sehrawat won the Gold medal in Men's 57kg at the Zagreb Open 2024 Wrestling Tournament
- in Croatia.
- He defeated China

#### Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya Claims Bronze **Grand Prix De France 2024**

- Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya secured a bronze medal in 61 kg freestyle wrestling
- at the prestigious Grand Prix De France Henri **Deglane wrestling** tournament held in Nice, France.





### Bajrang Punia Provisionally Suspended by Wrestling Authorities

 NADA (National Anti Doping Agency) had suspended Bajrang on April 23 for his 'refusal' to give his sample during the selection trials for Olympic qualifiers in Sonipat on March 10.



As per United World
Wrestling (UWW) records, Bajrang has been
suspended until December 31, 2024, for "being
provisionally suspended" by NADA "for alleged
anti-doping rule violation (ADRV)."

#### **India finishes Asian Wrestling**

## Championship 2024 with nine medals

Indian wrestlers finished the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with nine medals - four silvers and five bronze



### India Finishes On Top At U23 Asian Wrestling Championship In Jordan

 In wrestling, India finished on top at the Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024, in Amman, Jordan.



- of 8 medals in freestyle wrestling, including 4 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- Kazakhstan took second place while Kyrgyzstan won third.

#### Vinesh Phogat Wins Gold Medal in Grand Prix of Spain

India's two-time Olympian
 Vinesh Phogat won the
 gold medal in the women's
 50kg category in the Grand



gold medal in the women's

50kg category in the Grand Prix of Spain
international continental wrestling championship

### **U17** Wrestling World championship: Ronak Dahiya wins bronze

- Ronak Dahiya bagged a bronze medal in the 110kg Greco-Roman category of the U17 World Wrestling Championship. Ronak, ranked second in the world.
- World Wrestling Championships in Amman, Jordan.



### Indian women clinch first-ever team title at U-17 Wrestling World Championships in

Jordan

- Under-17 World
  Wrestling
  Championship in
  Amman, Jordan,
  Indian women win its
  first-ever team title
  with 185 points.
- Indian women signed

  off with 8 medals, including 5 gold, one silver, and two bronze.
- India won a total of 10 medals in the championship, with two bronze medals coming in Greco-Roman wrestling.

#### **Short News**

 The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has suspended Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia for four years for refusing to provide a dope test sample during the national team selection trials on March 10, 2024.

#### India Shines at Junior World Pencak Silat Championship: Nusrath Fatima Wins Silver for Nation



- Nusrath Fatima from Sankoo, Kargil, representing India, clinched a silver medal at the 5th Junior World Pencak Silat Championship, held in Abu Dhabi from December 18 to 22.
- Competing in the 58 kg Junior category

#### **BOXING**

#### BFI Agrees to Become a Member of World Boxing

- BFI to Become a Member of World Boxing
- 2. Mary Kom announces retirement
- 3. intercontinental title in U.S
- 4. Youth World Boxing Cup



- The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has agreed to join the World Boxing, the newly-formed governing body.
- World Boxing was launched in April 2023.
- It was formed after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) refused to recognize the International Boxing Association (IBA).
- IOC had said once again reiterated that **National Federations affiliated with the IBA** would **not be allowed** to feature at the **Olympic Games LA28**.

#### Nikhat Zareen And Minakshi Clinch Gold Medals At Elorda Cup In Kazakhstan

- In Boxing, Nikhat
   Zareen and another
   boxer Minakshi
   clinched gold medals
   at the Elorda Cup 2024
   in Astana, Kazakhstan.
  - Indian boxers Nikinat Zareen ar Minskishi clinich gold medale at
- Nikhat in the women's52 kg category
- Minakshi in the women's 48 kg event.
- The Indians concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals, including two gold, two silver and eight bronze medals.

### Star India boxer Mary Kom announces retirement

- Six-time World
   Champion and 2012
   Olympic medalist
   Mangte Chungneijang
   Mary Kom on January 24 announced her
   retirement from boxing.
- Mary Kom hung her boxing gloves as the
   International Boxing Association's (IBA) rules
   allow male and female boxers to fight in elite-level
   competition only till the age of 40.

#### **Achievements of Mary Kom**

- Mary (born 24 November 1982) is the first female boxer in boxing history to have captured six world titles (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2018)
- First Indian female boxer to win:

- Bronze medal in the London 2012 Olympic Games
- Gold medal at the 2014 Asian Games
- Commonwealth 2018 Gold

#### **Awards of Mary Kom**

- 2009 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna
- 2006 Padma Shri
- 2013 Padma Bhushan.
- 2020 Padma Vibhushan
- Former Member of Parliament Mary Kom was inducted into the Rajya Sabha in 2016 following a nomination by the then Indian President Pranab Mukherjee.

### Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra wins intercontinental title in U.S

- Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra won US Based National Boxing Association's (NBA) intercontinental super featherweight title in Washington.
- Mandeep Jangra had won a

  Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014

  Glasgow edition.

#### Amit Panghal and Sachin Siwach bag Gold medals at Strandja Memorial tournament in Bulgaria



Nikhat Zareen and three other

Indians signed off with silver medals at the 75th Strandja Memorial tournament in Bulgaria.

#### Team India clinch 26 medals including 5 gold in Youth World Boxing Cup

Team India clinched 26 medals including 5 gold, 9 silver, and 12 bronze medals as it finished as the runnerup at the Youth World **Boxing Cup Adriatic Pearl** 2024 in Montenegro Nikita Chand was named



'Best Boxer' of the tournament. First place went to Russia with 8 gold medals

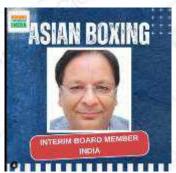
#### **Chandru G Wins WBC India Cruiserweight** Championship

- Tamil Nadu's Chandru G clinched the WBC India Cruiserweight Championship title in **Boxing**
- In August 2021, World **Boxing Council** announced the formation of the WBC India



strategic partner for development of Professional Boxing in India.

#### World Boxing forms new Asian body with BFI Chief Ajay Singh as Board member



- World Boxing has added Asia as its newest member
- Tokyo Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been included in the Athletes' Commission while six Boxing Federation of India (BFI) officials, including President Ajay Singh, will be board members.

#### **F1 RACING**

- 1. Grand Prix 2024
- 2. 24 Hours of Le Mans
- 3. 2025 edition of MotoGP Bharat
- 4. First female racer ever to win at Rotax Challenge
- 5. India's first-ever night street racing
- 6. Kolkata Royal Tigers Racing Team
- 7. First Indian Woman Racer to Win **National Championship**

#### **Grand Prix 2024**

| Grand Prix     | Winner          |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Bahrain        | Max Verstappen  |
| Saudi Arabia   | Max Verstappen  |
| Japan          | Max Verstappen  |
| China          | Max Verstappen  |
| Emilia-Romagna | Max Verstappen  |
| Canada         | Max Verstappen  |
| Spain          | Max Verstappen  |
| Brazil         | Max Verstappen  |
| Qatar          | Max Verstappen  |
| Great Britain  | Lewis Hamilton  |
| Belgium        | Lewis Hamilton  |
| Mexico         | Carlos Sainz    |
| Australia      | Carlos Sainz    |
| Miami          | Lando Norris    |
| Netherlands    | Lando Norris    |
| Singapore      | Lando Norris    |
| Abu Dhabi      | Lando Norris    |
| Monaco         | Charles Leclerc |
| Italy          | Charles Leclerc |
| United States  | Charles Leclerc |
| Las Vegas      | George Russell  |

| Austria    | George Russell |
|------------|----------------|
| Hungary    | Oscar Piastri  |
| Azerbaijan | Oscar Piastri  |

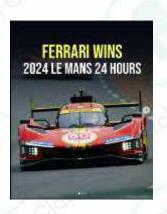
### Spanish Grand Prix to move from Barcelona to Madrid in 2026



- Formula One has announced that Madrid will host the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix from 2026 to 2035
- It has been traditionally held in Barcelona since 1991.

## Ferrari win 24 Hours of Le Mans for second year in a row

- Ferrari won the 24
   Hours of Le Mans for
   the second year in a row
- The 24 Hours of Le Mans is an endurance-focused sports car race held annually near the town of Le Mans, France.



#### UP govt agrees for 2025 edition of MotoGP Bharat in Noida



- The Uttar Pradesh government will sign a contract with Spain headquartered Dorna Sports and its Indian partner, Fairstreet Sports, to organise MotoGP event in Noida next year, and will keep organising the annual event till 2029.
- Marco Bezzecchi, of the Mooney VR46 Ducati
  (GP22) team had secured a win at the IndianOil
  Grand Prix of India MotoGP Bharat 2023 at the
  Buddh International Circuit.

## Max Verstappen wins 3rd straight Canadian Grand Prix for 60th Formula 1 victory



- Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third straight year for the Red Bull
- Sixth victory from nine races this season and the 60th of his Formula One career.

#### F1 Races 2024 & Winners

- Bahrain GP Max Verstappen
- Saudi Arabia GP Max Verstappen
- Australia GP Carlos Sainz
- Japan GP Max Verstappen
- China GP Max Verstappen
- Miami Grand Prix Lando Norris
- Emilia Romagna Grand Prix Max Verstappen
- Monaco GP Charles Lecrec

#### Kush Maini Scores Maiden F2 Victory at Hungarian GP

Kush Maini achieved his firstever Formula 2 win at the Hungarian Grand Prix after Richard Verschoor, the original sprint race winner, was disqualified due to a technical infringement



# Atiqa Mir became first female racer ever to win at Rotax Challenge

 Atiqa Mir, a nine-yearold racer from Srinagar, became the first female racer to win a race in the Rotax Challenge



International Trophy, achieving this feat at the renowned Le Mans Kart International Circuit.

Driving for Dan Holland Racing Team in the Micro Max category

## India's first-ever night street racing event to be held in Chennai



Chennai will host India's first-ever night street racing event, the second round of the Indian Racing Festival, from August 30 to September 1.

**Ferrari driver Carlos** Sainz agrees on two-year deal to join Williams Formula 1 team



#### Sourav Ganguly bought Kolkata Royal **Tigers Racing Team**

Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly becomes the owner of the Kolkata **Royal Tigers Racing** team



**Indian Racing Festival** (IRF) third season will feature eight city-based teams competing from August to November in the Indian Racing League (IRL) and Formula 4 Indian

Twice MotoGP champion Francesco Bagnaia won the **Austrian Grand Prix** (motorcycle racing)

Championship (F4IC).



#### Norris beats Verstappen to Dutch GP

Lando Norris became the first person to beat Max Verstappen at the Dutch **Grand Prix** 





Spain's Jorge Martin wins 2024 MotoGP World Championship in **Barcelona** 

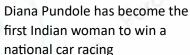


**Kavin Quintal** (Chennai), the first Indian to have participated in



the World Superbike Championship.

## **Diana Pundole: First Indian Woman Racer to** Win National Championship







#### **Hemanth Muddappa wins 15th National** Title in Motorcycle Drag

## Racing

- at the Madras International Circuit (MIC).
- Hemanth Muddappa of Mantra Racing took his tally of National titles to 15, making him the country's most decorated motorsport athlete.



### **JAVELIN THROW**

- Switzerland Tourism Honours Neeraj Chopra
- 2. Doha Diamond League 2024
- 3. Federation Cup
- 4. Javelin Throw At Taiwan Athletics Open
- 5. Lausanne Diamond League 2024
- 6. Neeraj Chopra Partners with Javelin Legend Jan Zelezny as Coach

## Switzerland Tourism Honours Neeraj Chopra With Plaque At Jungfrau's Ice Palace



• India's Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfraujoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland.

### India's Star Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra Seals Second-Place Finish In Doha Diamond League 2024



 Chopra's spear landed at 88.36 meter, just 2 centimeters short of event topper Czech player Jakub Vadlejch's 88.38 meter.

### Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold In Federation Cup With Throw Of 82.27 Metres



In men's javelin throw, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the **gold medal in Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar.**   He has won a historic gold in the Tokyo Olympics 2020, became Diamond League champion in 2022, world champion in 2023 and defended Asian Games gold in China in 2023.

#### World Champion Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold In Javelin Throw At World Athletics Continental Gold Tour In Finland



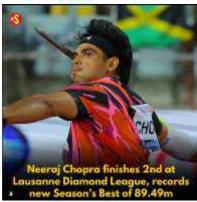
- at the Paavo Nurmi Stadium in Turku, Finland.
- He topped with a best effort of 85.97 meters.

## India's D.P Manu Clinches Gold In Javelin Throw At Taiwan Athletics Open



At the Taiwan Athletics Open 2024, **DP Manu in Men's Javelin throw** took home the gold medal,
while in women's 100 metre hurdles, **Nithya Ramaraj clinched the silver medal for the country.** 

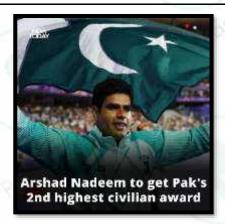
### Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Men's Javelin Throw event at Lausanne Diamond League 2024



 Anderson Peters of Grenada set a new meet record with a monster throw of 90.61m to take the first place while Julian Weber of Germany settled for third with 87.08m, as per Olympics.com.

## Pakistan athlete Arshad Nadeem to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz Award

- The Javelin Throw gold medallist in the Paris Olympics 2024,
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem is set to be honoured with Hilale-Imtiaz by the country's government.
- Hilal-e-Imtiaz is the second-highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan (Highest -Nishan-e-Pakistan)



#### Neeraj Chopra Partners with Javelin Legend Jan Zelezny as Coach



- Neeraj Chopra, India's double Olympic medallist -2020 Tokyo Olympics gold medal in the men's javelin throw event (first Asian to do so); 2024
   Paris Olympics silver
- Jan Železný is a Czech former track and field athlete.
- Zelezny is a three-time Olympic gold medallist, holds five of the top ten best throws of all time, and holds the current world record of 98.48m (set in Germany in 1996).

### **GOLF**

- 1. Amandeep Johl Appointed CEO Of Professional Golf Tour of India
- 2. FCG World Junior Golf Championship
- 3. President of the Professional Golf Tour of India
- 4. USGA's Prestigious Bob Jones Award

## Amandeep Johl Appointed CEO Of Professional Golf Tour of India



- The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) announced the appointment of Amandeep Johl as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from January 2025.
- Johl replaces Uttam Singh Mundy
- Kapil Dev, became PGTI President in June

14-year-old Chandigarh golfer Neil Jolly finished as a runner-up in the FCG World Junior Golf Championship in California



## Indian-American golfer Akshay Bhatia wins the Valero Texas Open



## Kapil Dev has been appointed President of the Professional Golf Tour of India



## Tiger Woods Honored with USGA's Prestigious Bob Jones Award



- Legendary golfer Tiger Woods has been selected to receive the Bob Jones Award, the highest honour bestowed by the United States Golf Association (USGA).
- recognizing his dedication to sportsmanship and upholding golf's traditions.
- Woods was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2022, and he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Donald Trump in 2019.

### **BILLIARDS**

- Western India Billiards and Snooker
   Championship
- 2. IBSF World Under-21 Women's Snooker Championship
- 3. Billiards Hall of Fame
- 4. 28th World Billiards title
- Defeated S. Shrikrishna in the finals

# Natasha wins IBSF World Under-21 Women's Snooker Championship

Bengaluru based Natasha claimed her first World title



# Pankaj Advani wins billiards final of Western India Billiards and Snooker Championship



### Dhruv Sitwala and Anupama Ramachandran win Asian billiards & snooker championships

 Asian billards and women's snooker titles in the Asian championships in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

#### The results (finals)

- Men: Billiards: Dhruv Sitwala beat Pankaj Advani
- Women: Snooker: Anupama Ramachandran beat Panchaya Channoi



#### Billiards vs Snooker





- Table Size: Billiards (10x5 feet), Snooker (12x6 feet)
- Balls: Billiards (3 balls), Snooker (22 balls)
- Gameplay: Billiards focuses on a combination of shots for scoring, Snooker focuses on potting balls in a specific order

## Pankaj Advani joins "Billiards Hall of Fame"



- Pankaj Advani was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the World Billiards Museum in Shangrao City in China.
- Last year, Pankaj Advani won his 26<sup>th</sup> IBSF (the International Billiards and Snooker Federation) title after beating compatriot Sourav Kothari.
- He is a 27-time International Billiards and Snooker
   Federation (IBSF) world champion.

## Pankaj Advani claims CCI billiards classic title



- India's most successful sportsperson in billiards retained his CCI billiards classic title by beating Englishman David Causier in Mumbai
- This was Advani's fourth successive triumph at this venue.

## Pankaj Advani bags record 28<sup>th</sup> World Billiards title



- Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani clinched a historic 28th world title, seventh in a row, defeating England's Robert Hall
- at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha on November 9, 2024.

## Shruthi clinches crown in Women's World Billiards Championship Title



**L. Shruthi from Chennai** defeated her compatriot **Keerath Bhandaal** to win the Women's World Billiards Championship title **at** Landywood Snooker Club, Walsall, **England**.

## **PARIS OLYMPICS**

- 1. Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony
- 2. Paris Olympics 2024: Medals made of Eiffel Tower
- 3. The 'Phryge', the mascot
- 4. INDIA @ PARIS OLYMPIC 2024
- 5. India's first athlete to win two medals in same Olympics
- 6. Paris 2024 Olympics closing ceremony
- 7. India's Youngest Boxing Referee At Olympics

#### **Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony**



- For the first time, the Games' opening ceremony will not take place in a stadium. Instead, around **85 boats will** carry nearly **7,000** athletes on a 6km floating parade on the Seine, at the heart of Paris.
- At the Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony, athletes from every country will take part in a river parade.
- The course for the parade of nations will follow a six-kilometre course of the Seine, from east to west.
- The Parade of Nations during the Opening Ceremony helps in introducing all the competitors and competing nations of the Olympics as they walk out one by one at the venue.
- India will be **the 84th country in the Parade of Nations** during the Paris Olympics 2024 Opening Ceremony.

## Paris hosted the Olympic Games before Paris 2024

- Paris has hosted two Olympic Games in the past: the first one in 1900 (the second modern Olympics held in history) and one in 1924, exactly 100 years ago.
- This means it will join London as the only two cities to host the Olympic Games three times.
- London hosted the Olympic Games in 1908, 1948, and 2012.

#### How many medal events in Paris Olympics 2024?

- In Paris 2024, there will be 329 medal events. 152 of them will be for women. 20 will be mixed gender.
- Mario Deslauriers, who will represent Canada in the equestrian events, is the oldest athlete at Paris
- At the Paris Olympics 2024, there are 32 sports across 329 events.

## What Olympic sports are being dropped in Paris 2024?

There are three sports that are being dropped from the Paris Olympics, which were there at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021: baseball, softball and karate.

#### What sports have changed in Paris 2024?

 Breaking, commonly known as breakdancing, will be included at the Olympics for the first time in Paris.

- Surfing, which made its Olympic debut in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, found a spot again in the Olympic program.
- But it is not being held in Paris.
- Or France, for that matter. Surfing at the 2024
   Olympics will take place over 9,000 miles from the
   French Capital in Teahupo'o, located on the island
   of Tahiti in French Polynesia.
- Like surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing are also back for a second time.
- In the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021 due to the pandemic), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) introduced five new sports:
- Surfing, Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, Karate and Baseball/Softball.
- In the Los Angeles Summer Games 2028 Baseball and softball will be making their Olympic return.
- New sports flag football, cricket, lacrosse and squash.

#### How many Athletes' Villages are there?

- Athletes at Paris 2024 will be accommodated in five different villages during the Games.
- The Olympic and Paralympic Village will be located in Seine-Saint-Denis.
- The Olympic Village in Marseille will be dedicated to sailing.
- The Olympic Village in Lille Métropole will host basketball and then handball.
- The Olympic and Paralympic Village in Châteauroux will be dedicated to shooting.
- The Olympic Village in Tahiti will be for surfing.

## Paris Olympics 2024: Medals made of Eiffel Tower

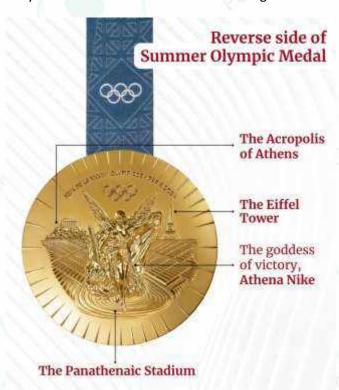


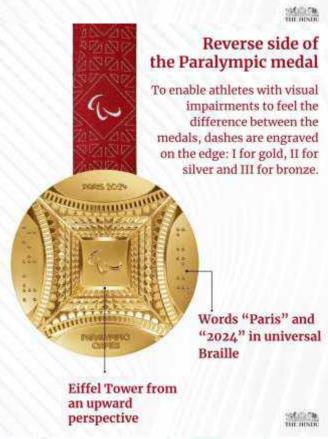
- The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympics medals
  will feature a unique design that incorporates a
  piece of the Eiffel tower. Each gold, silver and
  bronze medal will have a hexagonal polished
  chunk of iron taken from the iconic landmark
  embedded in its centre.
- This marks the first time in Olympic history that a host city has included pieces of a famous monument in the medals.
- The hexagonal shape of the iron pieces represents France, often referred to as "L'Hexagone" due to its geographical shape.
- The medals, designed by Paris jewellery house
   Chaumet, feature disks of recycled gold, silver, or bronze surrounding the iron pieces.
- These disks are crinkled to reflect light and make the medals shine. The ancient <u>Greek goddess of</u> <u>victory</u>, Nike, is depicted on the other side of the Olympic medals, along with a small representation of the Eiffel Tower.



- The reverse side of the Olympic medal shows the story of the Games' rebirth in Greece.
- It features the story designed by Elena Votsi for the Athens 2004 Olympics - the goddess of victory, Athena Nike emerging from the Panathenaic Stadium, the site of the 1896 revival of the Olympic Games.

• It also shows the Acropolis of Athens, a mandatory feature on Olympic medals, joined for the first time by the Eiffel Tower in the Paris 2024 design.





- The reverse side of the Paralympic medals features a graphic depiction of the Eiffel Tower from an upward perspective, offering a rarely seen angle of the iconic monument.
- Surrounding the base of the tower are the words "Paris" and "2024" in universal Braille, paying homage to the French inventor, Louis Braille.

#### The 'Phryge', the mascot





- The 'Phryge', the mascot of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Inspired by the traditional Phrygian hats, this mascot embodies a deep-seated symbol of freedom [the little red hat, known as a Phrygian cap (or a liberty cap), is a symbol of the French liberation].
- These caps stand for "freedom, identity and spirit in France
- The Olympic Phryge and the Paralympic Phryge live by the mantra — "Alone we go faster, but together we go further",

| Paris ( | Olympics Med | dal Tally 20 | 24     | 7      | / /   |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Rank    | Country      | Gold         | Silver | Bronze | Total |
| 1       | United       | 40           | 44     | 42     | 126   |
|         | States of    |              |        |        |       |
|         | America      |              |        |        |       |
| 2       | People's     | 40           | 27     | 24     | 91    |
|         | Republic     |              | · ·    |        |       |
|         | of China     |              | 1      |        | 0.00  |
| 3       | Japan        | 20           | 12     | 13     | 45    |
| 4       | Australia    | 18           | 19     | 16     | 53    |
| 5       | France       | 16           | 26     | 22     | 64    |





#### **INDIA @ PARIS OLYMPIC 2024**



- Mansukh Mandaviya, Hardeep Singh Puri Unveil Ceremonial Dress And Playing Kit For Paris Olympics Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

#### The three kits include:

- The playing kit designed by JSW Inspire,
- The ceremonial dress designed by Tarun Tahilianiowned TASVA
- Performance shoe and travel gear by PUMA
- At the Paris 2024 Olympics, 117 athletes make up the Indian contingent in 16 sports disciplines, comprising of 70 men and 47 women.
- They competed in 69 events for 95 medals.
- Neeraj Chopra will headline a 28-member Indian athletics contingent at the Paris Olympics. The squad comprises 17 men and 11 women athletes

Gagan Narang replaces Mary Kom as India's Chef-de-Mission, PV Sindhu female flagbearer



- Four-time Olympian and 2012 Olympic Games men's 10m Air Rifle bronze medalist Gagan Narang was chosen by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) of the Indian contingent to compete in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- Two-time Olympic medallist badminton ace PV
   Sindhu and 13-time Commonwealth Games
   medallist table tennis veteran Sharath Kamal will

be the flag-bearers for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics opening ceremony.



Nita Ambani, a renowned philanthropist and founder of Reliance Foundation, has been unanimously reelected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from India at the global olympic body's 142nd session in Paris.

She was first elected as an individual member of the IOC in 2016 during the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. As the first Indian woman to join the IOC

## Paris Olympics 2024 concluded: India finished at 71st spot



- a decline from its 48th place in Tokyo 2020.
- India, with a total of 6 medals, including one silver and five bronze medals, finished at the 71st spot in the overall medal tally.

| Athlete        | Event                  | Medal  |
|----------------|------------------------|--------|
| Manu Bhaker    | Women's 10m air pistol | Bronze |
| Manu Bhaker    | Mixed team 10m air     | Bronze |
| and Sarabjot   | pistol                 |        |
| Singh          |                        |        |
| Swapnil Kusale | Men's 50m rifle 3      | Bronze |
|                | positions              | 100    |
| India men's    | Men's hockey           | Bronze |
| hockey team    |                        | 1000   |

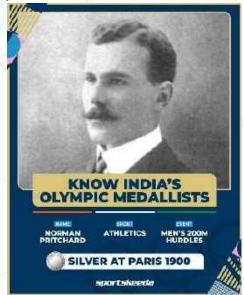
| Neeraj Chopra | Men's javelin throw   | Silver |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Aman          | Men's freestyle 57 Kg | Bronze |
| Sehrawat      | wrestling             |        |

| Position | Country   | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total<br>Medal |
|----------|-----------|------|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1        | USA       | 40   | 44     | 42     | 126            |
| 2        | China     | 40   | 27     | 24     | 91             |
| 3        | Japan     | 20   | 12     | 13     | 45             |
| 4        | Australia | 18   | 19     | 17     | 53             |
| 5        | France    | 16   | 26     | 22     | 64             |
| 71       | India     | 0    | 1      | 5      | 6              |

#### **RECORDS**

- India's ace Shooter Manu Bhaker, has created history by becoming first woman shooter to win a medal in Olympics.
- She became the first Indian athlete to win two medals at the same edition of the Olympics.
- Sarabjot got his first Olympic medal.
- Aman Sehrawat become India's youngest medal winner at the Summer Games. This is Sehrawat's first Olympics games.
- Shuttler P V Sindhu and boxer Sushil Kumar are the only two Indians to have won multiple Olympic medals but in separate Olympic games.

Norman Pritchard: Colonised India's first athlete to win two medals in same Olympics



- On July 30, British-Indian Norman Pritchard was trending again when Manu Bhaker became the country's first athlete in the post-independence era to win two Games medals in a single edition.
- Because Pritchard had done it pre-independence in the 1900 edition, which also took place in Paris,

by winning silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles.

- While the International Olympic Committee (IOC)
   lists him as an Indian,
- Pritchard was born in then Calcutta in 1875 and died in Los Angeles in 1929, often described as the first Asian-born athlete to win an Olympic medal.
- The Athletics Federation of India (AFI), on its part, has included him in the Indian athletics' 'Hall of Fame'
- For the Indian contingent, Manu Bhaker and PR Sreejesh were the flagbearers in the Parade of Nations that featured athletes from 206 contingents – including a first-ever refugee team at the Games.



Abhinav Bindra, the first Indian to win an individual gold at the Olympics, has been honoured with the Olympic Order



- Abhinav Bindra became first person from India to receive the Olympic order in individual category event
- former India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was also presented with the gold Olympic Order in 1983.
- Bindra, who clinched India's first individual Olympic gold medal in 2008 during the Beijing Summer Games will receive the honor on August 10 during International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 142nd session.
- The Olympic Order was founded in 1975.
- It is the highest award of the Olympic Movement.
- It is specifically awarded for distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.

- The Olympic Order originally had three grades gold, silver and bronze. But it was changed nine years later.
- The gold is reserved for the heads of state and exceptional circumstances.
- Nelson Mandela too has been a recipient of the honour in the past.





- India's first-ever country house at the Olympics
  has been established by the Reliance Foundation
  in partnership with the Indian Olympic Association
  (IOA)
- Inaugurated by Nita Ambani, International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and founder of Reliance Foundation
- India House, situated at Parc de la Villette in the Park of Nations, will operate daily throughout the Olympics



- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a
   'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company,
   announces its partnership with the Indian Olympic
   Association (IOA) as the official Principal Partner
   for four years, starting from Paris Olympics '24
   through Los Angeles Olympics '28.
- The Adani Group has launched a stirring social media campaign under the banner #DeshkaGeetAtOlympics.



Social media platform ShareChat has partnered with Viacom18-owned streaming platform JioCinema to offer exclusive short-form multilingual content related to Paris Olympics 2024 from July 26 to August 11, 2024.

#### Paris 2024 Olympics closing ceremony

- IOC President Thomas Bach officially declared the 33rd Summer Games closed.
- The Olympic flag is handed over from Paris to Los Angeles, the host of the next Summer Games in 2028.
- French theatre director and actor Thomas Jolly organized a "Records" theme through a series of traditional dance and music performances.
- "Records": a dreamlike journey through the foundations of humanity
- The "Golden Voyager," featured, represented an imaginative depiction of a time
- Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo passed the flag to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who will host the 34th Summer Games in 2028.
- Tom Cruise took the Olympic Flag from Karen Bass and symbolically carried it to Los Angeles for the upcoming Games.
- The Paris Paralympics will start on August 28 and will run till September 8.
- The 2028 Summer Olympics will be held at the Memorial Coliseum in downtown Los Angeles.



## **Important take away from Paris Olympics 2024**

- Paris 2024 is set to be the greenest Games in history.
- The Games' organising committee has pledged to halve the Olympics' carbon emissions — from roughly 3.5 million tonnes each in Tokyo 2020, Rio 2016, and London 2012 to 1.75 tonnes this time around
- Salt Lake City, Utah, was elected to host the 2034
   Winter Olympics and Paralympics with 83 out of 89 votes.
- The city, which previously hosted the Winter Games in 2002,
- The 26th Winter Olympic Games 2030 will be attributed to the French Alps.

- France will host the Winter Games for the fourth time in history, after 1924, 1968 and 1992
- The next Winter Games will be Milano Cortina 2026. Italian cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo will be the hosts.

## BCORE launched to give wings to India's 2036 Olympic dreams

- IOA President P T Usha and senior vice-president
   Ajay Patel inaugurated BCORE at Rashtriya Raksha
   University (RRU) in Lavad, Gujarat.
- The Bharat Centre of Olympic Research and Education (BCORE) will not only help prepare the country for hosting the 2036 Olympics, but will also pitch for the inclusion of Indian sports such as kabaddi, kho-kho and yoga in the Games
- An independent academic and research centre to offer dedicated academic, research, sports and extension programmes.
- It is the 71st centre globally to receive official recognition from the International Olympic Committee

#### **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**

- Established 1927
- Sir Dorabji Tata and Dr. A.G. Noehren as the Founding President and Secretary General
- IOA is recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

#### Governance:

- It is currently governed by a 32-member Executive Council, headed by the President.
- The election for the Executive Council is held once in every four years.

# International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Saudi Arabia as the host of the first Olympic Esports Games 2025

Saudi Arabia and IOC have announced a **12-year agreement** to host the new **esports Olympics** in Saudi Arabia **starting 2025.** 

- Though the Esports Games are an official Olympic event under IOC purview, they will have a separate organizational and financial model from the Summer and Winter Games. They will be held regularly, but dates, video games to be played, and the qualifying process for players are yet to be finalised.
- The IOC launched its first esports pilot, the Olympic Virtual Series, in 2021

## Indian CAPF, special forces canine squad in France for Olympics venue security



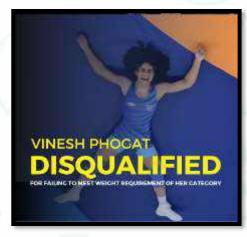
- Ten specially-trained Indian CAPF and special commando force dogs are in France to provide a counter-terrorist cover to various venues of the Paris Olympics
- The ten Indian K9 (canine) teams will undertake sniffing and patrolling duties
- this first-ever kind of collaboration of canine squads between the Indian and the French government
- The dogs are from the sturdy Belgian Malinois breed

## Lt Col Kabilan Sai Ashok, India's Youngest Boxing Referee At Olympics

- Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok, a serving Indian Army Officer, has become India's youngest referee to officiate the boxing events at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024.
- He is 32, is only the fourth Indian since 1904 to officiate at the Olympics
- the first to have represented the country as a player and an official at a world championship event.
- He is also the first Indian to become the President of World Military Boxing Council
- Ashok Kumar Bhanwala, who was an Air Force coach, is reportedly the first ever referee for wrestling bouts at 2016 Olympics in Rio.

# Vinesh Phogat disqualified from competing in finals at Paris Olympics, misses historic medal

 The Indian contingent was in for a shock as wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was on her way to become the country's first woman wrestler to reach the Olympics final by defeating World and Olympic 50kg champion Yui Susaki.



- She was eliminated for being overweight ahead of her final bout against USA's Sarah Ann Hildebrandt
- Vinesh Phogat from the Women's Wrestling 50kg class, ound to be overweight by exactly 100gm

# F1: Dutch Grand Prix to be terminated after 2026

 Dutch Grand Prix held at the circuit
 Zandvoort confirmed that 2026 will be the last year for the Netherlands.



Lando Norris won the seasonending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix



#### India's Kush Maini wins historic Formula 2 Constructors' Championship in Abu Dhabi



- Formula Two driver Kush Maini clinched the Constructors' Championship with Invicta Racing at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.
- He is the first from India to win a FIA Constructors' World Championship



### **PARA OLYMPICS**

- 1. India's flagbearers for opening ceremony of Paris Paralympics 2024
- 2. APC Representative for South Asia
- 3. India @ Para Olympics



# Sumit Antil & Bhagyashree Jadhav to be India's flagbearers for opening ceremony of Paris Paralympics 2024

- Mascot Paralympic Phryge—a small red figure, inspired by the traditional Phrygian cap, a symbol of the French Republic
- · Motto Games Wide Open

#### Paris Olympics 2024 Indian flag bearers:

- Opening ceremony PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal
- Closing ceremony Manu Bhaker, PR Sreejesh

## Satya Prakash Sangwan Appointed Chef de Mission for India's Paris 2024 Paralympic Contingent



- The largest-ever contingent of 84 players will take part in the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games this year.
- The Paralympic Games will take place from the 28th of this month to the 8th of September 2024.
- Forty-seven athletes are taking part in the games for the first time.

## M. V. Muralikrishna, a renowned badminton coach from Vishakhapatnam, named coach of Indian team for Paralympics Games in Paris



# Deepa Malik Appointed APC Representative for South Asia



- Deepa Malik was appointed as sub-regional representative for South Asia by the Asian Paralympic Committee.
- She is India's first woman Paralympic medalist, silver medal at the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Shot Put.

# India have won 29 medals – 7 golds, 9 silvers and 13 bronze – at the Paris 2024 Paralympics

- India have won 29 medals 7 golds, 9 silvers and
   13 bronze at the Paris 2024 Paralympics
- This achievement surpasses the 19-medal haul from Tokyo 2020, which included 5 golds.
- India secured the 18th position in the overall medals table
- China topped with 94 gold medals and over all 220 medals.

| Order | MPC |                            | 6  | 5  | (8) | *   |
|-------|-----|----------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| 3%    |     | Feople's Republic of China | 94 | 76 | 50  | 220 |
| 2     |     | Great Britain              | 49 | 44 | 31  | 124 |
| (ii   |     | United States of America   | 36 | 42 | 27  | 105 |
|       | =   | Netberlands                | 27 | 17 | 12  | 56  |
|       |     |                            |    |    |     |     |

|    | trazil   | 25  | 26  | 56 | 89 |  |
|----|----------|-----|-----|----|----|--|
| ×  | ■ tráfý  | 2.4 | 137 | 52 | 21 |  |
| ž  | Ukraine  | 22  | 27  | 32 | *1 |  |
| 16 | Tridla   | 7   | 9   | 13 | 29 |  |
| 19 | Columbia | 7   | 7   | 14 | 28 |  |

| No | Athlete             | Sport         | Event  | Medal  |
|----|---------------------|---------------|--|--------|
| 1  | Avani<br>Lekhara    | Shooting      | Women's<br>10m air<br>rifle<br>standing<br>SH1 | Gold   |
| 2  | Nitesh<br>Kumar     | Badminto<br>n | Men's singles SL3                              | Gold   |
| 3  | Sumit Antil         | Athletics     | Javelin<br>throw F64                           | Gold   |
| 4  | Dharambir           | Athletics     | Men's<br>club<br>throw F51                     | Gold   |
| 5  | Harvinder<br>Singh  | Archery       | Men's individual recurve open                  | Gold   |
| 6  | Praveen<br>Kumar    | Athletics     | Men's<br>high jump<br>T64                      | Gold   |
| 7  | Navdeep<br>Singh    | Athletics     | Men's<br>javelin<br>throw F41                  | Gold   |
| 8  | Nishad<br>Kumar     | Athletics     | Men's<br>high jump<br>T47                      | Silver |
| 9  | Sharad<br>Kumar     | Athletics     | Men's<br>high jump<br>T63                      | Silver |
| 10 | Yogesh<br>Kathuniya | Athletics     | Men's<br>discus<br>throw F56                   | Silver |
| 11 | Ajeet Singh         | Athletics     | Men's<br>javelin<br>throw F46                  | Silver |
| 12 | Parnav<br>Soorma    | Athletics     | Men's<br>club<br>throw F51                     | Silver |
| 13 | Sachin Khilari      | Athletics     | Men's<br>shot put<br>F46                       | Silver |

| 1.63  |                                   | •             |                                    | E 3.4      |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 14    | Manish<br>Narwal                  | Shooting      | Men's<br>10m air<br>pistol SH1     | Silver     |
| 15    | Thulasimathi<br>Murugesan         | Badminto<br>n | Women's singles                    | Silver     |
| 16    | Suhas<br>Yathiraj                 | Badminto<br>n | Men's<br>singles<br>SL4            | Silver     |
| 17    | Mona<br>Agarwal                   | Shooting      | Women's<br>10m air                 | Bronz<br>e |
| O. S. |                                   |               | rifle<br>standing<br>SH1           | POLO.      |
| 18    | Rubina<br>Francis                 | Shooting      | Women's<br>10m Air<br>Pistol SH1   | Bronz<br>e |
| 19    | Preethi Pal                       | Athletics     | Women's<br>100m T35                | Bronz<br>e |
| 20    | Preethi Pal                       | Athletics     | Women's<br>200m T35                | Bronz<br>e |
| 21    | Simran                            | Athletics     | Women's<br>200m T12                | Bronz<br>e |
| 22    | Rakesh<br>Kumar /<br>Sheetal Devi | Archery       | Mixed<br>team<br>compoun<br>d open | Bronz<br>e |
| 23    | Deepthi<br>Jeevanji               | Athletics     | Women's<br>400m T20                | Bronz<br>e |
| 24    | Mariyappan<br>Thangavelu          | Athletics     | Men's<br>high jump<br>T63          | Bronz<br>e |
| 25    | Sundar Singh<br>Gurjar            | Athletics     | Men's<br>javelin<br>throw F46      | Bronz<br>e |
| 26    | Hokato<br>Hotozhe<br>Sema         | Athletics     | Men's<br>shot put<br>F57           | Bronz<br>e |
| 27    | Manisha<br>Ramadass               | Badminto<br>n | Women's singles SU5                | Bronz<br>e |
| 28    | Nithya Sre<br>Sivan               | Badminto<br>n | Women's<br>singles<br>SH6          | Bronz<br>e |
| 29    | Kapil Parmar                      | Judo          | Men's -<br>60kg J1                 | Bronz<br>e |

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1. MP's Prachi Yadav wins two gold at 2024 ACC Paracanoe Asian Championship
- 2. Taiwan Athletics Open:
- 3. Para Powerlifting World Cup 2024
- 4. Tokyo Marathon in record time
- 5. Paris Diamond League In France
- 6. World's Highest Frozen Lake Marathon
- 7. 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Indoor Athletics Championships
- 8. Women's Vault At Asian Championships
- 9. IWF World Cup 2024
- 10. Pro Kabaddi League Season 10
- 11. Kami Rita climbs Mount Everest for a record 30th time
- **12.** Srishti Khandagale Wins Silver at Asian Championships
- 13. YAI Senior National Championship 2024
- 14. first Gulf Youth Games
- 15. PT Usha Honored with Lifetime
  Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- 16. World's highest competitive swimming pool opens
- 17. World Sportsman of the Year
- 18. Sportstar Aces Awards 2024
- 19. World Masters Athletics Championship
- 20. International Earth Sciences Olympiad
- 21. 4th National Finswimming Championship 2024
- 22. Know Your Medicine app

## MP's Prachi Yadav wins two gold at 2024 ACC Paracanoe Asian Championship

- Madhya Pradesh's ace para canoer, Prachi Yadav clinched two gold medals at the ACC Paracanoe Asian Championship 2024, held in Tokyo, Japan
- She secured medals in the Women's KL2 and Women's VL2 categories.
- She received **Arjuna Award** in January this year.

#### Yaroslava Mahuchikh



- Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine broke the world record for the highest jump by a woman.
- The old record of 2.09 meters had stood since 1987.
- In the Paris Diamond League, she reached an amazing height of 2.10 meters.

## The inaugural BRICS Games concluded in Kazan





- The BRICS Games 2024 took place in Kazan and Moscow from 12 to 24 June. Russia hosted these competitions for the first time
- 27 Sports, 82 Participating Countries, 2,852 Athletes
- Bricsik the leopard mascot of the Games.
- Top on medal tally Russia: 509, with 266 gold.

| 1   | Stating             |      | 0   | 0     | Section |
|-----|---------------------|------|-----|-------|---------|
| 700 | M. Flacini Seamston | :000 | 194 | .0011 | 384     |
| 1   | · Bereier           | 18   | 66. |       | 247     |
| 3.  | Dree .              | 27   | 24  | 794   | 247     |
| (6) | CONTRACTOR          | (9)  | 111 | 39    | (10)    |
| 4   | DE femi             | (4)  | 18  | de    | 10      |

- Belarus second, China third
- Most titled participant Maryna Litvinchuk of the Republic of Belarus won 5 gold medals in the BRICS Games canoe sprint.
- India secured a total of 29 medals comprising 3 gold, 6 silver, and 20 bronze medals.
- 3 Gold Medals:
- Indian Wushu athlete Aparna Dahiya in the women's 48kg category in Chinese martial art Wushu Sanda
- Minakshi bagged gold in women's 48kg boxing
- Anamika bagged gold in women's 50kg boxing







## Taiwan Athletics Open: India Bag 7 Medals Including 3 Gold, 3 Silver, One Bronze



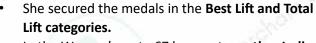
Held at Taiwan's capital city Taipei.

| Name             | Medal | Category             |
|------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Nayana James     | gold  | women's long jump    |
| Ankesh Chaudhary | gold  | men's 800m long jump |
| DP Manu          | gold  | men's javelin throw  |

# Four AFMS Officers Clinch 32 Medals At World Medical And Health Games In France

- Four Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS) Officers have clinched a record 32 Medals including 19 gold, in the 43rd World Medical and Health Games held in Saint-Tropez, France, from 16 to 23rd June.
- These Officers are Lt Col Sanjeev Malik, Maj Anish George, Caption Stephen Sebastian, and Caption Dania James.
- The World Medical and Health Games, often regarded as the 'Olympic Games for Health Professionals' and are the World's largest sports event for health professionals.

#### Para Powerlifting World Cup 2024: Sakina Khatun Secures 2 Bronze Medals In Thailand



- In the Women's up to 67 kg event, another Indian, Kasthuri Rajamani earned the bronze
- Earlier in the Men's up to 65 Kg category, India's Ashok Malik secured the gold medal with a personal best lift of 197 kg,
- In the Men's up to 49 kg category, Parmjeet Singh claimed the silver

## Kenya's Chebet breaks women's 5km world record

Her time record - 14min 13sec



 previous women-only world record of 14:29 set by Ethiopia's Senbere Teferi in September 2021

## Kipruto, Kebede win Tokyo Marathon in record time



- Kenyan Benson Kipruto won the men's Tokyo Marathon in 02:02:16 (two hours, two minutes and 16 seconds)
- breaking former world record holder Eliud Kipchoge's
- Ethiopia's Sutume Asefa Kebede won the women's race in 2:15:55

## K M Deeksha breaks 1500m National mark in LA meet



 K M Deeksha, from Madhya Pradesh, ran the distance in 4:04.78, bettering the previous record of 4:05.39 set by Harmilan Bains in 2021

## **Indian Athlete Gulveer Singh Shatters National Record By Over 20 Seconds**



- Asian Games bronze medallist athlete Gulveer Singh shattered a 16-year-old national record in the men's 10000m to finish second in his heat at The Ten in San Juan Capistrano in California.
- The record stood in Surendra Singh's name since 2008.
- However, the Asian Games Bronze medallist failed to qualify for Paris Olympic Games as he missed the qualification time of 27:00.00 by over 41 seconds.

India's Gulveer Singh Clinches Silver Medal In Men's 5000 Metre Race At Portland Track Festival High Performance Meet In US



- in Portland, US.
- The Asian Games bronze medallist also became the fastest Indian in the men's 5000-metre race.
- Gulveer clocked the national record timing of 13 minutes 18.92 seconds to surpass the previous record of 13 minutes 19.30 seconds, set by Avinash Sable last year.
- Gulveer now holds the national records in both the 10,000-metre and 5,000-metre races.

India's Avinash Sable Sets New National Record In 3000m Steeplechase At Paris Diamond League In France



- Sable finished sixth at the event with a timing of 8:09.91 (8 minutes, 9 seconds, and 91 hundredths of a second).
- The race was won by Abrham Sime of Ethiopia.

Asian Games bronze medallist Gulveer Singh betters own NR in 10,000m in Japan event



- Gulveer Singh won gold in the 2024 Hachioji Long Distance meet in Japan.
- clocked 27 minutes 14.88 seconds to win the race
- His earlier national record in the event was 27:41.81s
- Singh currently holds both the 5000m and 10000m national records.

Man Singh Clinches Gold at the Asian Marathon Championships 2024 in Hong Kong



- The Asian Marathon Championships 2024 marked a historic moment for Indian athletics as Man Singh, a 34-year-old marathon runner from India, clinched the gold medal.
- Gopi Thonakal was the first Indian man to win the Asian Marathon Championships title in 2017 in Dongguan, China.

## The second edition of the 'World's Highest Frozen Lake Marathon



- Bhagwan Singh and Mahesh Khurana from Bhopal have completed the Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon 2024, held in Leh-Ladakh.
- Bhagwan is also the first mountaineer from Madhya Pradesh to conquer the world's highest peak — Mount Everest.



- Endorheic (landlocked) lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft (4,350 meters) in the Ladakh Himalayas.
- It is the world's highest saltwater lake.
- India holds one-third of the 135 km-long Pangong lake.
- One-third of the Pangong Lake lies in India and the other two-thirds in China.
- It is also known to change colors, appearing blue, green, and red at different times.

#### India Shines At 35th International Biology Olympiad 2024 In Kazakhstan



- One GOLD medal and three SILVER medals.
- Vedant Sakre from Mumbai, Maharashtra won a gold medal

## PM Modi Lauds India's Best-Ever Performance in International Math Olympiad



- The contingent has brought home four Gold and one Silver Medal. the team's rank is 4 out of 108 participating countries.
- the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) event held at Bath, United Kingdom (UK), earlier this month

## All 5 Indian Participants Bag Medals At 54th International Physics Olympiad 2024



- 54th International Physics Olympiad 2024 held from July 21 to July 29 in Isfahan, Iran.
- All five Indian participants bagged medals, including 2 gold and 3 silver medals.
- Rhythm Kedia from Chhattisgarh and Ved Lahoti from Madhya Pradesh bagged gold medals
- A total of 193 students from 43 countries
   participated in the competition. In the country wise medal tally, India was placed in the fourth
   position, jointly with Vietnam.
- China came at the top

# Indian Team Wins one Gold, Two Silver, and a Bronze at 56th International Chemistry Olympiad



- The Competition was held in Riyadh city of Saudi
   Arabia from the 21st to the 30th of this month.
- Devesh Bhaiyya from the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra won gold

India concludes 11th Asian Indoor
Athletics Championships with three gold,
one silver and two national records



- Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran (Iran) held from February 17 to 19.
- Athlete Jyothi Yarraji secured gold in women's 60-metre hurdles with a timing of 8.12 seconds, which is also a new national record.
- Tajinder Singh Toor breaking the nineteen-yearold national record and clinching gold with a throw of 19.7 metres in men's shotput.
- Harmilan Bains secured gold in the women's
   1500 metres

# India clinched 7 golds, 11 silvers and 11 bronze at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024

|        |            | Dental med | No talky |        |       |  |
|--------|------------|------------|----------|--------|-------|--|
| Basic. | Country    | 544        | Styer    | & oute | Total |  |
| 1      | Ohine      | 16         | 10       | 3      | 29    |  |
| 2      | India      | 7          | 11.      | 11     | 29    |  |
| 3      | Japan      | 7          | 4        | 8      | 19    |  |
| 4      | Uzbekistan | 4          | - 99     | 2      | 7     |  |
| 5      | Gutar      | 4          | t        | 0      | 5     |  |

- India clinched 7 golds, 11 silvers and 11 bronze medals to finish second at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024 held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates from April 24 to 27.
- The People's Republic of China topped the Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024 medal tally with 16 golds, 10 silvers and 3 bronze.

### India's Simran Sharma Wins Gold Medal At World Para Athletics Championship In Kobe, Japan

- Simran clinched the gold in the women's 200m
   T12 event
- India concluded their World Para Athletics
   Championships journey securing a total of 17

medals, including 6 golds, propelling them to the 6th position in the standings.





#### **GOLD MEDALS WINNERS**

| Category            | Player                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Men's High Jump T63 | Mariyappan THANGAVELU   |
| Men's Javelin Throw | Sumit                   |
| F64                 |                         |
| Men's Shot Put F46  | Sachin Sarjerao KHILARI |
| Women's 200m T12    | Simran                  |
| Women's 400m T20    | Deepthi JEEVANJI        |
| Women's Club Throw  | Ekta BHYAN              |
| F51                 | - 20                    |

## Nishad Kumar, Preethi Pal Win Medals At World Para Athletics Championships



- The Indian team picked up its first medals in the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan with:
- High jumper Nishad Kumar winning a silver and
- 200 metres Runner Preethi Pal winning a bronze.

## Abha Khatua Sets National Record Winning Gold In Women's Shot Put At National Federation Cup Athletics Competition



 Abha Khatua from Maharashtra has set a national record and won gold medal in Women's Shot Put with a massive throw of 18.41 metres at National Federation Cup Athletics Competition in Bhubaneswar.

#### Tejaswin Shankar Clinches Gold In High Jump At USATF Festival



- India's Tejaswin Shankar clinched victory the men's High Jump event at the USATF Throws Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA.
- The National record holder Tejaswin secured the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour – Silver event.

#### Dipa Karmakar Clinches India's First-Ever Gold Medal In Women's Vault At Asian Championships In Tashkent

- Dipa Karmakar, is an Indian Gymnast from Tripura, scripted history, clinching India's first-ever gold medal at the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- This is the first time that an Indian gymnast has won a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships.



- Karmakar also bagged a bronze medal in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014.
- She is the first female gymnast from India to compete in the Olympics, and at Rio 2016, where she stood 4th in the vault event.
- She also became the first Indian to ever win a gold medal at an international gymnastics competition when she won the women's vault gold medal at the 2018 FIG World Cup in Mersin, Turkey.
- Dipa Karmakar was conferred India's highest sports award, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award) 2016.
- She was honoured with India's fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri 2017.

## IWF World Cup 2024: Bindyarani Devi wins bronze medal

#### **IWF World Cup**

#### Weightlifting: Bindyarani Devi wins bronze in women's 55kg

Bindyarani Devi also won the silver medal in the clean and jerk event.



- Bindyarani Devi (Manipur), the Birmingham
   Commonwealth Games 2022 silver medallist, won
   a bronze medal at the IWF World Cup 2024, held
   in Phuket, Thailand.
- Competing in the non-Olympic women's 55kg category, Bindyarani Devi lifted a total of 196kg.
- She also won a silver medal in the clean and jerk category.

## India Makes New Guinness World Record In Kabaddi



- India made history by making a Guinness World record with participation of 128 players, on The World Kabaddi Day.
- The history was written at Tau Devi Lal Indoor
   Stadium of Panchkula in Haryana
- World Kabaddi Day is being celebrated every year on March 24, since 2019
- The Guinness team presented the Guinness World record certificate to the Governor of Haryana
   Bandaru Dattatreya who was the Chief Guest at the event.

## Pro Kabaddi League Season 10, Puneri Paltan Clinches Maiden Title



- Defeated Haryana Steelers in at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad
- This win marks the Pune-based team's first-ever title
- Patna Pirates are the most successful team in the league with three titles
- Puneri Paltan captain Aslam Inamdar was awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the season

## Maharashtra teams win in 56<sup>th</sup> National kho-kho



 Maharashtra emerged champion in both the men's and women's sections in the 56th National kho kho championship at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium

## Bronny and LeBron James to become first father -son duo to team up in NBA history



 Bronny and LeBron will be the first father-son duo to play in the league at the same time and on the same team Los Angeles Lakers

#### Nepal's Purnima Shrestha Becomes First Woman In World To Climb Mount Everest Thrice In 13 Days

Purnima Shrestha,
 a 32-year-old
 mountaineer from
 Gorkha, Nepal,
 and a
 photojournalist by
 profession has
 made history as
 the first woman in
 the world to climb
 Mount Everest
 three times in the



same season, all in just 13 days.

 She has climbed Everest four times, with a prior summit in 2018.

#### Nepal's Mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa Climbs Mount Everest For 29th Time



#### Nepal's Everest Man- Kami Rita climbs Mount Everest for a record 30th time



- A 54-year-old Nepalese climber known as "Everest Man" reached the peak of the world's highest mountain for a record 30th time on three decades after his first summit.
- Kami Rita Sherpa, who broke his own record after climbing the 8,849-metre (29,000-foot) peak for the 29th time earlier this month.
- Sherpa first stood on the top of Everest in 1994

Mumbai girl Kaamya Karthikeyan becomes youngest Indian to summit Mt Everest from Nepal Side

16YO Kaamya Karthikeyan and her father successfully summit Mt. Everest



- 16-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan is a class 12 student from Mumbai.
- She and her father Cdr S Karthikeyan successfully summited Mt. Everest (8,849 m) – making her the youngest Indian & the second youngest girl in the world to summit Mt Everest from the Nepal side.
- Kaamya has completed 6 summits out of all seven continents and aims to climb Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December to become the youngest girl to accomplish the '7summits challenge'.

#### **Seven Summits**

The **highest peaks on each of the seven continents** are known collectively as the "Seven Summits."

- Asia: Mount Everest
- South America: Aconcagua
- North America: Denali (formerly known as Mount McKinley)

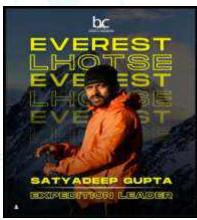
- Africa: Mount Kilimanjaro
  Europe: Mount Elbrus
  Antarctica: Mount Vinson
- · Australia (and Oceania): Puncak Jaya

Jyoti Ratre, 55, becomes oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest



 Jyoti Ratre is an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh

Indian Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta Becomes First Person To Scale Mt. Everest And Mt. Lhotse Twice In One Season



 This historic achievement marks the first Double
 Dual Ascent of the world's highest and the fourth highest peaks in a single season.

NRI couple move mountains, become first Sikh pair in the world to scale Mt Everest



US citizens and NRI couple 47-year-old Harpreet Singh Cheema and 40-year-old Navneet Kaur

Cheema became the first Sikh couple in the world to reach the summit of Mt Everest.

## Indian Gymnast Srishti Khandagale Wins Silver at Asian Championships

In Trampoline, India's
 Srishti Khandagale
 scripted history by
 becoming the first ever
 Indian to win a medal
 at the Asian
 Trampoline
 Gymnastics
 Championships.



She clinched the silver medal in Women's

Individual Age group category at the 6th Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championship held in Hong Kong, China.

### India Clinches 2 Silver, 2 Bronze Medals At 13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad 2024 In Tskaltubo, Georgia



- Silver medals Gunjan Agarwal of Gurgaon and Sanjana Philo Chacko of Thiruvananthapuram
- Bronze medals Larissa from Hissar and Pune's Saee Patil.

# Indian Players Captured Both Men's And Women's Doubles Titles At Male: Asian Carrom Championship



- In the 6th Asian Carrom championship, Indian players captured both the Men's and Women's doubles titles at Male in Maldives.
- In Men's doubles Indian duo K Srinivas and Mohammed Ghufran
- Women's doubles India's Aakanksha Kadam and Shainy Sebastian

## YAI Senior National Championship 2024 Concludes in Mumbai



- The Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior National Championship 2024 concluded at the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC) in Mumbai. The event is held from 12-18 May.
- Organized under the aegis of the Yachting Association of India (YAI) and the Indian Navy Sailing Association (INSA)
- The championship featured all eight Olympic classes of boats and attracted 82 participants from 10 sailing clubs nationwide. A total of 94 races, including four medal races.
- Teams from the Army and Navy dominated, securing the highest medal count.

# Tawangchu Tides International Kayaking Championship-2024 begins in Arunachal Pradesh



- The **three-day** Tawangchu Tides International Kayaking Championship-2024 kick started **in Tawang District**, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The event is being organized by an organization called "SWYTCH" from 7 to 9 Feb

- A total of 51 Kayakers from different countries are participating in it.
- The goal of this initiative is to position Arunachal
   Pradesh as a global hub for kayaking, with the aspirations to host future World Championships.

## Malabar River Festival to be held from July 25 to 28 in Kozhikode



- The 10th edition of the Malabar River Festival (MRF) and the International White Water Kayaking Championship will be held in Kozhikode from July 25 to 28.
- Around 20 countries, besides around 100 nationallevel Kayakers, were expected to participate in the even
- The first edition of the Malabar River Festival, held in August 2013

# Gretchen Walsh sets a world record in the 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. Olympic trials



- Gretchen Walsh set a world record in the women's 100-meter butterfly, posting a time of 55.18 seconds
- Previous record of 55.48 set by Sweden's Sarah
   Sjöström at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

### Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur kicks off 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships





- at Delhi's Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool Complex from 6th February to 9th February 2024
- competitions for Under 20 age category in3 sporting events - Swimming, Water Polo and Diving events.
- The announcement for the same was made by PM Modi during the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in 2018.

### Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)



- Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Established**: 6 June, 1997, in Bangkok.

- Members: 7 countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- Indra Mani Pandey Secretary General of BIMSTEC

## Opening ceremony of first Gulf Youth Games took place at Dubai Opera





- GCC Youth Games UAE 2024 opened at Dubai Opera (GCC - Gulf Cooperation Council)
- featuring 3,500 athletes competing in 24 sports with a focus on sustainability, unity, and youth.
- from April 16 to May 2.
- The theme, "Our Gulf is One... Our youth are promising."
- Participating nations UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar

## Two-Day Mizoram Sports Conclave 2024 To Begin Tomorrow With 'Vision 2036





 In Mizoram, a two-day State Sports Conclave began on 13<sup>th</sup> June with the theme "Vision 2036".

- The aim of the conclave is to hunt and nurture young talents so that more athletes and players from Mizoram could participate in the forthcoming Olympics 2036.
- India has bid to host the 2036 Olympics
- Centre has sanctioned Rs. 60.80 lakh to upgrade sports infrastructure and help sportsperson in Mizoram & NE

## Ortho-One launches 'Halt Sports Injuries' movement



- Coimbatore-based Ortho-One Orthopaedic Speciality Centre launched the 'Halt Sports Injuries' movement to sensitise athletes to sports injuries, and educate them on preventing injuries.
- Olympic gold-medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra launched the movement at the 'The Athletic Knee' symposium.

## Indian hammer thrower Rachna Kumari banned for 12 years for doping



- The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has suspended hammer thrower Rachna Kumari for 12 years for a second anti-doping rule violation.
- Rachna had earlier served a four-year suspension from 2015 to 2019.

#### **Dutee Chand's four-year ban stays**



- The National Anti-Doping Appeal Panel (ADAP)
   has rejected 100m national record holder Dutee
   Chand's appeal against the four-year ban imposed
   on her in August 2023.
- Dutee, the 100 and 200m silver medallist at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games and the fastest woman at the 2019 World University Games in Italy, had tested positive in a dope-test in Bhubaneswar in December 2022.
- The ADAP, upheld the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel's decision to ban the star sprinter for four years.

## PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA



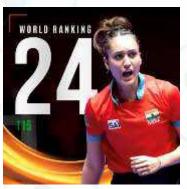
- PT Usha Legendary sprinter and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President
- Lifetime Achievement Award by Sports
   Journalists Federation of India (SJF I) and Delhi
   Sports Journalists Association (DSJA) at the
   National Sports Club of India.

#### Laura Kenny retires from cycling



- Laura Kenny, Britain's most successful female
   Olympic athlete, announced her retirement from cycling.
- The 31-year-old Kenny has won five Olympic gold medals

Manika Batra becomes first Indian woman paddler to break top-25 world rankings; now at No. 24



6-year-old Takshvi Vaghan from Ahmedabad made record of lowest limbo skating



 Takshvi Vaghan, a 6-year-old from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, has set a new Guinness World Record for the lowest limbo skating over 25 metres, achieving a height of just 16 centimetres (6.29 inches).

## World's highest competitive swimming pool opens in Bhutan



- World Aquatics inaugurated the highest competitive swimming pool at 8200 ft (2,400 meters) in Bhutan, under the 'Pools for All program' to promote aquatic sports.
- The Global body of Swimming launched a program in 2019 that aims to ensure accessible aquatic facilities for more countries and regions.
- Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is the Druk Gyalpo, the monarch of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- World Aquatics President- Hussein Al-Musallam.

## Novak Djokovic named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for a fifth time



- For the fifth time in his career, world No. 1 Novak Djokovic received the coveted Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award
- Sportswoman of the Year Award to Spanish footballer Aitana Bonmati

#### **Sportstar Aces Awards 2024**



- Tamil Nadu won the 'Best State for the promotion of sport' award at the Sportstar ACES Awards 2024
- With a sports budget of over ₹770 crore, Tamil Nadu invested heavily in national as well as international competitions in 2023.
- IDFC First Bank Lifetime Achievement Award -Champion weightlifter Karnam Malleswari and former India cricketer Chandu Borde
- Muralitharan was presented with the first ever
   International Icon award
- Australian Open men's doubles champion Rohan
   Bopanna won the Ace of Aces award

| Category              | Winner                   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sportsman of the Year | Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, |
| (Individual)          | Chirag Shetty            |
|                       | (badminton)              |
| Sportswoman of the    | Rameshbabu Vaishali      |
| Year (Individual)     | (grandmaster), Sift Kaur |
|                       | Samra (shooter)          |
| Sportsman of the Year | Sumit Antil (javelin)    |
| (Parasports)          |                          |
| Sportswoman of the    | T. Murugesan             |
| Year (Parasports)     | (badminton)              |

| Coach of the Year       | Rahul Dravid             |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lifetime Achievement    | Chandu Borde, Karnam     |
| Award                   | Malleswari               |
| Sportstar of the Year   | Neeraj Chopra (javelin)  |
| (Male)                  | 1480                     |
| Sportstar of the Year   | Sheetal Devi (archer)    |
| (Female)                |                          |
| Best State for the      | Tamil Nadu               |
| Promotion of Sport      |                          |
| Best PSU for the        | NTPC Ltd                 |
| Promotion of Sport      |                          |
| Best Corporate for the  | Tata Steel Ltd           |
| Promotion of Sport      | 160                      |
| Best University for the | SRM Institute of Science |
| Promotion of Sport      | and Technology (T.N.)    |
| Ace of Aces Award       | Rohan Bopanna            |
| International Icon      | Muttiah Muralitharan     |

### Nitish Singh of UP Conquered Mount Kinabalu, Climbed It in 19 Hours And Hoisted The Tricolor



- Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Malaysia
- Nitish Singh has become the first Indian to climb the peak at the fastest speed in 19 hours.

# Kiran Pahal Wins Gold Medal in Women's 200m at Summer Athletics Competition 2024 in Warsaw



## Tourism Minister to inaugurate Malabar River Festival



- 10th edition of the Malabar River Festival at Kerala from July 25-28
- As many as 13 international kayakers from 8
   countries, apart from other States, are taking part
   in the competitions to be held in upland
   Kozhikode.

# Jiya Rai Becomes World's Youngest & Fastest Female Para Swimmer To Swim Solo Across English Channel



- Jiya Rai, a 16-year-old from Mumbai with Autism Spectrum Disorder, covered the 34 km stretch, from Abbots Cliff in England to Pointe de la Courte-Dune in France, in 17 hours and 25 minutes.
- In 2022 she had become the world's youngest and fastest female to swim across the Palk Strait.
- Jiya Rai is a recipient of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMB) – 2022 the highest award for citizens below 18 years of Age.

#### BFI Sets Up The National Basketball Academy In Collaboration With CAA

 The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) has set up the National basketball academy in collaboration with Corvuss American Academy in Mumbai.



- For a start, the Academy will run with 30 boys and 30 girls from the school through a nationwide hunt for talent
- The partner institution will provide a comprehensive academic program, nutritional support, sports counselling, training and access to world class facilities for the trainees.

# V Sriramulu wins 3 gold medals at World Masters Athletics Championship in Sweden



 Mr. Sriramulu, aged 101 years, clinched gold in javelin, discus and shotput in the world Masters Athletics Championship

### Aahana George, Aanaya Bhavsar & Gunjan Mantri select in FIBA 3×3 U18 Basketball World Cup



 Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has congratulated Aahana George, Aanaya Bhavsar, and Gunjan Mantri for

- their selection in the FIBA 3×3 Under-18 Basketball World Cup 2024.
- The tournament is scheduled to begin in Debrecen,
   Hungary from 26th august.

## India wins CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League for the second time



- India lifted the CAVA (Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League final after beating hosts Nepal 3-2 at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.
- This victory marked India's second title in the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League.

## Haryana to commence first-ever Global Women's Kabaddi League in September



- Organized by the Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA) in partnership with World Kabaddi.
- The GPKL will showcase teams from a diverse range of countries, including England, Poland, Argentina, Canada, and Italy, with athletes from these nations expressing keen interest in participating.

## Indian Surfing Team secures historic First Quota for 2026 Asian Games



- 2026 Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya,
   Japan.
- Both the men's and women's teams clinched spots at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024 held in the Maldives.

India won a silver medal at the Maruhaba Cup, a team event, at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024 at Thulusdhoo, Maldives



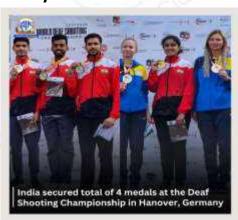
- Japan won the gold medal
- India won the medal a day after securing their firstever quota in surfing for the Asian Games
- Both the Indian men's and women's surfing teams will compete at the Asian Games 2026, set to be hosted in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan.
- Harish Muthu also left a major mark at the Asian
   Surfing Championships.

### Himanshi Tokas clinches silver medal at Asian Cadet Judo Championships in Women 63 kg event



At the Asian Cadet and Junior Judo
 Championships in Mungyeong, South Korea

# India secures 4 medals including one gold at Deaf Shooting Championship in Germany



 Anuya Prasad won gold in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event.

## India shines at 17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad



- India's student team has secured three gold medals, three bronze medals, and two silver prestigious medals
- at the 17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO) held in Beijing, China.

## Team India wins 1 gold, 4 silver medals at International Olympiad on Astronomy



- 17 International Olympiad on Astronomy (IOAA)
   happened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- between August 17 and 25

- India was placed in the eighth position
- winner Iran (5 golds)

## Five-Year-Old Teghbir Singh Conquers Mount Kilimanjaro





- Teghbir Singh from Ropar in Punjab has become the youngest ever from Asia to scale the 5,895metre Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.
- It is **Africa's tallest mountain** and the **world's** largest free-standing mountain (which means not part of a mountain range).
- Also called a stratovolcano, Kilimanjaro is made up of three cones: Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.



- Uhuru Peak, the highest free-standing peak in Africa, is located on the volcanic cone Kibo.
- The Kilimanjaro National Park was named a (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in 1987.

An expedition team from the Ministry of Defence, led by 'Divyang' Uday Kumar, made history by hoisting the largest Indian flag atop Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa at 19,341 ft.



India's Rinchen Youdol from Ladakh wins historic Bronze at first World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships in Bahrain



 Poomsae, also known as kata or forms, are a series of pre-arranged Taekwondo techniques that are performed against an imaginary opponent. They are a traditional aspect of Taekwondo

# Himachal Pradesh: World Paragliding Competition in Bir-Billing concludes



- In Himachal Pradesh, the World Paragliding Competition in Bir-Billing, Kangra district, concluded.
- Austin Cox from the United States secured first place in the overall category

# Arjun Vajpai Becomes First Indian to Conquer Mt. Shishapangma







Fastest ascent of Mt. Shishapangma (Base Camp to Summit and back in under 72 hours)

First Indian to climb eight 8,000-meter peaks

SHISHAPANGMA

# Monduro 4.0: World's highest enduro mountain biking race begins in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh



- The Monduro 4.0, the world's highest enduro mountain biking race and a part of the Asia Enduro Series (AES)
- Organized by the Tawang Cycling Association in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
- participants from India, as well eight countries abroad
- The final race on November 13 and 14.

# West Bengal Wins 4th National Fin swimming Championship 2024.



- at the Syama Prasad Mookeerjee Swimming Pool Complex, New Delhi.
- · Karnataka finished as runners-up
- · Uttarakhand secured third place

## Emma McKeon, 14-time Olympic medalist, retires from swimming



Emma McKeon, Australia's most decorated Olympian, announced her retirement from competitive swimming.

### Double Olympic champion Alistair Brownlee announced his retirement from triathlon at the age of 36



- Brownlee won gold medals in London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016
- Alistair Brownlee was also a world champion in 2009 and 2011 and a four-time European champion.

#### Harbhajan Singh & Sania Mirza appointed Dubai Sports Council brand ambassador



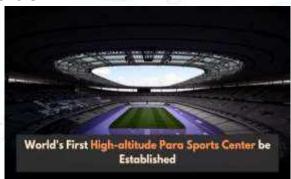
### 'Know Your Medicine' App Launched to Promote Clean Sports



Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr.
 Mansukh Mandaviya, has launched a nationwide appeal to strengthen the fight against doping in sports, urging athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community to embrace the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India's 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' app.

 The app allows users to easily verify whether a specific medicine or its ingredients contain any substances listed as prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

#### World's First High-Altitude Para Sports Centre



- The <u>Ladakh</u> Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in <u>Leh</u> has teamed up with the Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) to establish the world's first high-altitude para sports centre.
- This facility aims to enhance the abilities and confidence of Indian para-athletes as they prepare for the 2028 Paralympics.
- The Leh centre will offer a comprehensive range of para sports training, including archery, athletics, badminton, cycling, judo, swimming, wheelchair basketball, and more.
- Additionally, winter para sports such as alpine skiing, biathlon, and wheelchair curling are set to be integral parts of the programme

## Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce & Bowling Competition in Delhi



 For the first time, India hosted the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce & Bowling Competition

- 19-22 November 2024 at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.
- For athletes from the Asia-Pacific with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- 81 athletes from 12 countries participated
- Inaugurated by the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on 19 November 2024.
- organised by Special Olympics Bharat and supported by the Jindal Steel Company.
- Intellectual disability refers to a person having an Intellectual Quotient (IQ) of 70. It means that the person has a below-average intellectual capability.

India's Pavan Kampelli secures Bronze medal in e-football event at 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok



In a momentous achievement, India's Pavan
 Kampelli claimed the bronze medal in eFootball,
 the country's first-ever podium finish in the event,
 at the 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitates Indian Team contingent for clinching 55 medals at 10th Asia-Pacific Deaf Games



Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the Indian contingent for clinching 55 medals at the 10th Asia-Pacific Deaf Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- The Indian team, represented by 68 members, including 42 men and 26 women.
- Secured 8 gold, 18 silver, and 29 bronze medals at these games held from the 1st to the 8th of December.
- This was the best-ever performance by an Indian team in the quadrennial tournament since its inaugural edition in 1984.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Handball Championship – Japan Triumphs Over South Korea

- India hosted the tournament for the first time
- India secured sixth place at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi Arena



Asian Women's Handball Championship 2024 standings

- 1. Japan
- 2. South Korea
- 3. Kazakhstan

# Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launches logo, mascot, anthem, jersey & torch for 38th National Games





38 NATIONAL GAMES 2024

- The National Games are set to take place at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Dehradun
- from January 28 to February 14, 2025.

- The mascot, "Mouli," inspired by Uttarakhand's state bird, the Monal.
- theme of the National Games as "Green Games"
- The tagline for the Games, "Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak" (From Resolve to Zenith)
- The newly designed torch incorporates motifs of the perennial holy river Ganga and the state flower, Brahma Kamal, also known as the "Lotus of the Darks."
- PT Usha announced the inclusion of traditional sports like yoga and mallakhamb in the Games

#### New Delhi to host 2025 World Para Athletics Championships at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium



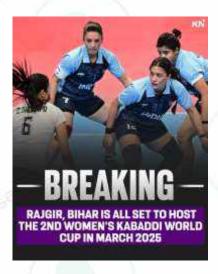
- The world's largest single Para sport event will take place from 26 September to 5 October 2025 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which will also host a World Para Athletics Grand Prix for the first time next March
- New Delhi 2025 will mark the 12th edition of the championships and the fourth time it is hosted in Asia, following Doha 2015, Dubai 2019 and Kobe 2024.
- In the 2024 edition, India finished in the top 6 in the table after it 17 medals, including 6 gold.
   China topped

## Salman Khan Named Brand Ambassador for Kho Kho World Cup



The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) has officially appointed Bollywood superstar Salman Khan as the brand ambassador for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup, which will be held in New Delhi from January 13 to 19, 2025.

## Bihar to Host Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025



- at Rajgir Sports Academy in March 2025.
- A total of 14 countries, including India, China, Japan, South Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Poland, Argentina, and South Africa, are expected to participate.
- Bihar will host the Women's Kabaddi World
   Cup for the second time, after previously hosting
   the event in 2012 at the Patliputra Sports Complex
   in Patna.

# Pro Kabaddi 2024: Haryana Steelers win maiden title after beating Patna Pirates in final



- Haryana Steelers beat Patna Pirates and clinch their maiden Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) in the Season 11.
- Held at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex
   in Pune
- Mohammadreza Shadloui Most Valuable Player award

#### Pro Kabaddi 2024 12 teams:

- Bengal Warriorz
- Bengaluru Bulls
- Dabang Delhi KC
- Gujarat Giants
- Haryana Steelers
- · Jaipur Pink Panthers
- Patna Pirates
- Puneri Paltan
- · Tamil Thalaivas
- Telugu Titans
- U Mumba
- UP Yoddhas

## Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024: India concludes with 33 medals

- Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024 held in Doha, Qatar
- Indian youth lifters won 21 medals, including all seven golds. The junior lifters contributed 12 medals to the tally.

# 17-year-old from Mumbai becomes the youngest female in world to scale highest peaks on each of 7 continents



- Kaamya Karthikeyan, a Class 12 student at Navy Children School in Mumbai, has made history by becoming the youngest female in the world to scale seven highest peaks across seven continents.
- Her outstanding accomplishments earned her the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar, India's highest national honour for young achievers in 2021
- Premlata Agrawal first Indian woman mountaineer to scale the seven continental peaks in 2013



#### The 17-year-old adventurer has conquered:

- 1. Africa (Mt Kilimanjaro)
- 2. Europe (Mt Elbrus)
- 3. Australia (Mt Kosciuszko)
- 4. South America (Mt Aconcagua)
- 5. North America (Mt Denali)
- 6. Asia (Mt Everest)
- 7. and culminating the current climb in Antarctica (Mt Vinson)

## **Kerala clinches Senior National Men's Handball Championship title**



- Kerala defeated Chandigarh to clinch their maiden Senior National Men's Handball Championship title.
- in Kerala.

# International News

### **APPOINTMENTS**

- 19. Vietnam elected new President
- 20. New President of Indonesia
- 21. new Chief Justice of Nepal
- 22. France's New Prime Minister
- 23. new king of Malaysia
- 24. Tuvalu's new Prime Minister
- 25. first-ever woman Chief Minister of a province in Pakistan
- 26. Yemen's new Prime Minister
- 27. Ireland's New Prime Minister
- 28. first Sikh minister in Pakistan's Punjab province
- 29. Iran's First Female Government Spokesperson
- 30. Bangladesh interim government
- 31. UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia
- 32. UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India
- 33. Singapore's first new prime minister in 20 years
- 34. Iceland's new President
- 35. First Woman President Of Mexico
- 36. FATF's new President
- 37. Wales' first female leader
- 38. Nepal's new Prime Minister
- 39. first person to fly around the world alone
- 40. World's New Oldest Man
- 41. First person to run the entire length of Africa

# Vietnam elected Luong Cuong, a military general, as its new President, replace To Lam



- Capital: Hanoi
- Currency: Vietnamese dong
- It is bordered by China to the north
- The South China Sea to the east and south
- The Gulf of Thailand (Gulf of Siam) to the southwest
- and Cambodia and Laos to the west.





## Prabowo Subianto Takes over as President of Indonesia



- Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto took over as president of the world's third-largest democracy.
- Capital: Jakarta
- Currency: Indonesian rupiah
- shares a border with Malaysia in the northern part of Borneo and with Papua New Guinea in the centre of New Guinea.



### Pakistan's parliamentary committee picks Justice Yahya Afridi as next Chief Justice



For three years

### Prakash Man Singh Raut appointed as new Chief Justice of Nepal





- Prime Minister: KP Sharma Oli
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese rupee (Rs, ₹०) (NPR)
- It is a landlocked country located between India to the east, south, and west and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north.
- lying along the southern slopes of the Himalayan mountain ranges.



### Tunisia's President Kais Saied Secured Second Five-Year Term





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- Capital: Tunis
- Currency: Tunisian dinar (TND)
- Tunisia is bounded by Algeria to the west and southwest
- by Libya to the southeast, and by the Mediterranean Sea to the east and north.

## Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina wins fourth straight term



- Her Awami League party secured a record fourth consecutive term and fifth overall term
- Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) lost

### Gabriel Attal Appointed as France's New Prime Minister







- At 34, he is the youngest Prime Minister in modern French history
- France President :Emmanuel Macron
- Capital: Paris, Situated on the Seine River

### Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay to become PM for second time

- Mr. Tobgay, head of the liberal People's Democratic Party (PDP), has served as PM of Bhutan from 2013 to 2018.
- Monarch/King of Bhutan - Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck



#### Lai Ching-te to be the President of Taiwan



 Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Lai Ching-te has won the Taiwanese presidential polls and is set to be the next President in Taiwan.

#### Bernardo Arévalo sworn in as Guatemala's President



#### Crown Prince Frederik X becomes King of Denmark



- Crown Prince Frederik X became the King, succeeding his mother, Queen Margrethe II, who formally abdicated after 52 years as monarch.
- 83-year-old Margrethe is the first Danish monarch to voluntarily resigned the throne in nearly 900 years.
- Ausralian-born Mary is the first commoner to become Queen of Denmark.

### Prime Minister congratulates Mr. Azali Assoumani on being re-elected as Comoros President

 PM Modi affirmed hope that the two countries will continue to work to strengthen the India-Comoros partnership, the India-Africa partnership and the 'Vision Sagar'



- The Vision SAGAR initiative was launched on March 12, 2015, by PM Modi.
- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), is India's maritime cooperation doctrine in the Indian Ocean region
- Comoros is a volcanic archipelago off the eastern coast of Africa
- Capital Moroni
- Currency Comorian franc



### Malaysia welcomes new king Sultan Ibrahim



- Malaysia practices a unique rotational form of monarchy, in which the heads of the country's 9 royal families take turns to be king for a 5-year reign.
- Sultan Ibrahim, 65, hails from the southern state of Johor whose sultanate can be traced back to the 16th century

### Feleti Teo named Tuvalu's new Prime Minister



- The Pacific Islands consist of three major groups of islands: Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.
- Tuvalu is a Polynesian micro-state in the South Pacific Ocean, made up of nine coral islands and atolls.
- Capital Funafuti



### Hungary Parliament elects Tamas Sulyok as new President



- Hungary's Parliament elected Tamas Sulyok as President after the resignation of Katalin Novak
- Hungary Capital: Budapest
- Currency: Hungarian forint (HUF)
- Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe

 Hungary is part of the Danube drainage basin, and the Danube is the country's longest river.

# Maryam Nawaz becomes first-ever woman Chief Minister of a province in Pakistan



- Maryam Nawaz is the daughter of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.
- Became the first-ever woman Chief Minister of a province in Pakistan - the **Punjab province**

### Former PM Alexander Stubb wins Finland Presidential election





- In April 2023, Finland became the 31st member of NATO.
- Finland is a Northern European nation bordering Sweden, Norway and Russia.
- · Capital, Helsinki
- Currency Euro
- PM Petteri Orpo

#### Kazakhstan appoints Olzhas Bektenov as new Prime Minister



- Capital Astana (renamed Nursultan in 2019 to honor former President Nursultan Nazarbayev)
- President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- Currency Kazakhstani Tenge

#### **About Kazakhstan**



- Largest country in Central Asia
- Largest landlocked country in the world
- Most of the country's territory is deserts 44% and semi-deserts - 14%. Steppes occupy 26% of the area of Kazakhstan
- Kazakhstan is rich in oil, gas, and other mineral
  resources
- The country is on the first position in the world in terms of explored reserves of zinc
- It is the world's leading producer of aluminium

### El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele wins re-election





- a country in Central America
- Capital: San Salvador
- Language: Spanish
- Known as the Land of Volcanoes
- It is the only country in Central America that does not have a coastline on the Caribbean Sea.

### Yemen appoints Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as its new Prime Minister





 Yemen, a nation in the Arabian Peninsula, is experiencing increased tensions as a result of a wave of Red Sea attacks on ships by Houthi rebels

### Vladimir Putin Wins Russian Presidential Elections For Record Fifth Term



# Bassirou Diomaye Faye Named As Senegal's Next President





### Luis Montenegro Named Portugal's Prime Minister





### Simon Harris to be Ireland's New Prime Minister

 37-year-old Simon Harris is set to become Ireland's youngest ever taoiseach (Prime Minister)



# Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appointed Mohammad Mustafa to be the next New Prime Minister

Mohammad
 Mustafa has been
 the long time
 economic advisor to
 the President



### Ishaq Dar appointed as Pakistan's new Foreign Minister

- Prime Minister : Shehbaz Sharif
- President: Asif Ali Zardari

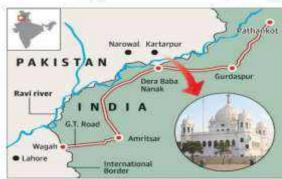


### Pakistan gets first Sikh minister in Punjab province



- Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, an influential minority leader, has been sworn in as a provincial minister
- Mr. Arora has been allotted the portfolio of minorities of Punjab province in the cabinet of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, incidentally, also the first woman to hold the post in the country.
- Mr. Arora was earlier appointed as the ambassador to the Kartarpur Corridor.

#### **Kartarpur Corridor**



- It connects the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in Narowal district of Pakistan with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district in India's Punjab.
- Facilitates visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims who would just need a permit to cross over to Pakistan.
- The corridor was built on 12th November 2019. to commemorate 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism

## Vietnam appoints three new deputy prime ministers



 Vietnam's National Assembly approved the appointment of Nguyen Hoa Binh, Ho Duc Phoc, and Bui Thanh Son as three new deputy prime ministers for the 2021-2026

term.

Capital: Hanoi

· Currency: Vietnamese dong





### New Zealand's Māori King dies after 18year reign



- New Zealand's Māori King, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau
   Te Wherowhero VII, died at age 69.
- He was the seventh monarch in the Kiingitanga movement, holding a position created in 1858 to unite New Zealand's Indigenous Māori tribes in the face of British colonization.

### Thailand's parliament elected 37 years old Paetongtarn Shinawatra as its youngest Prime Minister



- · daughter of former PM Thaksin Shinawatra
- Capital: Bangkok
- Currency: Thai baht (\( \mathbb{B} \))



## Iran Appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani as First Female Government Spokesperson



- President Masoud Pezeshkian appointed Fatemeh Mohajerani as the new spokesperson for the Iranian government, in a historic first.
- Mohajerani is the first woman to ever hold this position in Iran.

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- Capital: Tehran
- Currency: Iranian rial



# Bangladesh President appoints Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as head of interim government



- Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus was on Tuesday (August 6, 2024) appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin.
- Mr. Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank, a mode which was replicated across continents.

# Paul Kagame became Rwanda's President consecutively for the fourth term





Capital: Kigali

Currency: Rwandan franc (RWF)

## Refaat Ahmed sworn in as Bangladesh's new chief justice



# Japanese PM Fumio Kishida announces decision to step down in September



- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he would step down in September, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party(LDP) needs a new start.
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen (¥)

#### **Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina resigns**



- The military, led by army chief, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, has taken control and will be forming an interim government until elections can be held.
- The students had originally demanded the removal of a quota system that reserved 30% of government jobs for the families of people who fought for independence from Pakistan in 1971.
- The quotas were abolished in 2018 but reinstated by High Court this month.
- The new ruling on quotas was paused by the supreme court last week, but students said they would continue protesting until they were permanently overturned.

- The protests turned violent as police and heavily armed members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the governing Awami League party, attacked the protesting students
- Government alleges that the Bangladesh
   Nationalist party and the now banned Jamaat-e-Islami is behind the agitation.

#### **CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS**

 In 1972, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the then President of Bangladesh, resolved to create a quota for freedom fighters, or Mukti joddhas.



- On March 8, 2018, the Bangladesh High Court rejected a petition challenging the legality of the quota system in the nation, existing since the 1970s.
- In response to the unrest, Ms. Hasina cancelled all quotas in the Bangladesh Civil service, through an executive order. In 2020, the executive order became operational.
- a group of petitioners went to the High Court in
   2021 and fought a case to get back the 30%
   freedom fighters' reservation in civil services. the
   high court reinstated the 30% quota on July 1
- The Supreme Court had last week suspended the High Court's order for four weeks
- Born in 1947, the 76-year-old was the longestserving female prime minister in the world, having been in power since 2009 and before that from 1996 to 2001.
- The Bangladeshi leader has led the Awami League, founded by her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, since 1981.

### Krystyna Pyszkova from Czech Republic crowned Miss World



- The 71st Miss World pageant, held at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, saw participation from 112 countries.
- Last year's winner, Miss World 2022 Karolina
   Bielawska of Poland crowned Krystyna as the 71st
   Miss World.
- The event was hosted by Karan Johar and Megan Young
- India, the host after 28 years, was represented by Sini Shetty
- India has previously won the title 6 times:
- Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra (2000) and Manushi Chillar (2017)

# In a first, Saudi Arabia to now take part in Miss Universe 2024 competition



- Rumy Alqahtani will be country's representative in the Miss Universe 2024 competition.
- Miss Universe 2024 will be the 73rd Miss Universe pageant, to be held in Mexico
- Miss Universe 2023 -Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua
- Mohammed bin
  Salman Al Saud also
  known by his initials
  MBS or MbS, is Crown
  Prince and Prime
  Minister of Saudi Arabia.



## **Kristalina Georgieva Re-appointed as IMF Managing Director**



- for a new 5 year term, starting on 1 October 2024.
- Headquarters of the IMF: Washington D.C, USA.
- International Monetary Fund is a major financial agency of the United Nations
- The IMF was created in July 1944
- India is a founder member of the IMF.

### Pro-Russia candidate Peter Pellegrini elected Slovakia president





Slovakia Capital: Bratislava

## Col Edison Napyo to serve as Papua New Guinea's first defence adviser to India



- Taking forward defence cooperation between India and Papua New Guinea (PNG), PNG appointed its first defence adviser to India.
- India and PNG formalised diplomatic relations in 1976.

### India's Gita Sabharwal Appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in

### Indonesia

 United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Sabharwal to the post.



# UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India: Lindy Cameron



 Lindy Cameron, UK's chief of cyber security, is named new envoy to India

# Judith Suminwa Tuluka appointed first female Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo

• CAPITAL: Kinshasa

 CURRENCY: Congolese Franc

 PRESIDENT: Felix Tshisekedi





# Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appointed as New Prime Minister Of Kuwait



- Former Prime Minister: Sheikh Mohammad Sabah
   Al-Salem Al-Sabah
- Capital: Kuwait CityCurrency: Kuwaiti Dinar

#### Simon Harris becomes Ireland's new Prime Minister



- Simon Harris became Ireland's new prime minister (taoiseach), replacing Leo Varadkar
- · President Michael D. Higgins



#### Lawrence Wong will take over as prime



#### minister of Singapore

- Singapore has announced that Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong will take over as the country's next leader on May 15.
- Wong will succeed Lee Hsien Loong who has held the top job for 20 years.

### Lai Ching-te sworn in as new President of Taiwan





- Lai Ching-te of Taiwan's ruling Democratic
   Progressive Party (DPP) was sworn in as new
   President amid increasing threats from China, which claims the self-governing island as its territory.
- Taiwan has had an independent government since 1949.
- Capital : Taipei City
- Currency: New Taiwan dollar

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# Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader re-elected to 2nd term





Capital : Santo DomingoCurrency : Dominican peso

#### To Lam named new Vietnam President



Vietnam has appointed its Public Security Minister To Lam as its new President, after his predecessor resigned in the ongoing anti-corruption campaign that has shaken up the country's political establishment.

# Lawrence Wong sworn in as Singapore's first new prime minister in 20 years



- Mr. Wong, 51, succeeds Lee Hsien Loong, 72, who stepped down after two decades.
- He is the city-state's fourth leader and the first born after Singapore's independence in 1965.
- Singapore President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam

#### **Singapore**



Island city-state in Southeast Asia.

- It is situated off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, bordering the Straits of Malacca to the west, and the South China Sea to the east.
- Singapore is a unitary parliamentary republic. The President is the head of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of government.
- Currency Singapore Dollar
- Languages: English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil.

### Chad military dictator Idriss Deby win's Presidential election





- Military leader Mahamat Idriss Deby has won the presidential election in Chad.
- · Capital: N'Djamena
- Currency :Central African CFA franc

### José Raúl Mulino Wins Panama's Presidential Election



CAPITAL: Panama City

#### **Currency:**

- Balboa (PAB)
- United States dollar (USD)



Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda Secures Landslide Reelection Victory





- Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda secured a second five-year term as President
- Capital: VilniusCurrency: Euro

### Solomon Islands elected Jeremiah Manele as new Prime Minister



- Former Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele has been elected as the new prime minister of Solomon Islands
- Manele pledged to continue China-friendly foreign policy

- Solomon Islands is a country consisting of 6 major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Melanesia, part of Oceania, to the northeast of Australia.
- Capital: Honiara.



#### Iceland elects businesswoman Halla



#### Kuwait's Emir makes Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid Crown Prince



 Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid previously served as Prime Minister from 2019 until 2022.

#### Claudia Sheinbaum Elected As First Woman President Of Mexico





- Claudia Sheinbaum is the first woman and the first Jewish person to be chosen for this post
- She is a climate scientist and was a contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 report. The IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that year.
- Capital: Mexico City
- Currency: Mexican peso (MXN)

# Helen Mary, 1st woman brigadier in Pakistan from minority community



- Dr. Helen Mary Roberts from the Pakistan Army Medical Corps has made history by becoming the first Christian woman to be promoted to the rank of brigadier in Pakistan.
- Brigadier Dr. Helen has been serving as a senior pathologist in the Pakistan Army for 26 years.
- Minority in Pakistan:

Hindus: 2.14%Christians: 1.27%

Ahmadi Muslims: 0.09%

# Lt General Waker-Uz-Zaman appointed as new Army Chief of Bangladesh Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman

 His appointment will be effective from 23 June

 He has been appointed for three years.

• Capital: Dhaka

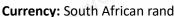
Currency: Taka



### South African President Cyril Ramaphosa re-elected for second term

**Capital**: Pretoria (executive)

- Cape Town (legislative)
- Bloemfontein (judicial)







## Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima killed in plane crash



 Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima's plane crashed in the Chikangawa mountain range, killing ten people including him.



Capital: Lilongwe

President : Lazarus Chakwera
Currency: Malawian kwacha

### Malawi President names new deputy after plane crash kills predecessor





- Malawi's President Lazarus Chakwera appointed
   Michael Usi as his Vice President.
- Former Vice President Saulos Chilima and nine others were killed when the military plane crash
- Capital: Lilongwe
- Currency: Malawian kwacha

### Malaysia's Newly Appointed High Commissioner To India Muzaffar Shah Mustafa



 Malaysia's newly appointed High Commissioner to India Dato Muzaffar Shah Mustafa

### Masoud Pezeshkian Elected As President Of Iran





- Masoud Pezeshkian, a moderate leader seen as a reformist, has been elected as the new President of Iran
- Previous Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash
- Capital: Tehran
- Supreme Leader: Ali Khamenei
- Currency: Iranian ria

### Elisa de Anda Madrazo Assumes FATF Presidency for 2024-2026

e Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico has assumed the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for a two-year term from July 2024 to June 2026



- FATF Founded: July 1989;
- FATF Headquarters: Paris, France.

#### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing
- Headquarters: Paris, France.
- India became a member of FATF in 2010.

# Ursula Von Der Leyen Re-Elected As President Of European Commission



- German conservative politician Ursula von der Leyen secured a second term as president of the European Commission.
- She is the first to be picked twice by the parliament

### Paul Kagame Re-elected for Fourth Term as Rwandan President





- Rwanda is a landlocked country in East Central Africa.
- The country is also known as the land of a thousand hills.
- Rwanda is part of the Sub-Saharan African region.
- Capital: Kigali
- Currency: Rwandan franc

# Rachel Reeves becomes Britain's first female finance minister after the Labour Party's election victory



Dick Schoof: Ex-spy chief sworn in as Dutch prime minister

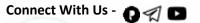




- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Dick Schoof on his appointment as the new Prime Minister of the Netherlands
- The 67-year-old Independent candidate is succeeding departing Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who is set to become the next secretary-general of NATO

Capital: Amsterdam Currency: Euro (€)

Monarch: Willem-Alexander



#### Eluned Morgan will be Wales' first female leader



- Wales is set to get its first female First Minister after Eluned Morgan was chosen to lead the governing Welsh Labour Party yesterday.
- She is currently the Welsh Health Minister.
- Wales, which has a population of about three million, is one of four parts of the United Kingdom, along with England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- Capital: Cardiff

Yearbook 2024

Currency : Pound sterling

#### K P Sharma Oli appointed Nepal's new **Prime Minister**



- K P Sharma Oli was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for the third time
- Oli, 72, succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives
- President Ram Chandra Paudel appointed Oli as the new Prime Minister of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)-Nepali Congress (NC) coalition.
- Oli served as Nepal's Prime Minister from October 11, 2015, to August 3, 2016 and then, from February 5, 2018, to July 13, 2021

### Arzu Rana Deuba appointmented as **Foreign Minister of** Nepal

Capital: Kathmandu Currency: Nepalese rupee



#### The First Woman Chief Justice of Lahore **Takes Oath**



- Justice Aalia Neelum took oath as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan, making her the first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge.
- Capital: Islamabad
- President: Asif Ali Zardari

### Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda Sworn In For Second Five-Year Term





- Capital: Vilnius
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

Keir Starmer, a prominent human rights lawyer turned politician, appointed the next Prime Minister of UK



- The Labour party, led by the lawyer-turned politician, has won a landslide in the U.K. elections, bringing an end to the 14-year rule of the Conservatives
- He replaced Rishi Sunak as the Prime Minister
- Capital: LondonMonarch: Charles IIICurrency: Pound sterling
- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has won the election for a third term in office

Capital: Caracas

 Currency: Venezuelan bolívar





### Biden withdrew from 2024 US presidential race



- President Joe Biden, citing concerns about his mental acuity and ability to defeat Donald Trump, ended his reelection campaign and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris.
- Kamala Harris, if nominated, would be the 1st
   Black and Asian American woman to run for the
   U.S. presidency.

### Ronald L. Rowe Jr. Named Acting Chief of US Secret Service



- Ronald L. Rowe Jr. has been appointed as the acting chief of the US Secret Service following the resignation of Kimberly Cheatle.
- Kimberly stepped down after the Secret Service faced criticism for a significant security lapse during an attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.

### Michel Barnier is new French Prime Minister





- President Emmanuel Macron appointed Michel Barnier as the new prime minister
- Barnier takes over from the outgoing PM Gabriel Attal, who continued to serve even as the caretaker prime minister post the election results.
- Capital: Paris
- Currency: Euro



### Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune Wins Second Term





- Capital:
   Algiers
- Currency: Algerian dinar (DZD)



### Jordan's King Appoints Jafar Hassan as the New Prime Minister After

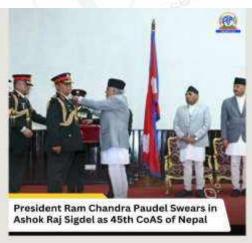
- · Jordan's King Abdullah II
- Capital: Amman
- Currency: Jordanian dinar (JOD)







# President Ram Chandra Paudel Swears in Ashok Raj Sigdel as 45th CoAS of Nepal





- President Ranchandra Paudel administered the oath to the newly appointed Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS), Ashok Raj Sigdel.
- Vice-President Ram Sahay Prasad Yadav
- Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli
- Chief Justice Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese rupee



### Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik Appointed New ISI Chief



- Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the new Director General of Pakistan's ISI.
- ISI stands for Inter-Services Intelligence, which is the name of Pakistan's top intelligence agency

### Anura Kumara Dissanayake sworn in as Sri Lanka's 9<sup>th</sup> President



- Mr. Dissanayake, from the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, was sworn in by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya at the Presidential Secretariat.
- Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena submitted his resignation

#### Political System in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka is a Democratic Republic and a Unitary State which is governed by a semi-presidential system, with a mixture of a presidential system and a parliamentary system.
- The President of Sri Lanka is the head of state, the commander in chief of the armed forces; head of government, and is popularly elected for a fiveyear term.
- The President heads the cabinet and appoints ministers from elected members of parliament.
- The president's deputy, the Prime Minister, leads the ruling party in parliament
- Parliament is a unicameral 225-member
   legislature elected by universal suffrage and proportional representation to a 5-year term.

### Shigeru Ishiba Set to Become Japan's Next PM





- Former Defence Minister Ishiba, 67, has become the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that has ruled Japan for most of the past seven decades and is set to become the country's next prime minister
- · Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen



- Japan has four main islands:
- from north to south these are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu
- Honshu is the largest of the four
- Mount Fuji is the highest point, a dormant volcano of Japan
- Shinano (Chikuma) River longest in Japan

## Steve Fossett became the first person to fly around the world alone



- Steve Fossett became the first person to fly around the world alone, nonstop in any kind of aircraft in just under 15 days in the Spirit of Freedom balloon.
- The solo flight circumnavigation lasted 13 days, 8 hours, 33 minutes.

### Saudi Arabia appoints first ambassador to Syria since 2012



- Saudi Arabia announced the appointment of its first ambassador to Syria since severing ties with Damascus in 12 years
- Faisal al-Mujfel's appointment as the kingdom's first ambassador to Syria since 2012
- It comes over a year after Syria was readmitted to the 22-member Arab League. It remained suspended from the group for more than a decade over President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on anti-government protesters in 2011.
- The uprising turned-civil war in Syria, now in its 14th year has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of the country's pre-war population of 23 million.
- Iran has been a key political and military ally for the Assad government in Syria and the Lebanese Hezbollah group.
- In Yemen, Saudi Arabia has led a coalition against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels since 2015 in an attempt to restore the internationally-recognized government.
- The conflict has turned in recent years into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

#### Saudi Arabia

• Capital: Riyadh

Currency: Saudi riyal

#### **Syria**

Capital: Damascus

Currency: Syrian pound



# Lebanon's Hezbollah elected its deputy secretary general Naim Qassem to succeed slain head Hassan Nasrallah



JP Nadda elected as Chairperson of 77th Session of WHO Southeast Asia Regional Committee



- 77th session of the Regional Committee for Southeast Asia in New Delhi from October 7 to 9.
- India's Minister of Health, JP Nadda, has been elected as the Chairperson of the 77th Session.
- The committee shapes WHO's health policies in the region.
- The member nations include Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and TimorLeste.
- FWHO ormation 7 April 1948
- Headquarters Geneva, Switzerland
- First President Andrija Štampar
- Director General Tedros Adhanom (Ethiopia)
- Member Countries 194

### 111-Year-Old John Alfred Tinniswood from England Becomes World's New Oldest Man



 Recently the previous record holder 114-year-old Juan Vicente Pérez (Venezuela) had passed away.

## British national Russ Cook Becomes First person to run the entire length of Africa

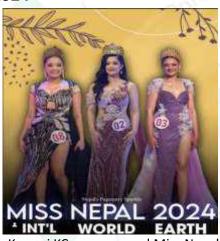


# Alejandra Marisa Rodriguez (60) crowned Miss Universe Buenos Aires



- Alejandra Marisa Rodríguez, 60, has won the title of Miss Universe for the province of Buenos Aires 2024.
- She becomes the first woman of her age to win such a prestigious beauty pageant.
- The Miss Universe organization last year announced that it would no longer have age limits for pageant contestants.

### Ashma Kumari KC crowned as Miss Nepal World 2024



- Ashma Kumari KC was crowned Miss Nepal World 2024 in the 28th edition beauty pageant
- Sumana KC and Karuna Rawat won the titles of Miss Nepal Earth and Miss Nepal International, respectively.

# Yamandú Orsi wins close presidential election in Uruguay





- Capital: Montevideo
- Currency: Uruguayan peso

- located on southeastern coast of S. America.
- · bounded by Brazil to the north and east,
- by the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast,
- and by the Río de la Plata to the south,
- The Uruguay River serves as its western boundary with Argentina.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara
Dissanayake has reappointed Harini
Amarasuriya as Prime Minister, following
his coalition's victory in general election



- Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative),
   Colombo (executive and judicial)
- Currency: Sri Lankan rupee (Rs) (LKR)
- Sri Lanka, island <u>country</u> lying in the <u>Indian</u>
   <u>Ocean</u> and separated from peninsular India by the <u>Palk Strait</u>.
- In 1948, after nearly 150 years of British rule, Sri Lanka became an independent country



### Japan's parliament re-elects leader Shigeru Ishiba as Prime Minister





- Capital : Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen (¥)
- Islands from North to South: (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu)

## Dr Navin Ramgoolam is all set to become the new Prime Minister of Mauritius



- Capital: Port Louis
- Currency: Mauritian rupee (MUR)
- Mauritius lies about 500 miles (800 km) east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.



# Duma Boko elected as the 6<sup>th</sup> President of Botswana



- Capital: Gaborone
- Currency: Pula (BWP)
- bounded by Namibia to the west and north (the Caprivi Strip),
- · Zambia and Zimbabwe to the northeast, and
- South Africa to the southeast and south.



# In Moldova, Pro-Western President Maia Sandu has been re-elected for a second term





- Capital: Chişinău
- · Currency: Moldovan leu
- Moldova is bounded by Ukraine to the north, east, and south and by Romania to the west.

### Alix Didier Fils-Aime Sworn in as Haiti's New Prime Minister



- · Capital: Port-au-Prince
- Currency: Gourde (G) (HTG)
- · bordered to the east by the Dominican Republic
- to the south and west by the Caribbean, and to the north by the Atlantic Ocean.



### Trump Appoints Elise Stefanik as UN Ambassador.



- President-elect Donald Trump has named
   Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik to serve as the US ambassador to the United Nations.
- would replace UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield
- Elon Musk and former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy will lead the newly created Department of Government Efficiency.

### **Donald Trump becomes 47<sup>th</sup> President of USA**



- Former U.S. President and Republican Donald
  Trump won a second term in office on November
  6, 2024
- Defeating Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee
- Become the 47th President of the United States.
- Mr. Trump, 78 will become the oldest President at the time of entry into office.

# JD Vance, Trump's MAGA Successor, Will Be One of America's Youngest - 50<sup>th</sup> Vice President



- JD Vance, a 40-year-old senator, was elected the next Vice President of the United States.
- Usha Chilukuri Vance, the wife of J.D. Vance, is set to become the first Indian-origin Second Lady of the United States. Her roots trace back to India's Andhra Pradesh.

#### **United States of America**

- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Currency: U.S. dollar (\$)
- United States, country in North America, a federal republic of 50 states (including Alaska and Hawaii).
- Bounded on the north by <u>Canada</u>, on the east by the <u>Atlantic Ocean</u>, on the south by the <u>Gulf of</u> <u>Mexico</u> and <u>Mexico</u>, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean
- Fourth largest country in the world in area (after Russia, Canada, and China).



US President-elect Trump Appoints Susie Wiles as First Female White House Chief of Staff



President-elect Donald Trump has chosen former acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker to serve as U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



### Trump nominates Indian American Kash Patel as FBI Director



 US President-elect Donald Trump announced the nomination of Kashyap 'Kash' Patel to lead the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Donald Trump has appointed Jared Isaacman, a billionaire astronaut and close associate of Elon Musk, as the new head of NASA.



**Burkina Faso Junta Appoints New Prime Minister** 



- Rimtalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo appointed as Burkina Faso's new Prime Minister.
- The country faces ongoing challenges, including escalating violence, displacement of 2 million people
- Capital: Ouagadougou
- Currency: West African CFA franc



### Ghana's former leader John Dramani Mahama was declared the winner of the presidential election



- Capital: Accra
- · Currency: Cedi (GHS)
- Ghana is bordered to the northwest and north by Burkina Faso, to the east by Togo, to the south by the Atlantic Ocean, and to the west by Côte d'Ivoire.



- India opened its representative office in Accra in 1953, prior to Ghana's independence and established full-fledged diplomatic relations with Ghana in 1957, immediately after it attained independence
- The first-ever State Visit of President of India to Ghana was on 12-4 June 2016, (The only other earlier VVIP visit from India to Ghana was that of the Prime Minister Narasimha Rao on 8-9 November 1995.)
- Ghana has a positive trade balance with India, mainly due to huge imports of gold by India which accounts for nearly 80% of total imports from Ghana.
- Ghana's main exports to India are Gold, cocoa, cashew nuts and timber products.

 India's major exports to Ghana include pharmaceuticals, agricultural machinery, transport vehicles, electrical equipment, plastics, iron & steel, ethyl alcohol to increase India's global exports to US\$ 400 billion in 2021-22, the target of US\$ 1.1 billion for Ghana was achieved

### Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando sworn in as 48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka



- Justice Fernando succeeds Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, who recently retired
- President Anura Kumara Dissanayake

### Mali's Junta Replaces Prime Minister Choguel Maiga with Abdoulaye Maiga



- Capital: Bamako
- Currency: West African
   CFA franc
- Mali is bounded on the north by Algeria
- east by Niger and Burkina Faso
- south by Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea
  - west by Senegal and Mauritania



### Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala reappointed as DG of WTO

 Dr. Ngozi Okonjolweala reappointed as Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a second four-



year term, set to begin on 1 September 2025.

 On March 1, 2021, become the first woman and first African to lead the WTO.

#### **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

- The WTO is the world's largest international economic organization, with 164 member states representing over 98% of global trade and global GDP
- Also, WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations
- It officially commenced operations on 1 January 1995, pursuant to the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement, thus replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that had been established in 1948

#### Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah becomes Namibia's first female President





- Capital: Windhoek
- Currency: Namibian dollar
- It is bordered by Angola to the north
- Zambia to the northeast
- Botswana to the east
- South Africa to the southeast and south
- and the Atlantic Ocean to the west

# French President Emmanuel Macron names Francois Bayrou as new Prime Minister





- Mr. Macron vowed last week to remain in office until his term ends in 2027.
- · Capital: Paris
- Currency: Euro (€), CFP franc (XPF)
- The India-France strategic partnership, signed in 1998
- Starting with the Rafale deal to the acquisition of 26 Marine versions of Aircraft, the French have been willing to give the Indians some of their best defence systems.
- France supports India's bid for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council
- Joint Exercises: Exercise Shakti (Army), Exercise
   Varuna (Navy), Exercise Garuda (Air Force)



### Mikheil Kavelashvili Elected as Georgia's President



- lawmakers elected far-right former football star
   Mikheil Kavelashvili as the country's new president
- Capital: Tbilisi
- Currency: Georgian lari (₾) (GEL)
  - It is bounded on the north and northeast by Russia

- on the east and southeast by Azerbaijan,
- On the south by Armenia and Turkey, and on the west by the Black Sea.



### Jagath Wickramaratne elected as new Speaker of Sri Lankan Parliament



**Jagath Wickramaratne** 

#### elected as new Speaker

 The appointment of the new speaker comes following the resignation of Asoka Ranwala

# Mikheil has been sworn in as Georgia's new president





- It is bounded on the north and northeast by Russia,
- on the east and southeast by Azerbaijan, on the south by Armenia and Turkey,
- and on the west by the Black Sea.
- Capital: Tbilisi
- Currency: Georgian lari

### Former Supreme Court Judge Madan Lokur Appointed As United Nations IJC Chairperson

Retired Justice Madan B Lokur appointed UN Internal Justice Council Chairperson



- Retired Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur has been appointed chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council.
- The Internal Justice Council comprises five members appointed by the Secretary-General.
- The IJC is a body that appoints judges for the UN Dispute Tribunal and the UN Appeals Tribunal.
- The UN General Assembly established the Internal Justice Council (IJC) as part of the new internal justice system in order to help ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the administration of justice system of the United Nations.

Donald Trump named Indian-American Sriram Krishnan as Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence.



 Mr. Krishnan, originally from Chennai, is an entrepreneur, venture capitalist and author

### Aisake Valu Eke elected as new Prime Minister of Tonga



 Veteran politician 'Aisake Valu Eke was voted prime minister by secret ballot in parliament



- Capital: Nuku'alofa
- Currency: Pa'anga (TOP)
- The country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- It consists of some 170 islands divided into three main island groups: Tongatapu in the south, Ha'apai in the centre, and Vava'u in the north

## Iceland's new govt takes office under PM Kristrun Frostadotti



- It will be the first time in Iceland that the leaders of all the governing parties will be women, and
- the first time that the country will have a female prime minister and a female president – Halla
   Tomasdottir – simultaneously.

- Capital: Reykjavík
- · Currency: Icelandic króna
- Iceland's rugged coastline, of more than 3,000 miles (4,800 km), meets the Greenland Sea on the north,
- the Norwegian Sea on the east, the Atlantic Ocean on the south and west,
- and the Denmark Strait—which separates it from Greenland by about 200 miles (320 km)—on the northwest.



### **PROJECTS & AGREEMENT**

- EC Signs Electoral Cooperation Pact with Uzbekistan
- 2. RBI and Maldives Currency Swap Agreement
- 3. India & UAE agreement on nuclear energy
- 4. world's first air taxi
- World's First 3D-Printed
- 6. Chabahar port
- 7. DTAA Between India and Mauritius
- 8. India's 2nd Global Port
- 9. India and Saudi Arabia sign Haj Agreement
- **10. AUKUS**
- 11. Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between India and Taiwan
- 12. India-Japan Pact for First Green Ammonia
- 13. Nepal, India, and Bangladesh Tripartite agreement

### EC Signs Electoral Cooperation Pact with Uzbekistan



 during a visit of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar to Tashkent as international observer for the elections there in October.

**<u>Uzbekistan:</u>** landlocked country in Central Asia.

- Uzbekistan is bordered by Kazakhstan to the northwest and north, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the east and southeast, Afghanistan to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southwest.
- Capital: Tashkent
- · Currency: Uzbek sum

# RBI and Maldives Monetary Authority Sign \$400 Million Currency Swap Agreement



- RBI entered into a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27
- A currency swap agreement between two countries is a contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions for liquidity support, or to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid the Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis till longer arrangements can be made.
- These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance.

- Under the agreement, Maldives Monetary
   Authority (MMA) is eligible for financing support
   from the RBI amounting to \$400 million under the
   U.S. Dollar/ Euro Swap Window and ₹30 billion
   under the INR Swap Window.
- The agreement would be valid till June 18, 2027.
  - PM Modi and visiting Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu also launched the Rupay card in the Maldives,
  - inaugurated a new runway at the
     Hanimadhoo International Airport, and
  - agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations that had hit a rocky patch last year.

#### **SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27**

- came into operation on November 15, 2012.
- to provide a backstop line of funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or short-term balance of payments stress till longer term arrangements are made.
- RBI will continue to offer swap arrangement for SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional

**Cooperation)** countries for the period 2024 to 2027:

- in US\$ and Euro under a separate swap window with an overall corpus of US\$ 2 billion.
- a separate INR (Indian Rupee) swap window has been introduced with various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupee.
- The total corpus of the rupee support is ₹250 billion.

### Tricks SAARC countries



#### MBBS PAIN

- M- Maldives
- B-Bangladesh
- B-Bhutan
- S-Srilanka
- P-Paksitan
- A-Afghanistan
- I-India
- N-Nepal

### India extends its first-ever rupeedenominated Line of Credit under IDEAS

#### MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

India has extended a new Line of Credit for ₹487.60
Crores to the Government of Mauritius for financing
of a water pipeline replacement project. This is the
first-ever ₹ denominated Line of Credit to have been
extended by India for project financing to any
country under the Indian Development & Economic
Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)

- India has extended a new line of credit amounting to Rs 487.60 crore to the government of Mauritius for financing replacement of nearly 100 km of obsolete water pipeline in Mauritius.
- This is the first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit to have been extended by India for project financing to any country under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)
- The government of India-supported line of credit will be financed by the State Bank of India at concessional terms.

### India signs key pacts on clean and fair economies under IPEF

 India signed the US-led 14 member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) bloc's agreements on a clean and fair economy.



- the first-of-its-kind agreements focused to catalyse investments in green tech
- Aimed at facilitating development, access, and deployment of clean energy and climate-friendly technologies.
- They also aim to strengthen anti-corruption measures and promote tax transparency within member countries.
- The agreement intends to accelerate efforts of IPEF partners towards energy security, GHG
   (greenhouse gas) emissions mitigation, developing innovative ways of reducing dependence on fossil fuel energy and promoting technical cooperation.
- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) was



launched in 2022 at Tokyo, Japan.

- The 14 IPEF partners represent 40 percent of the global GDP and 28 percent of global goods and services trade.
- The IPEF focuses on building economic cooperation through its four key pillars — trade, supply chain resilience, clean economy, and fair economy (focusing on tax and anti-corruption).

# India & UAE sign five agreements for cooperation in various fields including nuclear energy & petroleum



- The MoUs were inked following talks between PM Modi and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in New Delhi.
- Abu Dhabi Emirates is one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It comprises about three-fourths of the UAE's land area and is the centre of the UAE oil and gas industry.
- In a first, India and UAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for civil nuclear cooperation.
- MoU was signed between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NNPCIL) and Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC).
- Long-term supply of LNG
- An MoU was signed between the Indian company Urja Bharat and ADNOC for the Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1 oil field.
- The Government of Gujarat and Abu Dhabi
   Developmental Holding Company PJSC (ADQ)
   signed an MoU to develop food parks in
   Gundanpara, Bavla, and Ahmedabad.

#### Dubai to have world's first air taxi



- Dubai has inked agreements at the World Government Summit 2024 to launch the world's first air taxi service.
- The air taxi Joby Aviation S4 an innovative aircraft designed to comfortably accommodate four passengers along with a pilot.
- Rhe S4 boasts a maximum range of 161 km and a top speed of 321 km per hour.

- The air taxi project promises a host of benefits, including reduced noise levels, zero operating emissions, and enhanced passenger convenience.
- The air-taxi network will commence its operations in 2026

### Saudi Arabia To Launch Dream Of The Desert



- Saudi Arabia's first luxury train, Dream of the Desert, is scheduled to launch in late 2025.
- The 1,300-kilometer journey will connect Riyadh, the capital city, to Al Qurayyat, which is near the border with Jordan
- The route will pass through long stretches of scenic deserts and UNESCO World Heritage archeological sites.

### UAE launched trial operation of World's First 3D-Printed Abra



RTA Launches Trial Operation of World's First 3D-Printed Abra

- An abra is a traditional boat made of wood. Abras are used to ferry people across the Dubai Creek in Dubai, UAE.
- Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the trial operation of the world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology, in collaboration with the private sector.
- The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.

### Nawaz Sharif admits violation of 1999 Lahore Agreement



- Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has finally accepted his mistake after 25 years.
- In fact, Nawaz Sharif has accepted that Pakistan had violated the Lahore Agreement signed with the then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Islamabad on February 21, 1999 - with the goal of fostering peace and stability between India and Pakistan.
- The Lahore Declaration called for strict actions against all stakeholders of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- The two countries emphasised the need to take immediate steps to ensure the safe and authorised use of nuclear energy and reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons.
- India and Pakistan agreed to intensify their efforts to resolve all conflicts related to Kashmir, through proper diplomatic channels.
- However, shortly after the signing, Pakistani troops infiltrated the Kargil district in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the Kargil War.
- Sharif confirmed conducting 5 nuclear tests on May 28, 1998, despite an offer from then US President Bill Clinton to prevent them.

### Chabahar port deal between Iran and India



- India and Iran signed a 10-year contract for the operation of Shahid-Behesti terminal at the Chabahar port in Iran.
- The long-term agreement was signed between Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) and Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran.







- IPGL will invest approximately \$120 million to equip and operate the port for the duration of the contract
- Chabahar is Iran's only oceanic port.
- There are two main port terminals in Chabahar the Shahid Kalantari port and the Shahid Beheshti port.
- After this, the United States has issued a warning to nations considering business deals with Iran that run the "potential risk of sanctions."
- For India, Chabahar held immense strategic and economic significance, as it provided a route to reach Afghanistan — land access to which had been blocked by a hostile Pakistan.
- The new deal with Iran will open up a trade route between South Asia and Central Asia via Iran, bypassing Karachi and Gwadar port in Pakistan.

#### **Chabahar Agreement**

 Chabahar is a deep water port in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province on Makran Coast. It is the **Iranian port that is the closest to India**, and is located in the open sea, providing easy and secure access for large cargo ships.

- Modern Chabahar came into being in the 1970s, and Tehran realised the strategic importance of the port during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.
- In January 2003, President Khatami and then
  Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee signed off on
  an ambitious roadmap of strategic cooperation.
  Among the key projects the two countries agreed
  on was Chabahar.
- During the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Iran in May 2016, a Trilateral Agreement to establish the International Transport and Transit Corridor (Chabahar Agreement) was signed by India, Iran and Afghanistan.
- The Indian company, India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), through its wholly owned subsidiary, India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ), took over the operations of the Chabahar Port from December 24, 2018.
- Till date, a total of 2.5 million tonnes of wheat and 2,000 tonnes of pulses have been trans-shipped from India to Afghanistan through Chabahar port. In 2021, India supplied 40,000 litres of the environment friendly pesticide (malathion) through the port to Iran to fight locust attacks.

#### **Chabahar & INSTC**

- There are plans to link Chabahar with the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- The INSTC is a is a 7,200-km long, multi-modal transportation route (network of ship, rail, and road route) which was initiated by Russia, India, and Iran, envisaged to link the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via St Petersburg in Russia.



## India and Mauritius sign protocol to amend tax treaty



- India and Mauritius have signed a protocol to amend the double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA), to include a Principal Purpose Test (PPT) to decide whether a foreign investor is eligible to claim treaty benefits.
- In 1983, the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius came to a unanimous decision regarding the avoidance of double taxation called the DTAA.
- Historically, Mauritius has been a preferred jurisdiction for engaging in investments in India due to the non-taxability of capital gains from the sale of shares in Indian companies until 2016.
- In 2016, India and Mauritius signed a revised tax agreement, which gave India the right to tax capital gains in India on transactions in shares routed through Mauritius beginning April 1, 2017.

### Significance of the DTAA Between India and Mauritius:

- The DTAA was a major reason for a large number of foreign portfolio investors (FPI) and foreign entities to route their investments in India through Mauritius.
- Mauritius remains India's 4th largest source of Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI), after the US, Singapore and Luxembourg.
- FPI investment from Mauritius stood at Rs 4.19
  lakh crore at the end of March 2024, which is 6%
  of the total FPI investment of Rs 69.54 lakh crore
  in India.
- FDI focuses on business operations, physical assets, and infrastructure, while FPI targets financial markets, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

#### Mauritius



Currency : The MUR (Mauritius Rupee)

Capital: Port Louis

President : Prithvirajsing Roopun
 Prime Minister : Pravind Jugnauth

### India's 2nd Global Port in Sittwe, Myanmar





- The Ministry of External Affairs has approved India Ports Global (IPGL) 's proposal to take over the entire operation of the Sittwe port, located on the Kaladan River in the Rakhine province of Myanmar.
- India Ports Global Limited is a subsidiary of Sagarmala Development Company Limited, which is under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- Thus, the Sittwe port of Myanmar became the second international port after the Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar of Iran to come under the control of India Ports Global Limited.
- However, unlike the Chabahar port, where India controls only two terminals, India has full control over the Sittwe Port.
- The recently approved deal included a long-term lease of the port to India, which will be renewed every three years. The IPGL will raise resources to develop the port further.
- Sittwe Port development in the Rakhine Province of Myanmar is part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project signed between India and Myanmar

- This project will connect Sittwe port in Myanmar with the state of Mizoram in India
- Sittwee port was conceptualised to provide alternative connectivity of Mizoram with Haldia / Kolkata / any Indian ports through the Kaladan river in Myanmar.
- It is part of the government's strategy to develop the land-locked north-eastern states of India and to reduce logistic costs for transporting goods to Tripura and Mizoram
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal formally inaugurated the project on 9 May 2023.
- In the Indian Ocean, China and India are engaged in a struggle to expand their economic influence.
   Ports have become highly significant in this rivalry.
   China, in particular, has been aggressively seeking to acquire operating rights for numerous ports

# PM Modi and PM Pravind Jugnauth of Mauritius jointly inaugurated new Airstrip and a Jetty at the Agalega Island in Mauritius



A jetty is a long, narrow structure that protects a coastline from the currents and tides.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the developmental projects at the Agaleaga Island in Mauritius.
- It include the new Airstrip and Saint James Jetty along with 6 community development projects.
- The projects will fulfil the demand for better connectivity between mainland Mauritius and Agalega, strengthen maritime security and foster socio-economic development.
- 'Project Agalega' by India: In 2015, India had signed an MOU with Mauritius to develop Agalega Island. Under this, more than \$200 million projects are being funded by India.

Recently India had launched UPI and RuPay Card services in Mauritius



## India and Saudi Arabia sign bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 in Jeddah

- During 3rd Haj and Umrah Conference in Jeddah.
- Union Minister for Women & Child Development
   Smriti Zubin Irani presided over the signing alongside Saudi Minister of Haj and Umrah Affairs
   Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah in Jeddah.
- A total quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims from India has been finalised for Haj 2024 with 1,40,020 seats reserved for pilgrims to proceed through Haj Committee whereas 35,005 pilgrims would be permitted to proceed through private operators

# US, UK & Australia Entered Agreement To Build Australia's SSN-AUKUS Submarines

- Under the new trilateral Security partnership, Australia's ASC and UK-based BAE Systems will build the SSN-AUKUS submarines for the Royal Australian Navy.
- The SSN-AUKUS will be equipped for intelligence, surveillance, undersea warfare and strike missions, and will provide maximum interoperability among AUKUS partners.

### **AUKUS**



- Established in 2021
- AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region between Australia, the UK and the US.
- Submarine component
- It is designed to equip Australia with nuclearpowered attack submarines (SSNs).
- Australia, the US and the UK have said the deal complies with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations.
- Australia is a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT

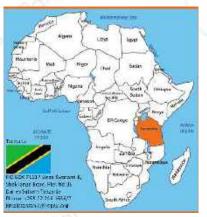
## Adani Ports signs 30-year pact to operate Tanzania Port Terminal



- Adani Ports has signed a 30-year concession
   agreement with Tanzania to operate and manage
   Container Terminal 2 at the Dar es Salaam Port.
- APSEZ, through a joint venture with Abu Dhabi Ports Group and East Harbour Terminals Ltd, acquired a 95% stake in Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited (TICTS) for \$39.5 million, taking control of the terminal's equipment and manpower.

## 'Prachanda' inaugurated the "Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project" in Nepal

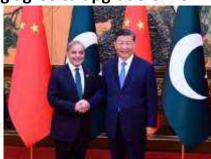






Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal
 'Prachanda' inaugurated the 900 MW Arun-3
 Hydroelectric Project in Nepal.

# Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, President Xi Jinping agree to upgrade CPEC



- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed their consensus to upgrade cooperation under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.
- They also emphasised the timely completion of all ongoing projects with a special focus on industrial development, agriculture modernisation, Science & Technology and the development of Special Economic Zones for mutually beneficial and socioeconomic development of Pakistan.
- The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- The corridor links Xinjiang with Gwadar, and also passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) where China is investing in a number of projects.
- During an April 2015 visit to Islamabad, Chinese President Xi Jinping and then Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif unveiled the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- China has invested USD 65 billion CPEC plan, but the implementation of various projects has slowed in recent months.



## **Historic Cultural Property Agreement**



### Between India and the USA

- India and the United States signed their first agreement to prevent illegal trafficking of cultural property and return of antiquarian objects to their place of origin
- The US-India Cultural Property Agreement was signed by Union Cultural Secretary Govind Mohan and US envoy Eric Garcetti in the presence of Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on the sidelines of the ongoing 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam
- will allow "smooth repatriation" of historic artefact from the US to India.
- there are "297 items" that are "lying in the US, ready to be repatriated."
- India joins the ranks of 29 existing US bilateral cultural property agreement partners.

# Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between India and Taiwan for Organic Products



- First bilateral agreement for organic products between India & Taiwan announced at the 9th Working Group on Trade Meeting of Indian and Taiwan in New Delhi.
- The implementing Agencies for the MRA are Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India and Agriculture and Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture (AFA), Taiwan.
- The agreement is expected to boost the trade of organic products between the two countries. It will also push the export of Indian organic products,

such as Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Rice, Processed Food, Green/Black and Herbal Tea, etc., to Taiwan.

- By virtue of this agreement, agricultural products produced and handled organically in conformity with the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) under "India Organic" logo.
- Similarly, agricultural products produced and handled organically in Taiwan are allowed for sale in India with "Taiwan Organic" logo.
- APEDA is the implementing the National **Programme for Organic Production**

## EAM Dr. Jaishankar inaugurates Addu **Reclamation and Shore Protection Projects in Maldives**





- This ambitious program of 80 million US dollar involves reclamation for tourism development purposes.
- This will translate in overall growth for the region, bringing in better opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and trade.

## India signs Charter, MoU for establishment of Colombo Security **Conclave Secretariat**

India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka have signed the Charter and an MoU for the establishment of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Secretariat in Colombo to address security and stability challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.

The signing ceremony was **hosted in Colombo** by



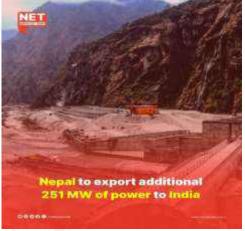
the Government of Sri Lanka.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the representatives of the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka signed the documents

There are five pillars of cooperation under the CSC namely Maritime Safety and Security;

- Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation
- Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime
- Cyber Security
- Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

## **India Approves Additional 251 MW Power Exports from Nepal**



- India approved an additional 251 MW of power exports from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal.
- Nepal will export power to Bihar under a mediumterm power sales agreement for the first time.
- Total approved power export from Nepal to India increased from 690 MW (16 projects) to 941 MW (28 projects).

- Nepal became a net exporter of electricity, generating NPR 16.93 billion in revenue in the last fiscal year.
- India's initial approval in October 2021 was for 39 MW, which has increased over 24 times in less than three years.
- Nepal Electricity Authority signed medium-term agreements with distribution companies in Haryana and Bihar.
- India allows hydropower imports from Nepal to count toward the Hydropower Purchase Obligation (HPO), incentivizing buyers.
- A long-term agreement aims to sell up to 10,000 MW of power from Nepal to India over the next 10 years.
- Nepal is on track to become South Asia's leading hydropower exporter.
- A 40 MW power export agreement to Bangladesh was postponed due to political developments.

# India-Japan Pact for First Green Ammonia Export Signed.

- The Heads of Terms (HoT) agreement was signed between Sembcorp Industries, Sojitz Corporation, Kyushu Electric Power and NYK Line, solidifying a cross-border green ammonia supply partnership from India to Japan,
- India aims to become a global hub for green ammonia and hydrogen, with ongoing tenders for green ammonia production.
- the first such collaboration between the two nations, Sembcorp Industries will lead the production of green ammonia in India,
- Ammonia is typically produced by combining hydrogen and nitrogen through a method known as the Haber-Bosch process. This so-called "brown ammonia" uses fossil fuels both to provide the hydrogen and the energy source. Each tonne of ammonia produced releases about 2 tonnes of greenhouse gas.
- Green ammonia, by contrast, relies on renewable energy, and derives its hydrogen from water and its nitrogen from air.
- Around 70% of ammonia is used for fertilizers; the rest is used for industrial applications, including plastics, explosives, and synthetic fibres

## India and Maldives renew MoU for training 1,000 Civil Service Officers

 India and the Maldives have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster the training of Maldivian civil servants. The renewed MoU, spanning from 2024 to 2029, will facilitate the training of an additional 1,000



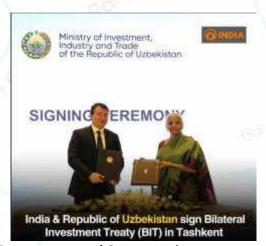
civil service officers from the Maldives.

# India and Uzbekistan Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty in Tashkent

- signed by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and
- Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Mr.
   Khodjayev Jamshid Abdukhakimovich
- India ranks among the top 10 trade partners of Uzbekistan

The BIT includes several crucial provisions, such as:

 Protection from Expropriation: Investments are safeguarded against expropriation (governments taking away individuals' and businesses' property without providing fair compensation).



- Transparency and Compensation: transparency in investment operations and compensation protocols for losses.
- Balanced Regulatory Rights: While protecting investments, the treaty maintains a balance with the state's right to regulate, allowing adequate policy space.

**Uzbekistan**, landlocked country in Central Asia.

Uzbekistan is bordered by

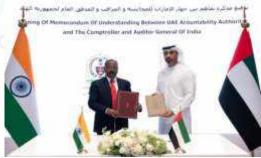
- 1. Kazakhstan to the northwest and north,
- 2. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the east
- 3. southeast, Afghanistan to the south,
- 4. <u>Turkmenistan</u> to the southwest.



Capital: Tashkent

President: Shavkat MirziyoyevCurrency: Uzbekistani Som (UZS)

## UAE, India Sign MoU to Strengthen Public Sector Audit Cooperation



- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UAE Accountability Authority
- Aim is to promote cooperation between the two supreme audit institutions and improve methodologies in the field of public sector audit
- Humaid Obaid Khalifa Obaid Abushibs President of the UAE Accountability Authority,
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India -Girish Chandra Murmu

## EAM S. Jaishankar Inaugurates India's First Overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra In Mauritius



- Jaishankar, along with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, inaugurated the Jan Aushadi Kendra.
- The health partnership project will supply costeffective, Made-in-India medicines to augment public healthcare and enhance well-being
- Set up under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya
   Janaushadhi Pariyojana, which was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in November 2008.
- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar also inaugurated the India -Mauritius Maitree Udyan in Port Louis and planted a tree there.

# Abu Dhabi Crown Prince inaugurates IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus



- Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, officially inaugurated the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Abu Dhabi campus, UAE.
- The inaugural batch has 52 students in undergraduate (UG) courses in Computer Science and Engineering and Energy Engineering.

# Nepal to export 40 Megawatts of electricity to Bangladesh via India's power grid



- Nepal, India, and Bangladesh signed a tripartite agreement allowing Nepal to sell 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh using the land and infrastructure of India.
- Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) signed the agreement in Kathmandu

- the first time Nepal's hydroelectric power is being exported to a third country.
- Nepal Electricity Authority has set ambitious goals
  for the future, aiming to export 10,000 MW of
  electricity to India and 5,000 MW to Bangladesh
  in the coming years, positioning Nepal as a key
  player in the regional energy market.

# India, Kuwait sign MoU to establish Joint Commission for Cooperation



- External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) at the level of foreign ministers.
- Abdullah Ali Al Yahya was on an official visit to India
- Under the new MoU, new Joint Working Groups will be established in Education, Investment, Trade, Agriculture, Technology, Security, and Culture.
- The JCC would also oversee existing working groups in areas such as hydrocarbons, health, and consular matters.

#### **About Kuwait**

- A small kingdom situated in the Arabian Peninsula.
- It is a Muslim Arab country rich in petroleum oil.
- It has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.
- It gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1961.
- Capital: Kuwait City
- Currency: Kuwaiti Dinar
- Emir: Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah

#### **India Kuwait Relationship**

- close political and economic ties traced back to their history.
- Till 1961, the Indian Rupee was the currency of Kuwait.

- Kuwait, a member of the Gulf Cooperation
   Council, is oil-rich and a major exporter of crude petroleum oil and LPG to India.
- Around one million Indians live and work in Kuwait, making them the largest expatriate community in Kuwait.



## India, ISA Sign Agreement on Solar Project in Pacific Islands



- To execute new solar projects in Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles
- The Wilmington Declaration released at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Delaware in the U.S. on September 21 stated that the Quad countries will work together and partner clean energy supply chains.
- the Project Implementation Agreement (PIA) was signed between the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) and the ISA to execute the projects in these Indo-Pacific countries.

## **Global Plastics Treaty**

- more than 170 countries will converge in Busan, Republic of Korea, to negotiate a new legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution, including marine pollution.
- This is the fifth (and final) round of talks since 2022, when the UN Environmental Assembly

(UNEA) agreed to develop such a by the end of



#### Why is a global plastic treaty required?

- The annual global production of plastic doubled from 234 million tonnes (mt) in 2000 to 460 mt in 2019.
- Nearly half of this was produced in Asia, followed by North America (19%) and Europe (15%).
- Plastic production is expected to touch 700 mt by 2040, according to a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- This has led to a crisis as plastic takes anywhere from 20 to 500 years to decompose, and less than 10% has been recycled till now: The Lancet.
- About 400 mt of <u>plastic waste is generated</u> <u>annually</u>, a figure expected to jump by 62% between 2024 and 2050.

### What is on the negotiating table?

- The final rules may also ban "particular types of plastic, plastic products, and chemical additives used in plastics, and set legally binding targets for recycling and recycled content used in consumer goods,
- There will be talks on 'just transition' for workers and those persons and communities whose livelihoods would be affected by the elimination of certain items and a move away from plastic production.
- Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Kuwait, Malaysia, and India have expressed resistance to stricter mandates and have instead proposed downstream measures such as innovative waste management and sustainable plastic use.
- On the other hand, Rwanda, Peru and the European Union have proposed ambitious targets for curbing plastic pollution. Rwanda has proposed a 40% reduction target by 2040, with 2025 as the baseline year.
- India banned the use of single-use plastics covering 19 categories in 2022.

# EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar Inaugurates Symbiosis International University's First Overseas Campus in Dubai



- The campus will offer comprehensive programs in management, technology, and media, focusing on developing 21st-century skills
- Symbiosis International University, headquartered in Pune

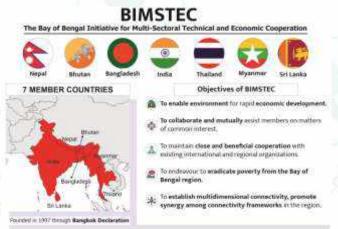
# Historic inauguration of 1st trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh via Indian Grid

- Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, jointly inaugurated the power flow from Nepal to Bangladesh, through a virtual event hosted by the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Nepal.
- an export of up to 40 MW of power expected to boost sub-regional connectivity in the power sector
- a tripartite power sales agreement between NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, Nepal Electricity Authority and Bangladesh Power Development Board was signed on 3 October 2024 in Kathmandu.

# Signing of BIMSTEC Energy Centre 'Host Country Agreement'



- The BIMSTEC Energy Centre has been established in Bengaluru in India.
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- The Host Country Agreement (HCA) for establishment of a BIMSTEC Energy Centre was signed in New Delhi on 08 November 2024 by:
- · Shri Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East),
- Ministry of External Affairs and
- Shri Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General (BIMSTEC)
- BIMSTEC is a regional organisation comprising 7 member states - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- It was formed in 1997
- Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh



- India now ranks 6th globally with 64,480 patent applications, with over half (55.2%) of these applications coming from domestic applicants
- In 2023, India recorded a remarkable 15.7% growth in patent applications, the fastest among the top 20 countries.
- India's industrial design sector also witnessed significant growth, with applications rising by 36.4%.
- The WIPO report also highlighted India's strong performance in trademark filings, with a 6.1% increase in 2023. India ranked 4th globally for trademarks, with nearly 90% of these filings originating from domestic businesses.



## **SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**

- 1. 10th World FZO Congress
- 2. World's Largest Low-Carbon Hydrogen Facility
- 3. First Arab Nuclear Power Plant
- 4. Quad Leaders' Summit in Delaware, US
- International conference on Law and Technology in Kerala
- 6. Sweden becomes 32<sup>nd</sup> member of NATO
- 7. 24<sup>th</sup> SCO Summit
- 8. The Order Of St Andrew The Apostle
- 9. First International Rainbow Tourism Conference
- 10. UNESCO's World Heritage Committee
- 11. World Economic Forum
- 12. 19th NAM Summit
- 13. World Governments Summit 2024
- 14. World Hydrogen Summit 2024
- 15. India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)
- 16. 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan

### 10th World FZO Congress Begins in Dubai

10TH WORLD FZO WORLD CONGRESS DUBAI, UAE — 2024



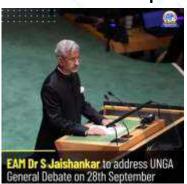
- The 10th annual World Free Zones Organisation (World FZO) Congress commenced in Dubai.
- from September 23rd to 25th
- theme 'Zones and the Shifting Global Economic Structures – Unlocking New Investment Avenues'
- aims to explore the latest trends, emerging technologies, and innovations shaping the free zones sector.
- Free zones are areas that are exempt from customs regulations and have special economic designations.
- They are also known as free trade zones, special economic zones, and other names.
- Free zones are intended to promote economic activity by encouraging trade and reducing or eliminating taxes on companies.

# World's Largest Low-Carbon Hydrogen Facility to Be Built in Texas through ADNOC-ExxonMobil Partnership

- Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and ExxonMobil (an American multinational oil and gas corporation) to develop the world's largest lowcarbon hydrogen facility.
- The facility will convert U.S.-produced natural gas into virtually carbon-free hydrogen (remove approximately 98% of the associated CO2 emissions).
- The facility is expected to produce up to 1 billion cubic feet of low-carbon hydrogen daily, making it the largest of its kind globally.

- The Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in Al Dhafra, Abu Dhabi, is the first nuclear facility in the Arab world, with four reactors providing 25% of the UAE's electricity.
- UAE aiming for net zero emissions and 50% clean energy by 2050.
- Operational since 2020, Barakah supports industries and reduces reliance on fossil fuels.

# EAM Dr S Jaishankar to address UNGA General Debate on 28th September



 The UNGA 79, held from 10th to 30th September 2024 focuses on accelerating progress toward achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## UAE Completes First Arab Nuclear Power Plant.

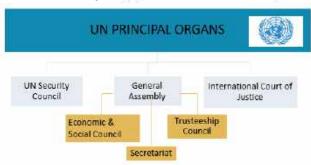
ld's First Nuclea



- The 79th session is being chaired by Cameroonian President Philemon Yong.
- Dr S Jaishankar will represent India in the General
   Debate and will deliver a speech on the 28th of September.
- The theme for the general debate is Leaving No One Behind: Acting Together for the Advancement of Peace, Sustainable Development and human dignity for Present and future generations.

### **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?**

- It was established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations
- Headquartered New York City
- It is one of the six principal organs of the UN
- UNGA serves as the main policy-making organ of the Organization.
- Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote.
- General Assembly President is elected each year to serve a one-year term of office.
- UN Secretary : General António Guterres



The UNGA also makes key decisions for the UN, including:

- appointing the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council
- Admitting States to UN membership upon the recommendation of the Security Council.
- electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council
- approving the UN budget

# PM Modi addressed the 'Summit of the Future' at the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York



- Theme of the 2 day Summit -'Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow'.
- PM Modi flagged "cyber, maritime and space" emerging as "new theatres of conflict", apart from terrorism.
- He pitched for "global digital governance" to ensure that national sovereignty and integrity are upheld.
- World leaders at the 193 member UNGA adopted the <u>Pact for the Future</u> by consensus, a landmark declaration pledging concrete actions towards a safer, more peaceful, sustainable and inclusive world for tomorrow's generations.
- The Pact's five broad focus areas include: sustainable development; international peace and security; science and technology; youth and future generations and transforming global governance.
- It had 2 annexures:
- The Global Digital Compact the first truly worldwide agreement on the international regulation of digital technology and artificial intelligence.
- The Declaration on Future Generations focuses on securing the well-being of future generations, also highlighting the need to include their interests in decision-making processes.

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends Quad Leaders' Summit in Delaware, US





- PM Modi participated in the sixth Quad Leaders'
   Summit in Wilmington, Delaware on 21
   September 2024, hosted by the President of USA
- The Leaders made the following announcements to address the development priorities of the Indo-Pacific region and of the global community as a whole:

- Quad Cancer Moonshot", a groundbreaking partnership to save lives in the Indo-Pacific region by combating cervical cancer.
- "Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific" (MAITRI) to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behaviour
- First-ever "Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission" in 2025 to improve interoperability and advance maritime safety.
- The Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project - to support civilian response to natural disasters more rapidly and efficiently
- "Quad Ports of the Future Partnership" to support sustainable and resilient port infrastructure development across the Indo-Pacific.
- "Quad Principles for Development and Deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure" in the region and beyond.
- A "Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network Memorandum of Cooperation" to enhance resilience of Quad's semiconductor supply chains.
- The Leaders also agreed to reform the UN Security Council and recognised the urgent need to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable
- India will host the next Quad Leaders' Summit in 2025.
- To take the Quad agenda forward, they adopted the **Quad Wilmington Declaration**.

#### Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, QUAD

- Aimed at promoting regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- QUAD, was proposed by the then-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.
- It was dormant for a decade and was resurrected in 2017, with a Joint Working Meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit.
- First Quad Leaders' Summit took place in virtual format on 12 March 2021

## PM Modi gifted an Antique Silver Hand-Engraved Train Model to US President



- PM Narendra Modi gifted silver hand-engraved train model to President Joe Biden and a pashmina shawl in papier mache box as the gift for the First Lady Jill
- This silver hand-engraved train model masterfully crafted by artisans from Maharashtra
- Pashmina shawls traditionally come packed in papier mâché boxes from J&K

# Chief Justice of India and Seychelles inaugurated International conference on Law and Technology in Kerala

- An international conference on "Law and Technology: Sustainable, Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations"
- organised by the Commonwealth Legal Education Association
- 3 day conference inaugurated jointly by Chief
  Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud and the Chief
  Justice of Seychelles Justice Roney Govinden at
  Kumarakom in Kottayam district, Kerala.
- The conference aims to foster international cooperation, share best practices and develop innovative legal solutions to complex challenges pertaining to sustainable transport and tourism.

## President Droupadi Murmu addresses the New Zealand International Education conference in Wellington



- President Murmu, who is on a two-day state visit to New Zealand, reached the capital Wellington.
- She was accorded the Royal Guard of Honour at the Government House in Wellington in the presence of Governor-General of New Zealand Dame Cindy Kiro.

# Hungary Takes Over Rotating Presidency Of EU Council For 6 Months



- Hungary has taken over the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union (EU) Council from Belgium on July 1, 2024 in Brussels, Belgium
- Motto of Hungary's EU Presidency is Make Europe Great Again.
- 7 priorities set up by Hungary include enhancing the EU competitiveness, reinforcing European defence policy, EU enlargement, stemming illegal migration, shaping the future of a cohesion policy, formulating a farmer-oriented EU agricultural policy and addressing European demographic challenges.

Hungary Capital: Budapest

Currency: Forint

President: Tamás SulyokPrime Minister: Viktor Orbán

#### **EU Council**

- Treaty of Maastricht: Under this treaty the European Council acquired a formal status
- Members: heads of government of the 27 EU member states, the European Council President and the President of the European Commission.
- · Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

## Sweden officially becomes 32<sup>nd</sup> member of NATO



- Sweden applied for NATO membership in 2022 to strengthen their security in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Finland became the 31<sup>st</sup> member of NATO on April 4, 2023

## **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**



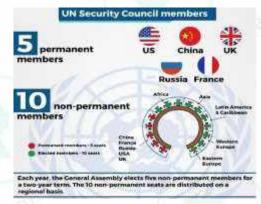
- NATO is a security alliance of countries from North America and Europe.
- Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty

- Headquarter Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg

# Pak, Denmark, Greece, Panama & Somalia get seat on UN Security Council



- The United Nations General Assembly has elected Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece as the new non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.
- for a two-year term starting 1 January 2025 and end on 31st December 2027.
- will replace Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Ecuador and Switzerland. These countries' terms will end on 31st December 2024.
- The newly elected members will join Algeria,
   Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and
   Slovenia as the other non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.
- India has been elected eight times as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992, 2011-2012, and 2021-2022.
- The U.N. Charter provides for 15 members on the UNSC:
- 5 permanent members known as P5, including United Kingdom, China, France, Russia and the US.
- They have veto power over decisions of UNSC.
- 10 non-permanent members



The **10** non-permanent seats are distributed among the regions of the world:

 3 seats for African and 2 for Asian countries, 1 for Eastern European countries, 2 for Latin American and Caribbean countries, and the remaining 2 for Western European and other countries.

## 24th SCO Summit: Key Highlights



- The 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) took place on July 4, 2024, in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Host: Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

### **Key Developments**

- Belarus Joins SCO
- Belarus was admitted as the 10th full member of the SCO
- Previously, Belarus held observer status in the organization
- · Focus on Combating Terrorism
- SCO Expansion

#### 25th SCO Summit

- The next SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting will be held in China
- The Chinese city of Qingdao has been named the SCO's tourism and cultural capital for 2024-2025
- The SCO was originally established in 2001 with five members
- SCO Headquarters: Beijing, China
- India and Pakistan joined in 2017
- Iran became the 9th member in 2023
- Permanent Members: 10 countries (including the latest addition, Belarus)
- Observer Members: Afghanistan and Mongolia

## PM Modi Jointly Chaired 22<sup>nd</sup> India-Russia Annual Summit With Russian President Vladimir Putin



 Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Moscow on July 8-9 for a two-day official visit, marking his first trip to Russia in nine years, since 2015.

- Mr. Putin accepted a direct request from PM Modi to discharge Indians "misled" into military recruitment serving at the warfront with Ukraine.
- PM Modi paid tribute at the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin Wall, in Moscow dedicated to the Soviet soldiers who lost their lives during World War II.
- This was followed by Mr. Modi's address to the Indian diaspora in Moscow where he hailed Russia as India's 'all-weather friend'/sukh-dukh ka saathi"
- The Russian President, the Prime Minister appreciated the India-Russia cooperation that helped avert food, fuel, fertilizer shortages for Indians in the past few years.
- PM Modi has announced that India will set up two new consulates in the Russia cities of Kazan and Yekaterinberg.
- India's Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar
- Visit to Rosatom pavilion in Moscow inaugurated in November 2023. It is one of the largest exhibitions on the history of scientific and technological developments.
- Leaders agreed to set the bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.
- Building a new architecture of stable and efficient transport corridors - Chennai-Vladivostok (Eastern Maritime) Corridor and the International North-South Transport Corridor

## PM Modi Receives Russia's Highest Civilian Honour, The Order Of St Andrew The Apostle



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with Russia's most prestigious civilian honour, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle.
- President of Russia
   Vladimir Putin presented it to Mr Modi.
- The award for the PM was announced in 2019.
- PM Modi is the first Indian leader to be conferred with this prestigious award.



- The award was established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great in honor of Saint Andrew, the first apostle and patron saint of Russia.
- The order was abolished in 1918 following the Russian Revolution, which overthrew the Tsarist regime.
- It was re-established in 1998

# EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar To Lead Indian Delegation At SCO Summit In Astana



- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit
- The SCO summit will take place from July 3-4 in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan.
- Kazakhstan took over the SCO presidency from India, which was the president last year.
- India hosted the SCO summit virtually in July 2023
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) established in 2001.
- 9 current members of the SCO China, Russia,
   India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,
   Uzbekistan and Iran
- Iran became a full member in 2023, under the Indian Presidency of the grouping.
- Belarus is an observer state and is next in line to gain full membership.

# India Assumes Chair Of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre for 2024-25



 India assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for 2024-25 from China

- at the meeting of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center held in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 25, 2024.
- Rajendra Singh, Head of the Department of National Disaster Management Authority, representing the government of India, assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

### **About Asian Disaster Preparedness Center**

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was set up in 1986 as a non-profit, autonomous, regional organisation.
- Founding members: China, India, Nepal,
   Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri
   Lanka and Thailand.
- · Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand

## NSA Ajit Doval Represents India At 4th Annual BIMSTEC Security Chiefs Meeting In Naypyitaw



- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)
- Prime Minister of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

#### **BIMSTEC Security Chiefs Meeting**

- At the 2016 Goa retreat of the BIMSTEC Leaders, a decision was taken to organise an annual meeting of the member countries' security chiefs
- Since then, four meetings have taken place.

| S. No. | Venue of Meeting     | Year of Meeting |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1      | New Delhi, India     | March 2017      |
| 2      | Dhaka, Bangladesh    | March 2018      |
| 3      | Bangkok, Thailand    | March 2019      |
| 4      | Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar | July 2024       |

- BIMSTEC was established in 1997 as a regional group to promote cooperation among the littoral states of the Bay of Bengal regions.
- It currently has seven members India,
   Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Thailand and Myanmar.
- BIMSTEC headquarters is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

# Indian Tripartite Delegation at the 112<sup>th</sup> Session of International Labour Conference (ILC)



- The International Labour Organization is holding its 112th annual International Labour Conference in Geneva from 3–14 June 2024.
- Worker, employer and government delegates from the ILO's 187 Member States will tackle a wide range of issue
- The Indian tripartite delegation led by Secretary (Labour & Employment), Ms. Sumita Dawra, participated.

# World Headed For 2.7° C Warming, Finance Deal Key: UN Climate Head



- The United Nations Climate Head Simon Stiell has warned the world at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in Germany
- The world headed for 2.7 degrees Celsius warming, and the road to keeping it to 1.5 degrees Celsius is extremely steep.
- The Bonn meeting from June 3 to 13 is known as halfway to the annual climate summit, also known as the 29th Conference of Parties, or COP29.
- It is expected to set the agenda for climate negotiations this year and will open discussions on a new finance goal to replace the existing goal of 100 billion dollars per year.

### What are COPs?

COP is the annual United Nations (UN) climate meeting

- In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, 154 countries signed a multilateral treaty called the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The COPs are the main decision-making body of the UNFCCC
- During these sessions, participating countries
   (Parties) evaluate global endeavors aligned with
   the primary goal of the Paris Agreement, aiming to
   restrict global warming to approximately 1.5 °C
   above pre-industrial levels.

### **Recent & Upcoming COP**



- COP28, was the 28th United Nations Climate
   Change conference, held from 30 November to 13
   December at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab
   Emirates
- COP29 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Mukhtar Babayev will preside COP29

## India Participates In Inaugural IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum In Singapore



- Led by Secretary, Department of Commerce, Mr.
   Sunil Barthwal, the Indian delegation participated in the inaugural Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum, in Singapore.
- Aiming to organize investments in sustainable infrastructure, climate technology, and renewable energy projects.
- India's vast investment opportunities exceeding US\$ 500 billion by 2030, particularly in clean energy such as renewables, green hydrogen, and EV infrastructure.

## 16<sup>th</sup> World Future Energy Summit held in Abu Dhabi



- Took place from April 16 to 18 at the Abu Dhabi
   National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), UAE
- Masdar, a key player in UAE's clean energy sector organized the World Future Energy Summit (WFES)
- WFES is the world's leading business event for discussion on global climate action, renewable energy, energy and water security, and sustainable development.

# **IPEF to organize Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore in June**



- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is scheduled to host its first clean economy investor forum in Singapore on June 5-6.
- Launched in May 2022, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) comprises 14 partners: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.
- The IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum aims to bring together the region's top investors, philanthropies, financial institutions, innovative companies, start-ups and entrepreneurs.

## Nepal Hosts First International Rainbow Tourism Conference



- The single-day international conference was organised by Mayako Pahichan Nepal, a nongovernmental organisation.
- The conference's main objective is to position
   Nepal as an LGBT-friendly tourism destination.
- In June 2023, Nepal allowed same sex marriages to be registered legally

## Russia Assumes BRICS 2024 Chairmanship



- Russia's 2024 BRICS Chairmanship began January 1, 2024.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin shared the motto
   "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable
   Global Development and Security".
- 16th BRICS Summit will be held in Kazan, Russia in October 2024.
- Brazil was originally scheduled to host the 2024
   BRICS summit, but swapped places with Russia in the rotating chairmanship.
- The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) **now includes 10 countries**
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members.

#### **About BRICS**

- · BRICS Headquarters -Shanghai, China
- 1<sup>st</sup> BRIC summit Russia in 2009
- 15<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit Johannesburg, South Africa 2003

# India to chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee for first time In July



- India is set to chair and host the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee from July 21–31, 2024 in New Delhi
- UniNations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage

Committee ted is a committee that selects and protects cultural and natural landmarks around the world.

- The committee was established in 1972
- It is made up of representatives from 21 member states and meets once a year
- India was elected to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for a four-year term from 2021–2025
- UNESCO Headquarters Paris
- Founded 16 November 1945

# Second International AYUSH Conference Inaugurated in Dubai



- The second International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition inaugurated in Dubai World Trade Centre, organized by the Science India Forum and the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Running from January 13 to 15, the three-day event is dedicated to showcasing AYUSH
   (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) as a reliable healthcare system for preventing and managing Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases (NCDs).
- Theme "Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases -Prevention & Management through AYUSH".

# 54<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF)

- From January 15–19, 2024 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
- Theme "Rebuilding Trust"
- Over 60 heads of state and governments, along with political and business leaders, to attend the event.
- The meeting will address complex challenges such as climate change, conflicts, economic crises, and the impact of Al-generated deep fake

#### **World Economic Forum**

- Founder & Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab
- <u>Headquarters</u>: Cologny, Switzerland
- Founded: 24 January 1971



First 'ASEAN Future Forum'



- The ASEAN Future Forum (AFF) is an important initiative proposed by Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh at the 43rd ASEAN Summit last September.
- AFF 2024 theme "Toward Fast and Sustainable Growth of a People-Centered ASEAN Community"
- The forum is aimed at creating a common platform for ASEAN member states as well as partner countries to contribute to promoting and shaping the bloc's development path.
- EAM S Jaishankar also Speaks At First 'ASEAN Future Forum' Virtually

# Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



- 1967 ASEAN was established (Bangkok Declaration)
- Founding Fathers of ASEAN are: Indonesia,
   Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day.
- ASEAN HQ Indonesia, Jakarta.

#### Who are the Member Nations?

- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Brunei
- Vietnam
- Laos
- Myanmar
- Cambodia

# 19<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit begins in Uganda's Kampala

- The 19<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit under Uganda's leadership is being held under the theme 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence'
- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation.

### Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)



- It was established in 1961 in Belgrade, former Yugoslavia
- under the leadership of the then Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser and the President of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito.
- It was formed when the world was divided into two power blocs, that of the USA and the Soviet Union, especially after the signing of the <u>NATO</u> and the Warsaw Pact.

### 13th Ministerial Conference of WTO



World Trade Organization (WTO) 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC13) will take place **from 26 to 29** 

## February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

- The WTO's Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body of the WTO and meets every two years.
- Comoros and Timor Leste joined the WTO
- India advocated for flexibility in existing WTO agreements to address developing countries' concerns
- WTO the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- Established in 1995
- Headquarter Geneva, Switzerland
- India became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on January 1, 1995.
- India has also been a member of the WTO's predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), since July 8, 1948.

#### **About Timor-Leste:**

- a country in Southeast Asia.
- Capital: Dili
- Currency: US Dollar



### **Union of the Comoros**

- A country in Africa
- Capital: Moroni
- Currency :Comorian Franc



# Dr. S Jaishankar to address inaugural session of the 7th Indian Ocean Conference



- 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference is being held in Perth, Australia on 9-10 February, 2024
- in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia, along with S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore and Perth-US Asia Centre in Australia.
- Theme of "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".
- The Conference will feature Ministers from over 22 countries and senior officials from 16 countries and 6 multilateral organizations.
- The Conference is a flagship consultative forum for countries in the Indian Ocean Region, organized annually by the Ministry of External Affairs since
   2016, in association with the India Foundation
- to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

#### **World Governments Summit 2024**



- India, Türkiye, and Qatar have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit.
- Set to take place in Dubai from February 12-14.
- Theme: 'Shaping Future Governments'

# Myanmar sent representative to ASEAN summit for first time in three years





- 44<sup>th</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Summit in Laos
- Theme is "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience"
- On the agenda: How to break the impasse in Myanmar, where fighting between the military and pro-democracy forces is intensifying.
- Myanmar sent a representative to the summit for the first time in three years. The country's military seized power in a coup in 2021.
- ASEAN leaders also discussed ways to implement the bloc's peace plan for Myanmar called the 5-Point Consensus. The plan stipulates an immediate end to the violence.

#### What is ASEAN?

- Ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- established on 8 August 1967, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ASEAN Summit: It meets annually to discuss regional issues and set policy directions.
- 21st ASEAN-India summit will occur this week in Vientiane (Laos).
- Started in 2002 in Cambodia, the ASEAN-India annual summit process has entered into the third decade of partnership.
- The formal engagement began with "Sectoral Dialogue Partner" in 1992 and subsequently as a "Dialogue Partner" in 1996. It was upgraded to the Summit level in 2002
- India and ASEAN have signed a Free Trade Area (FTA) that has boosted trade and investment
- ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) was set up in 2005 with the aim of fostering closer business linkages

## **World Energy Congress 2024**



- 26<sup>th</sup> World Energy Congress held in Rotterdam,
   Netherlands
- Theme- 'Redesigning Energy for People and Planet,'
- The World Energy Congress is the world's longestestablished energy event, having shaped the global energy agenda for a century.
- The Indian Renewable Energy Development
  Agency (IREDA) CMD Pradip Kumar Das stressed
  the need for innovative financing solutions to
  facilitate the transition to renewable energy in
  India.
- The CMD highlighted India's ambitious goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel energy capacity by 2030, and to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070

## 10th World Water Forum opens in Indonesia's Bali



- 2024 World Water Forum (10<sup>th</sup> WWF)—under the theme 'Water for Shared Prosperity' from 18-25 May, 2024
- Jointly organized by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the World Water Council.
- The Forum is the world's largest event on water organized, since 1997, every three years with a different host country.
- The 10th WWF's six subthemes are: Water
   Security and Prosperity; Water for Humans and
   Nature; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management;
   Governance, Cooperation and Hydro-diplomacy;
   Sustainable Water Finance; and Knowledge and
   Innovation.
- Indonesian President: Joko Widodo

## Maiden India Pavilion at World Hydrogen Summit 2024

wsec







- For the first time, India has set up its own pavilion, at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, during May 13 – 15, 2024.
- The India Pavilion, set up by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India
- India launched its National Green Hydrogen
   Mission in January 2023 with an overall outlay of
   Rs. 19,744 crores.
- India has set an ambitious target to achieve a green hydrogen production capacity of 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) by end of the year 2030.
- A dedicated portal for the National Green
   Hydrogen Mission has been launched recently, to serve as a one-stop location for information on the Mission.

### What is Green Hydrogen?

- Green hydrogen refers to hydrogen fuel that is produced through the process of electrolysis using electricity generated from renewable energy
- Water (H2O) is split into hydrogen (H2) and oxygen (O2) using an electric current (electrolysis).
- When the electricity used in this process comes from renewable sources like wind, solar, or hydroelectric power, the hydrogen produced is referred to as "green."
- Key aspect of green hydrogen hydrogen production process does not emit carbon dioxide (CO2) or other greenhouse gases.

## Inaugural Africa Clean Cooking Summit Held in Paris



- To provide clean cooking options for the more than
   1 billion people in Africa who currently rely on fuels such as charcoal and wood
- The Summit drew more than 1,000 delegates from nearly 60 countries to address the health and climate impacts of cooking using open fires and basic stoves.
- It has raised \$2.2 billion in pledges from governments and the private sector.
- Using fuels such as agricultural waste and animal dung in this way is the second-biggest cause of premature death in Africa, mostly of sub-Saharan women and children

## 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Al Summit in Seoul, South Korea



- Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom cohosted 2nd Al summit in Seoul on 21-22 May.
- Leaders from government, industry, and civil society to discuss global collaboration on AI safety, innovation, and inclusivity.
- It discussed concerns such as job security, copyright and inequality
- The first global AI summit was held in Britain in November 2023, and the next is due to take place in France, likely in 2025.
- South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo

# India to host the 81st International Air Transport Association (IATA), AGM in 2025



- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that IndiGo will host the 81st IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit in Delhi, India in June 2025
- India will host the world's most premier aviation event, the annual general meeting (AGM) of the

- **International Air Transport Association (IATA),** in 2025, after a gap of 42 years.
- Next year's AGM will be the third time that the world's airline leaders gather in India. The country has hosted the AGM in 1983 and 1958.
- About 330 airlines, comprising more than 80 per cent of global air traffic, are members of IATA.

# G7 summit: PM Modi leaves for Italy, 1st foreign trip this term

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to Italy to attend the 50th G7 outreach summit.
- It will be his first trip abroad after assuming charge as the Prime Minister for the third term.
- The Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had invited PM Modi for the G7 Outreach Summit.
- It will be India's 11th participation in the G7
   Summit and PM Modi's fifth consecutive participation at the G7 Summit.

#### G7 summit

- It is an intergovernmental organization that was formed in 1975.
- The G7 countries are the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- The G7 does not have a formal charter or a secretariat.
- The presidency, rotates among member countries each year
- Hiroshima, Japan was the host of the G7 Summit 2023.



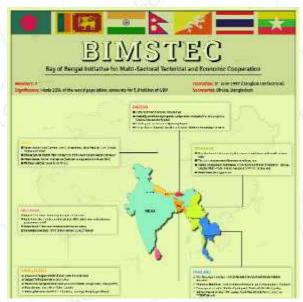
# Global Conference on Space Research in Busan, South Korea

- 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) commenced in Busan, South Korea.
- Hosted for the first time by South Korea, the biennial conference gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations.
- Korea Aero Space Administration (KASA)

# 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat To Take Place On July 11 In New Delhi



- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
   Foreign Ministers' Retreat will begin tomorrow in New Delhi.
- The first edition of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in July last year.
- BIMSTEC is a grouping of seven South and Southeast Asian countries for multifaceted cooperation.



- BIMSTEC established in the 1997 Bangkok
   Declaration with a secretariat in Dhaka.
- BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997.

# Om Birla Led Delegation to BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has lead an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS
   Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, on July 11-12, 2024.
- The theme 2024 is 'The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security.'



- BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- In 2006, Brazil, Russia, India and China created the "Bric" group.
- South Africa joined in 2010, making it "BRICS".
- BRICS Presidency 2024 Russian President
   Vladimir Putin
- The BRICS group now comprises
- 46 of the world's population (with China and India alone accounting for 86 per cent of BRICS)
- 36 per cent of global GDP (of which China alone accounts for 65 per cent of BRICS)
- 25 per cent of world trade, measured in terms of exports.

## **Colombo Security Conclave Welcomes Bangladesh as Fifth Member**

- Bangladesh was officially welcomed as the fifth member State of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)
- India, Mauritius, Maldives and Sri Lanka
   welcomed Bangladesh into the grouping at the 8th
   Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level
   meeting hosted virtually by Mauritius.
- Seychelles participated as an Observer State at the meeting.
- Member States agreed that the 7th National Security Advisers (NSA) level meeting of the CSC will be held in India later this year.

#### **Colombo Security Conclave**

- The CSC initially known as the Trilateral for Maritime Security Cooperation, started with India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, in 2011.
- 2020 Mauritius was added as a member of the grouping.
- A permanent secretariat, based in Colombo, was established in 2021

# Tech Leaders Forum Of India Launched At World Education Conference 2024 In Dubai

- The Tech Leaders Forum of India (TELFI) was officially launched at the World Education Conference 2024, hosted by the Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA) at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University in Dubai.
- TELFI, a new initiative aimed at empowering engineers, was unveiled as a key highlight of the conference.
- Its primary goal is to provide engineers with the resources, knowledge, and network needed to excel in their careers and drive technological advancements both in India and internationally.

# 3rd Edition of India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)



- will be held at the Stanford University in California
- during which top defence leaderships from the two countries would brainstorm on enhancing crossborder defence innovation ecosystems.
- to be hosted by U.S. India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) along with Stanford University's Gordian Knot Centre for National Security Innovation and the Hoover Institution on September 9 and September 10.
- themed around "harnessing investment opportunities to enhance cross-border defence innovation ecosystems"
- INDUS-X was launched in June 2023
- the first edition was held in Washington DC on June 21, 2023

## India Participates in BRICS Literature Forum 2024 in Russia

- The BRICS Literature Forum 2024 commenced in Kazan, Russia.
- Theme "World literature in the new reality.
- The BRICS Literature Forum started in 2016 to encourage literary exchange among Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The forum promotes the translation of works between these countries, allowing readers to appreciate the diversity of languages and cultures.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) held in Singapore



- on 26th August 2024 to set a new agenda for India–Singapore bilateral relations.
- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Piyush
   Goyal participated in the 2nd ISMR along with:
- Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs- Smt.
   Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister for External Affairs Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
- Minister for Railways Information and Broadcasting Electronics and Information Technology - Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw



- Its inaugural meeting was held in New Delhi in September 2022.
- Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of Singapore and Mr. Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore
- In the year 2023-24, Singapore was the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) for India
- In bilateral trade, Singapore was the 6th largest global trade partner of India in 2023-24, which accounts approximately 29% of India's total trade with ASEAN.

## EAM S. Jaishankar to attend 1<sup>st</sup> India-Gulf Cooperation Council Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Riyadh

- On Sept 8-9
- During his visit, EAM co-chaired the India—GCC
   Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue
   along with Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman



**bin Jassim Al Thani**, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, President of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

- The GCC is an influential grouping comprising the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.
- This meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers of all the GCC countries and Secretary General of the GCC Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi.
- The GCC region has emerged as a major trading partner for India and is home to a large Indian expatriate community, numbering around 8.9 million

# India participates in G7 culture ministers' meeting in Naples, Italy

- Indian delegation led by Arunish Chawla,
   Secretary Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- The Special Session of G7 Ministers meeting on Culture, held on 21st September 2024 in Naples, Italy.



#### **About G7**

- An intergovernmental political and economic forum
- The G7 originally began as the Group of Six
   (G6) in 1975, consisting of the United States,
   France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and West Germany.
- Expansion: Canada joined the group in 1976, leading to its transformation into the G7,

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Indo-Russian Commission meeting on Emergency Management held in Moscow, Russia

- The Cooperation in the Field of Emergency
   Management for 2025 -2026 was signed for Civil
   Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of
   Consequences of Natural Disasters
- The first meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held in New Delhi in 2016.

# Denmark, Pakistan, Somalia, Greece &Panama elected to UN Security Council

- to serve as non-permanent members on the Security Council for two-year terms beginning on 1 January next year.
- They will replace Ecuador, Japan, Malta,
   Mozambique and Switzerland, whose terms end on 31 December.
- The five permanent Council members are China,
   France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the
   United States.
- Under the UN Charter, the 15-member Security
  Council holds primary responsibility for
  maintaining international peace and security, and
  all Member States are obligated to comply with its
  decisions.



# Nicaragua becomes first Spanish-speaking nation to recognise Indian pharma standards



- India and Nicaragua signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia on cooperation in the field of the regulation of medicines.
- Pharmacopeia (A book describing chemicals, drugs, and other substances and how they are used as medicines)
- Countries either have their own Pharmacopoeia or recognise the Pharmacopoeia of another country for referring to the standards of drugs manufactured or consumed in that country.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) is an autonomous institution under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- IP is the official book of standards for drugs defining the specified limits and testing methods for crude drugs and finished formulations.
- The IP has been recognised as a book of standard by five nations - Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius and Suriname.

## PM Modi visit Russia from October 22-23 to attend 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan

The theme of this year's BRICS summit is
 "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security"

#### **About BRICS**

- 2006: leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries informally grouped on the sidelines of the G8 Outreach Summit in St.Petersburg, Russia
- 2009: The first BRIC (BRICS minus South Africa) summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

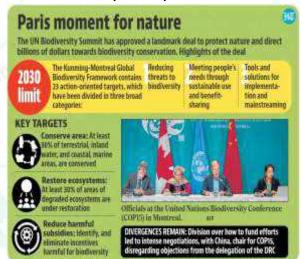


- 2024: addition of five new members Egypt,
   Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab
   Emirates and 15 summits have taken so far.
- The expanded BRICS has 45% of the world's population.
- The combined economies of the members are worth about 28% of the global economy.

# COP16 in Colombia, nearly 200 countries to participate

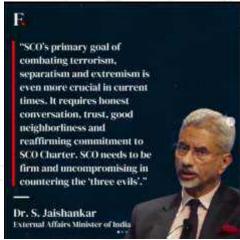


- The Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- held in Cali, Colombia from 21 October 1
   November 2024.
- Theme Peace With Nature
- This will be the first Biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at COP 15 in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada.
- Parties to the Convention are expected to show the alignment of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the Framework.



- During COP15 in Montreal in 2022, wealthy nations pledged at least \$20 billion annually starting in 2025 to assist developing countries in achieving their biodiversity objectives, with this target increasing to \$30 billion by 2030.
- GBF includes 4 goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030.

# India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, addressed 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad, Pakistan



- Dr. Jaishankar called for combating terrorism, separatism and extremism for a closer cooperation on trade and economy.
- Earlier, Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif opened the SCO Summit 2024, calling for expanding China's ambitious programme, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), massively promoted by China's President Xi Jinping.
- · India has not joined this project,
- The SCO is a 10-member nation for security and multilateral cooperation dialogues. China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus are its permanent members of the SCO, which also has 16 other countries affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners".
- founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.
- 2017: At Astana, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full members

# First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue Held in Singapore

 The Dialogue was cochaired by Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Amit A. Shukla.



 During the dialogue, both sides exchanged views on the cyber threat landscape, national cyber

- policies, threat assessment, and the recent developments in the ICT domain at the United Nations.
- The 21st ASEAN-India Summit held in Vientiane, Laos

# 149th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva



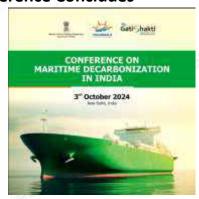
- From 13-17 October 2024.
- Theme Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will lead the parliamentary delegation from India
- The IPU has 180 member parliaments and 15
   associate members. Members include parliaments
   from large countries like China, India, and
   Indonesia, as well as smaller countries like Cabo
   Verde, San Marino, and Palau.

# Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024



- The Government of the Philippines partners with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- To host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) from 14 to 18
   October 2024 in Manila.
- Theme "Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction".
- The APMCDRR is the main platform in Asia and the Pacific to monitor, review and enhance cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the regional level.

## India's Maritime Decarbonization Conference Concludes



- The Conference on Maritime Decarbonization in India, co-hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), concluded in New Delhi.
- The event brought together over 200 delegates, including leaders from key Indian ports, central and state government officials, industry stakeholders, international experts, and academia to discuss the future of green shipping and port operations.
- The conference underscored India's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and highlighted strategic initiatives to decarbonize its maritime sector, aligned with the Maritime India Vision 2030.

## 16<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit and first BRICS Outreach Dialogue in Kazan, Russia



- Russia hosted the 16th BRICS summit meeting at Kazan from 22 to 24 October 2024.
- The theme of the 16th BRICS summit meeting was Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security,"
- Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted the meeting, which was attended by the bloc's leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Brazil will host the next 17th BRICS summit meeting in 2025.
- The BRICS Outreach/BRICS Plus dialogue was held on 24 October 2024 at Kazan, Russia.
- The theme of the BRICS Outreach/BRIC Plus dialogue was "BRICS and Global South: Building a Better World Together.

#### Kazan Declaration

 At the end of the BRICS Summit meeting a joint declaration was issued called the Kazan Declaration.

#### The main points of the joint declaration are:

- The BRICS countries will be encouraged to use local currencies to settle financial transactions between the member countries.
- BRICS Clear Discussion to be held to set up an independent cross-border settlement and depositary infrastructure - to reduce reliance on Western-dominated financial infrastructure
- BRICS Grain They welcomed the Russian initiative to establish BRICS Grain Exchange. It is a grain trading platform which will be expanded to include other agricultural commodities.

#### **INDIA & CHINA**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese
   President Xi Jinping met at Kazan during the BRICS summit meeting.
- It was after five years that the Indian prime minister was holding a bilateral meeting with the Chinese president.
- The last time the two leaders met was at the BRICS
   Summit in Brasilia in November 2019.
- It was also the first meeting between the two leaders after the clash between the two armies at Galwan in 2020.

| President                    |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva    |  |
| Vladimir Putin               |  |
| Xi Jinping                   |  |
| Cyril Ramaphosa              |  |
| Masoud Pezeshkian            |  |
| Taye Atske Selassie          |  |
| Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan |  |
| -1053                        |  |
| Abdel Fattah El-Sisi         |  |
|                              |  |

#### PM Modi gifts during BRICS summit 2024

- Russian President Vladimir Putin was presented with a Sohrai painting from Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district.
- Modi gifted a Mother of Pearl (MOP) sea-shell vase to Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.
- To Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev,
   Modi presented a traditional Warli painting (GI
   Tag in 2014), a revered art form from
   Maharashtra's Warli tribe.

| Year | <b>Host Nation</b>                    | Chairmanship                 |
|------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2009 | Yekaterinburg,<br>Russia              | Dmitry Medvedev              |
| 2010 | Brasília, Brazil                      | Luiz Inácio Lula da<br>Silva |
| 2011 | Sanya, China                          | Hu Jintao                    |
| 2012 | New Delhi, India                      | Manmohan Singh               |
| 2013 | Durban, South<br>Africa               | Jacob Zuma                   |
| 2014 | Fortaleza, Brazil                     | Dilma Rousseff               |
| 2015 | Ufa, Russia                           | Vladimir Putin               |
| 2016 | Benaulim, India                       | Narendra Modi                |
| 2017 | Xiamen, China                         | Xi Jinping                   |
| 2018 | Johannesburg,<br>South Africa         | Cyril Ramaphosa              |
| 2019 | Brasília, Brazil                      | Jair Bolsonaro               |
| 2020 | Saint Petersburg,<br>Russia (virtual) | Vladimir Putin               |
| 2021 | New Delhi, India                      | Narendra Modi                |
| 2022 | Beijing, China<br>(virtual)           | Xi Jinping                   |
| 2023 | Johannesburg,<br>South Africa         | Cyril Ramaphosa              |
| 2024 | Kazan, Russia                         | Vladimir Putin               |

#### **About BRICS and BRICS Plus**

- The acronym BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill in 2001. Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC)
- The leaders of BRIC countries met for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006.
- In September 2006, the group was formalised as BRIC during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers'
   Meeting, which met on the sidelines of the General Debate of the UN Assembly in New York City.
- After a series of high level meetings, the 1st BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia on 16 June 2009.
- South Africa joined the group in 2011 changed to BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- The 15th BRICS summit held in Johannesburg ,South Africa from 22-24 August 2024,
- BRIC plus refers to the newly added five members
   Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt
   and Ethiopia joined the group on 1 January 2024.

### Brazil hosts 19th G20 summit



- In Brazil, the G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2024, in Rio de Janeiro, with the presence of the leaders of the 19 member countries, plus the African Union and the European Union.
- 1st plenary session of the 19th G20 Summit, on the "Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty".
- Troika members- PM Ramaphosa of South Africa, Lua De Silva of Brazil and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- The G20 is made up of 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brasil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Russia, Türkiye, UK and USA) and two regional bodies: the African Union and the European Union.
- The G20 has annually rotating presidencies. Brazil will hold the G20 presidency from December 1,
   2023, to November 30, 2024.
- Theme 2024 is 'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet
- The members of the G20 represent around 85% of the world's GDP, more than 75% of world trade and around two-thirds of the world's population.



South Africa will host the 20th G20 summit from November 27–28, 2025.



- The 18th G20 Summit was held in New Delhi, India on September 9th and 10th, 2023. The summit was the first time India hosted the G20 Leaders' Summit.
- The theme of the summit was "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means "The world is one family".

## **G20 India 2023**

- India assumed the 18th 820 Presidency from December 1, 2022 for a one-year period.
- Theme
- "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" a Sanskrit word which Stands for "Dee Earth One Family, One Puture"
- This is taken from the ancient Sansket bed of the 'Maha Upanishad



### **Historical Background of G20 Summit**

- Financial Crisis in 1997-98 of the Asian
   Tigers (Countries of East and Southeast Asia),
   caused its establishment in 1999.
- It worked first as a forum for the Central Bank Governors and Finance Ministers of the major industrialised and developing economies to discuss global economic and financial stability.
- Elevation to Leader's Level: After the 2008 global financial crisis, it was upgraded to the level of Heads of State or Government
- In 2009, it was declared as the "premier forum for international economic cooperation".
- Troika: The G20 does not have a charter or a secretariat.
- The Presidency is supported by the Troika, which includes the previous, current, and incoming presidencies.
- For the first time in the history of the G20, the forum has been chaired by the Global South for such a long time.
- Since 2022, with Indonesia, the following presidencies have been held by India (2023), Brasil (2024) and in 2025 South Africa.

| Year | City                    | Country       |
|------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 2022 | Bali Summit             | Indonesia     |
| 2021 | Rome Summit             | Italy         |
| 2020 | Riyadh Summit           | Saudi Arabia  |
| 2019 | Osaka Summit Japan      |               |
| 2018 | Buenos Aires Summit     | Argentina     |
| 2017 | Hamburg Summit          | Germany       |
| 2016 | Hangzhou Summit         | China         |
| 2015 | Antalya Summit          | Turkey        |
| 2014 | Brisbane Summit         | Australia     |
| 2013 | Saint Petersburg Summit | Russia        |
| 2012 | Los Cabos Summit        | Mexico        |
| 2011 | Cannes Summit           | France        |
| 2010 | Seoul Summit            | South Korea   |
| 2010 | Toronto Summit          | Canada.       |
| 2009 | Pittsburgh Summit       | United States |
| 2009 | London Summit           | London Summit |
| 2008 | Washington Summit       | United States |

# PM gifted the President of Nigeria a Silofar Panchamrit Kalash (Pot)

Prime Minister Narendra
 Modi gifted Nigerian President
 Bola Ahmed Tinubu a 'Silofar
 Panchamrit Kalash', made from
 high-quality silver - from
 Kolhapur in Maharashtra.



- It features elegant engravings typical of Kolhapur's renowned metal work, with motifs that often include floral patterns, deities and traditional designs.
- 'Panchamrit' a sacred mixture of milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar

# **G20** leaders adopt Rio de Janeiro Declaration



G20 leaders have adopted the Rio de Janeiro Declaration at its 19th Summit in the Brazilian city.

## Key Highlights of the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit

#### **Global Conflicts: Gaza and Ukraine**

- 1. Leaders expressed deep concern over humanitarian crises in Gaza and Ukraine.
- Emphasis was placed on "human suffering" and economic fallout from the Ukraine war.

3. Urgent calls were made for aid, civilian protection, and ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.

#### **Climate Change**

- 1. Leaders committed to reaching a financial goal for climate support by COP29 in Azerbaijan.
- The need for rich nations to fund climate initiatives in developing countries was stressed.
- 3. Climate policy debates extended into marathon negotiations, highlighting its critical importance.

#### **Combating Poverty and Hunger**

- Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva launched a global alliance to fight poverty and hunger with support from over 80 countries and multilateral organizations.
- Lula emphasized hunger as a result of political decisions, not scarcity, urging collective global action.

#### Brazil's Leadership and Agenda

- Brazil expanded the G20 focus to include sustainable development, poverty eradication, and equitable taxation.
- South Africa, the 2025 G20 host, embraced Brazil's agenda, ensuring continuity in focus on these critical issues.
- The declaration called for an enlarged Security Council composition that improves the representation of the underrepresented and unrepresented regions and groups.

UK PM Keir Starmer announces relaunch of FTA talks with India following bilateral meeting with PM Modi



- The UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a key trade deal that could significantly reshape bilateral economic relations, is set to relaunch in early 2025.
- The deal holds the promise of not only boosting trade but also fostering closer ties in areas such as security, technology, education, and climate change.
- The FTA negotiations, which initially began in January 2022, were temporarily stalled due to elections in both countries.

# COP29: World Leaders Commit to \$1.3 Trillion Baku Finance Goal for Climate Action by 2035



| Highlights of COP 29 |                                       |  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Event                | Details                               |  |
| <b>Host Country</b>  | Baku, Azerbaijan                      |  |
| COP29                | Mukhtar Babayev                       |  |
| President            | 1055                                  |  |
| Dates                | November 11–22, 2024                  |  |
| Theme                | Investing in a livable planet for all |  |
| Key Issues           | Climate finance, mitigation goals,    |  |
|                      | adaptation strategies, and            |  |
|                      | stocktaking                           |  |
| Global               | Assessing collective progress         |  |
| Stocktake            | under the Paris Agreement             |  |

- The UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)
   closed with a new finance goal to help countries
   to protect their people and economies against
   climate disasters
- With a central focus on climate finance, COP29 brought together nearly 200 countries, and reached a breakthrough agreement - Known formally as the New Collective Quantified on Climate Finance (NCQG) - that will:
  - Triple public finance to developing countries, from the previous goal of USD 100 billion annually (COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009), to USD 300 billion annually by 2035.
- Secure efforts of all actors to work together to scale up finance to developing countries, from public and private sources, to the amount of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035.

#### **Outcomes at COP29 include**

- A new climate finance goal to triple public finance to developing countries from \$100 billion annually to \$300 billion annually by 2035
- copen hydrogen Declaration to catalyse a global clean hydrogen market. It builds on last year's copen commitments to accelerate low-carbon hydrogen production in a wider transition from the usage of fossil fuels.
- COP29 also reached agreement on carbon markets
   which several previous COPs had not been able

to achieve (Parties that have successfully met their own emissions reduction targets can sell their extra reduction credits to finance enhanced climate action.)

### India opposes COP29 finance deal after it is adopted

- India strongly objected to a climate finance deal agreed at the United Nations COP29 summit, but their objection was raised after the deal was formally adopted by consensus.
- Indian delegation representative Chandni Raina
- The \$300 billion figure, however, is a far cry from the \$1.3 trillion the Global South has been demanding in the three years of talks.
- There are references to Article 9 of the Paris
   Agreement explicitly, which makes clear that
   leadership in finance should be taken by
   developed countries.
- The \$1.3 trillion figure is in the document, but it calls on "all actors", to "work together" to reach this level by 2035. It does not place the responsibility solely on developed countries.

# COP29: Climate Club launches 'Global Matchmaking Platform' for industrial decarbonisation

- At COP29, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Climate Club launched the Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP).
- The initiative focused on accelerating decarbonisation in heavy-emitting industries
- The matchmaking process aims to address the unique needs of different countries and providing the right support.

# Peru hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> APEC Summit Economic Leaders Meeting



 The 31st Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
 Economic Leaders Meeting, in which the leaders of the 21 member countries participated, was held in Lima, Peru on 15&16 November 2024.

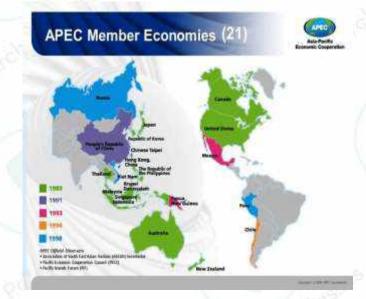
- Along with the Economic Leaders Meeting, the 35th APEC Ministerial meeting was held in Lima on 15 & 16 November 2024.
- The meeting was hosted by the Peruvian President,
   Dina Boluarte.
- The **theme of the 2024 APEC** Economic Leaders meeting was "**Empower. Include. Grow.**"
- The leaders issued a declaration after their meeting titled "Machu Picchu Declaration."
- The declaration called for increased trade and investment, supply chain connectivity, anticorruption, sustainable and inclusive growth.

### About the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke proposed the concept of a group of Asia Pacific countries focussed on promoting economic relations amongst the countries lying along the Asia Pacific region in 1989.
- The first annual summit meeting of the APEC leaders, called the 'Economic Leaders' meeting, was held at Blake Island, United States, in 1993.

### **Members of APEC**

- At present, 21 countries—Peru, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Indonesia, Philippines, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei(Taiwan), and the United States of America are its members.
- India is not a member of APEC.
- Headquarters: Singapore



# 75th International Astronautical Congress held in Milan, Italy

- Themed: "Responsible Space for Sustainability,"
- focuses on promoting the sustainable development of space technologies globally, ensuring that future space exploration and utilization strike a balance between scientific advancement and environmental protection.

# Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to attend ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in Laos



- ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Vientiane, Laos from the 20th to the 22nd of November
- The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN.
- ADMM-Plus is a platform for 10 ASEAN member states and its 8 Dialogue Partners to strengthen security and defence cooperation.

#### What is ASEAN?

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
   (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that aims to promote economic and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Establishment: 8 August 1967 in Bangkok,
   Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN
   Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding
   fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia,
   Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Aim: The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- Secretariat: ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

 The 8 Dialogue Partners are India, US, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

## **Dubai hosts 3rd Global Freight Summit**



- The Global Freight Summit inception in 2022.
- The three-day event, hosted by DP World
- Theme "Acting today to reach the opportunities of tomorrow."
- The agenda emphasizes four critical pillars: the integration of AI and blockchain in business operations, strategies for navigating volatile global markets, sustainable shipping practices, and building resilient trade routes amidst geopolitical challenges and natural disasters.

# India-EU Energy Panel Holds 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Brussels



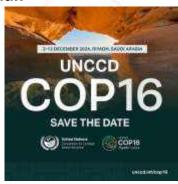
- India and the European Union (EU) have **finalised an extensive roadmap for the green hydrogen sector** that includes development of infrastructure,
  technology cooperation and boosting supply
  chains.
- A "work plan" was adopted for the third phase of the India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership 2025-28, which will focus on deeper cooperation in five priority areas - green hydrogen, offshore wind energy, regional connectivity, electricity market integration and smart grids, energy efficiency, and energy and climate diplomacy.

A Conference on potential of blue economy in the Indian Ocean region,

Voyage Sri Lanka 2024, was held at Colombo.



## India to join 197 nations at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh



- The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 13 December 2024 under the theme Our Land. Our Future.
- Marking the first time West Asia hosts this crucial environmental conference.
- India's delegation, jointly led by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini
- The delegation will present the Aravalli Green Wall Project (AGWP), a comprehensive initiative targeting the restoration of 1.15 million hectares of degraded landscape across four states -Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi
- Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of UNCCD, COP16 will be the largest UN land conference to date

## What is the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)?

- Established in 1994, it is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- It addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- The United Nations Convention to Combat
   Desertification (UNCCD) works with the other two
   Rio Conventions to address the interlinked challenges of land, climate and biodiversity:
  - > The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

 These 3 conventions are based on the outcomes of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit

## World Maritime Technology Conference 2024 in Chennai



- World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC) is held once in 3 years under the auspices of World Maritime Technology Congress.
- will be held in Chennai from December 4 to 6.
- WMTC consists of 21-member organisations from 17 countries connecting professionals the field of maritime technology and allied sectors.
- India hosting after a gap of 15 years. Last edition hosted in Mumbai.
- The previous conference, which was delayed due to the Covid pandemic, was held in Copenhagen in April 2022.

## India to Chair UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the first time



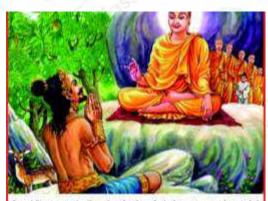
has

- been chosen to Chair the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).
- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, Ambassador Shambhu S Kumaran, officially assumed the Chairmanship of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
- This is the first time that India has been named to Chair this important UN body.
- The CND is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations on drug-related matters.

## FILMS AND CULTURAL CURRENTS

- 1. National Poson Festival Sri Lanka
- 2. Sita Amma' temple
- 3. Kataragama Esala Festival
- 4. 35<sup>th</sup> Palm Springs International Film Festival
- 5. 27<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival in Estonia
- 6. first Indian film to compete at Cannes Film Festival in 30 years
- The national Poson Week has commenced in Sri Lanka and will
- · continue until the 24th of June.
- Devotees are expected to visit the holy city of Anuradhapura
- and Mihintale for the Poson Festivities
- Poson festival marks the arrival of Buddhism to Sri Lanka when Arahat Mahinda, the son of Emperor Asoka preached the first sermon to a Sri Lankan king in 3rd century BC
- The festival is held on the full moon in June.

### National Poson Festival – Sri Lanka



Freen hell mean page day (Pasen Page Day-Pasen Fastivel) convenements the artified at Southfreen is 50 institu in the Just enterty BC. It is a featived of green historical and religious significance collectored intest wide by Barkhirt. Force, held on the full mean day of Jenn convenementates the associan ever I, SOO years up a whose Arabet Makinda, one of frequent Associa of India, sowcerted King Deconversal/rethins to Barkhirton. The moin venture of collector to in Michigants, the analysis ensemble samples, where the report inclinatory mank Makinda procedured the first services converge, Mass religious absences the constant capital, to which large creat of adjaries converge, Mass religious absences, (Venticalities paggeosts one part of the collaboration).

## Hinglaj Yatra In Pakistan: Hindu Pilgrims Climbed Mud Volcanoes As Part Of A Three-Day Pilgrimage



- Located in Balochistan's Hingol National Park,
   Hinglaj Yatra is a three-day pilgrimage and Pakistan's largest Hindu festival.
- Hinglaj Mata Temple is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas in the Shaktism denomination of Hinduism
- More than 1,00,000 Hindus are expected to participate.
- Muslim-majority Pakistan is home to 4.4 million
   Hindus, just 2.14% of the population

# Sacred water from Saryu river to be sent to Sri Lanka for 'Sita Amma' temple consecration

 The Ram Temple Trust and the Ayodhya district administration have pledged to provide the holy water on request from those behind the construction of the Sita Amma temple.

## Kataragama Esala Festival in Sri Lanka



- Katharagama's main temple of the Maha Devala is dedicated to the Hindu God of War, Skanda.
- Said to have six heads, twelve arms, twenty names and-two wives, Skanda is also ardently worshipped by Buddhists as the Katharagama Deviyo, while Muslims believe that the place has connection with Hazrat Khizr.

# Nepal observes Phulpati ceremony, marking 7th day of Dashain festival



- Marking the seventh day of the ongoing 10-day-long Dashain festival in Nepal, the Phulpati ceremony is observed.
- Dashain is the biggest festival in Nepal
- on the occasion of phulpati, people offer sacrifices in temples and bring assorted holy leaves and flowers inside their homes.

### **SHORT NEWS**



 Nepalis observe Kojagrat Poornima, concluding 15day Bada Dashain festival

# Raj Kapoor's iconic film 'Awara' to premiere in 4K at Toronto Film Festival 2024

Raj Kapoor's iconic classic 'Awara' to premiere in 4K at Toronto Film Festival 2024



 The restoration effort has been spearheaded by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the National Film Archive of India. The restoration project is a part of the National Film Heritage Mission

#### **National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)**

- Launched in 2017, NFHM is the prestigious mission of Government of India, for preservation, conservation, digitization and restoration of rich cinematic heritage of the country.
- National Film Archive of India (NFAI) is the nodal organization, established by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 1964

# Kabir Khan, Imtiaz Ali, Onir and Rima Das' anthology film 'My Melbourne' to open 2024 IFFM

- My Melbourne, an anthology featuring shorts by filmmakers Kabir Khan, Imtiaz Ali, Onir and Rima Das, will serve as the opening movie at the 15th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).
- to be held in Melbourne from August 15 to 25

35<sup>th</sup> Palm Springs International Film Festival in California to Feature Premiere of 'Mrs' and 'Sumo Didi'

 'Sumo Didi' is based on the life of Hetal Dave, India's first and only professional sumo wrestler

Manoj Bajpayee's 'The Fable' film from India to compete in Encounters segment of Berlin Film Festival 2024





- Actor Manoj Bajpayee-starrer 'The Fable' (A US-Indian co-production), directed by Raam Reddy, is all set to premiere in one of the key competitive sections of the Berlinale.
- The Fable will make its world premiere at the 74th Encounters Competition.

'Adrishya Jalakangal' became the first Malayalam film to premiere at the 27<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival in Estonia



Directed by Dr. Biju

"Sunflowers were the first ones to know" film by FTII student selected at 77th Cannes Film Festival 'La Cinef' category



- Four students from the Film and Television Institute
  of India (FTII) in Pune, have pulled off the
  remarkable achievement of having their short
  film, 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know',
  securing a spot in the competition at the La Cinef
  section of the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, France.
  The film, directed by Chidanand S Naik
- The festival is to be held from 15th to 24th May 2024
- 'La Cinef' is the official section for film schools across the world to encourage new talent.
- 'All We Imagine as Light' by Payal Kapadia in the official competition of the Cannes Film Festival.

## 'All We Imagine As Light' will be first Indian film to compete at Cannes Film Festival in 30 years



- Writer-director Payal Kapadia's debut feature All
  We Imagine as Light becomes first Indian film since
  Shaji N Karun's Swaham (1994) to compete for
  Palme d'Or award ("Golden Palm") for the best film.
- Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar is the only Indian film to have won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1946

## India To Host Bharat Parv At Cannes Film Festival For The First Time



- 77<sup>th</sup> annual Cannes Film Festival is taking place from 14 to 25 May 2024 at Cannes in France. India is participating in the 12-day event.
- India will host a Bharat Parv at the Cannes Film Festival for the first time.

- The Bharat Pavilion at Cannes will serve as a platform for the Indian film community to engage in various activities.
- These include fostering production collaborations, curated knowledge sessions, signing distribution deals, business to business meetings and networking with prominent entertainment and media players from around the world.
- The official poster and trailer of the 55th
   International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024 will
   also be unveiled at the Bharat Parv.
- This year's IFFI will be held in Goa from November
   20 to 28.

# Nepal Sambat New Year 1145, Mha puja being celebrated across Nepal



- The Nepal Sambat New Year 1145 was celebrated on 2nd November.
- The Newar community marks this day as New Year's Day, honouring the indigenous calendar of Nepal.
- The Newar community observed the Mha Puja ritual - worship of the self.
- Mha Puja is based on the religious belief that the soul or self is the most important in the world and that if the soul is satisfied, the gods are also satisfied.

## Ngusaba Goreng, a two-week-long Thanksgiving festival in Bali celebrating a rich harvest.



- · perform the Rejang Dewa, a sacred Balinese dance.
- The rituals are part of the two-week-long Ngusaba Goreng, a thanksgiving festival for a rich harvest.

- "Ngusaba" means gathering of the gods and goddesses.
- Rejang Dewa and Rejang Pucuk, performed on two separate days, are reserved only for girls who have not yet attained puberty.

#### 'Baliyatra' festival and 'Boit Bandhan'



- Baliyatra, literally 'voyage to Bali' is one of the country's largest open-air fares.
- Baliyatra is a week-long event which begins on Kartik Purnima (full moon night in the month of Kartik)
- It is organised every year to commemorate the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links between ancient Kalinga (today's Odisha) and Bali and other South and Southeast Asian regions like Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).
- The Kalingas constructed large boats called the 'Boitas' and with the help of these, they traded with the Indonesian islands.
- Odia women perform the rite of 'Boita Bandana'.
   The festival is similar to the 'Masakapan Ke Tukad' festival of Bali, and to the 'Loi Krathong' festival of Thailand



- According to historians, popular items of trade between Kalinga and Southeast Asia included pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, silk, camphor, gold, and jewellery.
- The Bali Yatra celebrates the ingenuity and skill of those expert sailors who made Kalinga one of the most prosperous empires of its time.
- The Bay of Bengal was once known as the Kalinga
   Sea as it was thronged by these ships.
- The dominance of the Kalingas over the sea routes can be understood from the fact that Kalidasa in his

Raghuvamsa referred to the King of Kalinga as 'The Lord of the Sea'.



# Gadhimai Mahotsav of Nepal continues to be the world's biggest animal slaughter event



- Gadhimai Mahotsav continues to face criticism from animal activists campaigning vigorously for decades.
- This Hindu festival, held once every five years at the Gadhimai Temple in Bariyarpur, Bara district of Madhesh Province, Nepal, near the Indo-Nepal border, started and concluded on Shukla Purnima.
- In 2024, the Supreme Court of India directed state governments to restrict the export and transport of animals intended for sacrifice.
- Nepal's Supreme Court ordered a ban on animal sacrifices in 2019, but the ruling remains largely unenforced.

### Sevdalinka: Bosnia's Traditional Love Songs Added to UNESCO Cultural Heritage List



- Sevdalinka is a traditional Bosnian love song that has recently gained recognition, and added to UNESCO's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- The song, often referred to as the Balkan Blues, reflects a rich cultural history and emotional depth.
- Sevdalinka dates back to the 16th century.

### **INTERNATIONAL LEGAL NEWS**

- 1. Turkey Blocks Instagram Amid 'Censorship' Row
- 2. Thailand Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage
- 3. Slovenia recognizes a Palestinian state
- 4. Norway, Ireland, Spain to officially recognise Palestinian state
- 5. Zimbabwe launches new currency ZiG

### Turkey Blocks Instagram Amid 'Censorship' Row



- Turkey blocked access to Instagram for its 85 million people, the country's Information and Communication Technologies Authority announced.
- The ban was a response to the platform removing posts related to the death of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

# Thailand Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage – First in Southeast Asia



- Thailand will become the third Asian jurisdiction after Nepal and Taiwan to legalise gay marriage.
- In October 2023, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India refused to alter the Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954 to give legal recognition to samesex marriages, putting the onus on Parliament to legislate marriage equality.

Capital: BangkokCurrency: Thai bahtMonarch: Vajiralongkorn

Prime Minister: Srettha Thavisin



## European Council Approves the first worldwide AI Act



- European Union (EU) Commission has given their final approval to the bloc's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act, subjecting high-risk AI applications to stricter regulation.
- The EU Commission will have the power to fine companies that breach the AI Act as much 35 million euros (\$38 million) or 7% of their annual global revenues — whichever is higher.
- The European Council is one of the seven principal institutions of the European Union (EU) and plays a crucial role in defining the general political direction and priorities of the Union.
- The AI Act has adopted a risk-based approach subjecting higher-risk AI applications to stricter regulation.
- The law prohibits applications of AI that are considered "unacceptable" in terms of their risk level. Such applications feature so-called "social scoring" systems that rank citizens based on aggregation and analysis of their data
- They also include applications of AI in financial services and education, where there is a risk of bias embedded in AI algorithms.
- The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe.
- EU Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg.



# Philippine court put a stop on golden rice commercial production



- The Philippine Court of Appeals revoked biosafety permits for golden rice and Bt eggplant due to safety, health, and legal concerns.
- The court emphasized the need for more research to guarantee safety for future generations.
   Concerns about the potential for Golden Rice to cross-pollinate with native rice varieties and potentially disrupt ecosystems were also a factor.
- The halt impacts initiatives initially aimed at addressing vitamin A deficiency and safer eggplant production.
- Golden Rice is a new type of rice that contains beta carotene (provitamin A, a plant pigment that the body converts into vitamin A as needed). This compound is what gives this grain its yellow-orange or golden color.
- It is developed through genetic engineering.

#### Slovenia becomes latest European country



#### to recognize a Palestinian state

- Slovenia's decision came days after Spain, Norway and Ireland recognized a Palestinian state
- Now, More than 140 countries recognize a
   Palestinian state more than two-thirds of the
   United Nations.

#### Slovenia



· Capital: Ljubljana

President : Nataša Pirc MusarPrime Minister: Robert Golob

Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

# Norway, Ireland, Spain to officially recognise Palestinian state





- Norway, Ireland and Spain recognized a Palestinian state in a historic move that drew condemnation from Israel and jubilation from the Palestinians.
- Israel immediately **ordered back its ambassadors from Norway and Ireland.**
- The formal recognition will be made on May 28.

#### State of Palestine



- The State of Palestine refers to the geopolitical entity that is envisioned to exist within the territories of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.
- These areas are located in the Middle East, bordered by Israel to the west, north, and south, and by Jordan and Egypt to the east and southwest respectively.
- Several European Union countries have in the past weeks indicated that they plan to make the recognition, arguing a two-state solution is essential for lasting peace in the region
- Norway's recognition of a Palestine state comes more than 30 years after the first Oslo agreement was signed in 1993.
- Oslo Accords (1993-1995): These agreements
  between Israel and the Palestine Liberation
  Organization (PLO) aimed to establish a framework
  for Palestinian self-governance in parts of the West
  Bank and Gaza Strip, and to set the stage for future
  negotiations on final status issues.
- Palestinian Authority (PA): Established as a result of the Oslo Accords, it exercises limited selfgovernance over parts of the West Bank.
- Hamas: An Islamist political and militant group that controls the Gaza Strip since 2007



# U.S. recognises Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory



 The United States recognises Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and strongly opposes any unilateral

- attempts by China to advance its territorial claims across the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as South
  Tibet, routinely objects to Indian leaders' visits to
  the State to highlight its claims.
- · Beijing has also named the area Zangnan.
- On March 9, PM Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel built at an altitude of over 13,000 feet in western Arunachal Pradesh that will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategically located Tawang district.

# Zimbabwe launches new currency ZiG in attempt to resolve money crisis



- The ZiG- short for <u>Zimbabwe Gold</u>- is the sixth currency <u>Zimbabwe</u> has used since the spectacular 2009 collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar
- Zimbabwe started circulating a new currency to replace one that has been battered by depreciation and often outright rejection by the people.
- The ZiG was introduced electronically in early April, but people are now able to use banknotes and coins.
- Authorities say they have faith in the ZiG because it's backed by the country's gold reserves.



- The government had previously floated various ideas to replace the Zimbabwe dollar, including introducing gold coins to stem inflation and even trying out a digital currency.
- · Zimbabwe officially the Republic of Zimbabwe:
- It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers
- The country shares borders with Mozambique to the east, Zambia to the north, Botswana and Namibia to the west, and South Africa to the south.

· Capital: Harare

President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

# Nepal introduce new Rs 100 currency note featuring Indian territories



- The Indian territories featured on Nepal currency -Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani.
- On June 18, 2020, Nepal completed the process to update the country's political map by incorporating three strategically important areas Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas by amending its Constitution
- Notably, both nations have included this region in their official maps, even though it is under India's administration.
- Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian States — Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- In an initial reaction, India has said Nepal's unilateral actions will not change the ground reality.

#### **Historical Backdrop:**

- Nepal has asserted its claim based on the Sugauli Treaty of 1816 - marked the conclusion of the Anglo-Nepal War
- The Treaty of Sugauli marked the formal establishment of Nepal's boundary. According to which all territories east of the Kali (Mahakali) river belong to Nepal. The Kali River designated as the western border and the River Mechi as the eastern border of Nepal.
- Earlier, the territories under Nepalese control included whole of Sikkim to the east, Darjeeling to the south-east, Nainital to the south-west and the Kumaon and Garhwali to the west.
- Sugauli Treaty was signed on March 4, 1816
   between and Lt. Col. Paris Bradshaw (East India Company) and Guru Gajraj Mishra
- Nepal contends that the origin of the Mahakali
  River (known as River Kalee) lies in the vicinity of
  Limpiyadhura or the nearby Lipulekh pass.
- India, on the other hand, maintains that the River Kali originates from a smaller stream called Pankhagad, situated to the south of Kalapani.
- The region of Lipulekh and Kalapani, forming a trijunction between India and China, holds immense geostrategic and geopolitical importance.

- Nepal Current PM Pushpakamal Prachanda
- President Ram Chandra Paudel



## Turkey approves Sweden's entry into NATO

• After more than a year of delays, the Turkish



parliament voted in favor of Sweden's entry into NATO on January 23, 2024.

- Only one country, Hungary, still must ratify Sweden's bid for membership before it can join the alliance.
- Sweden and Finland applied for membership in 2022 to strengthen their security in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Finland became the 31<sup>st</sup> member of NATO on April 4, 2023

#### NATO



- Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of 31 countries from North America and Europe.
- Finland joined the alliance as 31st member.
- Headquarter Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg

# France aims to have 30,000 Indian students in its universities by 2030



- The French government launched "Campus France" in 2018, which provides information and support to Indian students interested in studying in France.
- Since its launch, the number of Indian students studying in France has gone up by 20%.

#### **FRANCE**



- France capital: Paris
- President: Emmanuel Macron
- France's highest mountain: Mont Blanc
- · longest river of France: The Loire
- 8 countries border France's mainland:
- Northeast: Belgium and Luxembourg
- · East: Germany, Switzerland, and Italy
- South: Monaco, Spain, and Andorra

# New Zealand to repeal world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations



- New Zealand is all set to repeal the world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.
- The cabinet to increase the tools available to help people quit smoking.
- Set to take effect from July, the toughest antitobacco rules in the world would have banned sales to those born after Jan. 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers by more than 90%.

# Bangladesh PM pitches for common currency for Muslim countries



- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the Muslim countries could introduce a common currency, like the European Union (EU), to boost trade and commerce among them.
- Bangladesh PM said this during the visit of D-8 trade ministers in Dhaka
- D-8 is an Organization for Economic Cooperation among the eight Muslim countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.
- The establishment of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation was announced officially through the Istanbul Declaration of Summit of Heads of State/Government on June 15, 1997.



## Life protection plan for Indian blue-collar workers unveiled in the UAE

- India's consulate in Dubai has unveiled a new insurance package for blue-collar Indian workers to provide financial benefits to the kin of the deceased in case of natural and accidental deaths.
- With approximately 3.5 million Indians residing in the UAE, constituting around 65% of whom are blue-collar workers, this group forms one of the largest contingents of migrant workers in the country.

- Gargash Insurance Services and Orient Insurance, to devise this inclusive insurance package. The LPP is effective from March 1.
- In the year 2022, the consulate in Dubai registered approximately 1,100 worker death, and in 2023, around 1,000 worker deaths were recorded
- It has been observed that in more than 90 percent of cases, the cause of death is natural.

# France becomes first EU country to issue paperless visa



 Since January 1, 2024, France has initiated the issuance of Digital Schengen visas, becoming the first country to hand out these visas in the European Union.

#### UAE grants Golden Visa to educator and Super 30 founder Anand Kumar



- The UAE Golden Visa, introduced by the UAE in 2019, is a long-term residence visa that allows foreign residents and expatriates to live, work, and study in the UAE for 5 to 10 years.
- Investors & Individuals in the fields of science, knowledge, culture, and art are granted the Golden Visa
- Kumar, a Mathematics educator, started his Super 30 programme in Patna in 2002, known for coaching underprivileged students for JEE-Main & JEE-Advanced.
- In 2023, he was awarded the Padma Shri.

## Germany Joins United Nations Command in South Korea as 18<sup>th</sup> Member State

Germany joined the U.S.-led United Nations
 Command (UNC) in South Korea, becoming the
 18th nation in a group that helps police the heavily fortified border with North Korea and has

committed to defend the South Korea in the event of a war.



- Established in 1950, the UNC was mandated to restore peace and enforce the armistice while serving as a channel of communication with North Korea
- It is led by the commander of the U.S. military stationed in South Korea and is not affiliated with the United Nations.

# Turkey Parliament Approves Controversial Stray Dog Euthanasia Law



- Turkey's parliament approved a move to euthanise some of the country's four million stray dogs those who are sick or deemed aggressive
- The government says the euthanasia clause is needed to prevent dog attacks and the spread of rabies.
- It says the other homeless dogs should be captured en masse, placed in animal shelters and put up for adoption.

# Israeli parliament approves bill to label U.N. relief agency UNRWA as a terror organization



 The Israeli parliament gave preliminary approval to a bill that declares the main United Nations relief organisation for Palestinians a terrorist organisation and proposes to sever relations with the body.

- The vote against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) is the latest step in a Israeli push against the agency, which Israeli leaders have accused of collaborating with the Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza.
- UNRWA provides education, health and aid to millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.
- It has long had tense relations with Israel but relations have deteriorated sharply since the start of the war in Gaza

# Philippines becomes first Asian Country to Ratify ILO Convention to End Workplace Violence and Harassment



- THE Philippines became the first country in Asia and the 38th country in the world, to ratify ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.
- Convention No. 190 is the first international labour standard to address violence and harassment in the world of work comprehensively.

# Tennessee just became the first state to protect musicians and other artists against AI



- Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed off on legislation to ensure that AI tools cannot replicate an artist's voice without their consent.
- The bill goes into effect July 1.
- Tennessee is a U.S. state located in the southcentral part of the country
- · Capital city Nashville

# France poised to become first country in world to enshrine right to abortion in its Constitution



- Parliamentarians from the upper and lower chambers will meet in a special session summoned by President Emmanuel Macron.
- If, as expected, they vote for the government's motion by a three-fifths majority, then the country's 1958 Constitution will be revised to enshrine women's guaranteed freedom to abort.

#### **Abortion Law in India**

- India has a central law called The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971, which permits licensed medical professionals to perform abortions in specific predetermined situations
- Under the 1971 law, a pregnancy could only be terminated under Section 3(2) if it did not exceed 20 weeks.
- 2021 amendment to the MTP Act Abortion was allowed up to 24 weeks for certain classes of women, defined under the MTP Rules.

#### **EU Adopts First Law Against Violence Towards Women**



- The sweeping law aims to protect women in the 27nation EU from gender-based violence, forced marriages, female genital mutilation and online harassment.
- It sets minimum sentences, ranging from one year to five years in prison, depending on the crime.
- Under the rules, if the victim is a child, spouse or ex-spouse, the punishment can be more severe.
- EU states must transpose the rules into national law within three years.

# **UAE Launches 10-Year Blue Residency Visa** for Environmentalists



- The UAE Cabinet has announced a new 10-year Blue Residency visa for individuals who have made exceptional contributions to protecting the environment.
- This includes members of international organisations, international companies, associations, non-governmental organisations, and global award winners.
- The visa has been introduced in alignment with the national directives declared by UAE, to designate
   2024 as the year of sustainability.

#### Russia to remove Taliban from 'terror' list



- Russia will remove the Taliban from a list of banned terrorist organisations, three years after they returned to power in Afghanistan.
- Moscow has for years fostered relations with the Taliban, holding multiple rounds of talks and boosting trade with Afghanistan despite international sanctions.
- Kazakhstan removed the Taliban from its list of banned organisations at the end of 2023

# 'Drone wall' against Russia: Six NATO countries announce border defense plan

- Six NATO countries Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia,
   Poland, Finland, and Norway are joining forces to build a "drone wall" to protect their borders against Russia.
- This is a completely new thing -- a drone wall stretching from Norway to Poland, and the goal is to use drones and other technologies to protect the borders





- NATO was established on April 4, 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington,
   D.C. by 12 founding member countries from Europe and North America.
- Its aim was to block expansion by the Soviet Union in Europe after World War II
- NATO has 32 members across Europe and North America
- Recent most members Sweden (2024) & Finland (2023)

### New banknotes featuring the portrait of King Charles III have now entered circulation



- New banknotes featuring the portrait of King Charles III have now entered circulation,
- The new Bank of England notes will gradually replace those which are damaged or will be issued when demand increases.

 The King is only the second monarch to appear on these notes, with Queen Elizabeth II first featuring in 1960.

#### Japan to launch new banknotes on July 3



- It is the world's first use of cutting-edge holography that makes the portraits of historic figures appear to rotate in 3D.
- Tactile marks for the visually impaired will also make them recognizable to touch.

# Finland passed law to block asylum seekers crossing from Russia





- The government claimed the law is crucial for national security and to prevent future migrations allegedly weaponized by Russia.
- Prime Minister Petteri Orpo
- Capital: Helsinki.
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

# South Africa passes its first sweeping climate change law

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law a broad climate change act that will set limits for large emitters and require every town and city to publish an adaptation plan.

- The Climate Change Bill aims to enable South Africa to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris climate agreement [COP21].
- South Africa, which is the world's most carbonintensive major economy and among the top 15 greenhouse gas emitters, is on track to miss those targets because of its heavy reliance on coal for electricity.
- the first time that climate change response is directly brought into domestic law,"
- Emissions targets will be set for each high-emitting government sector such as agriculture, transport and industry, and each relevant minister must adopt measures to achieve them.
- The law also says the environment minister must allocate a carbon budget to large greenhouse gasemitting companies, setting a limit on their emissions over a specified time.
- emitters that exceed their budget are likely to have to pay a higher rate of carbon tax.

# South Africa announces TTOS scheme to boost tourism from India

- South Africa has announced a new Trusted Tour
   Operator Scheme (TTOS) with an initial focus on the tourist markets of India and China.
- to be implemented from January 2025.
- The aim of the scheme is to reform the visa system and is expected to increase jobs in the tourism sector.
- Through TTOS, vetted and approved tour operators from the two countries will be invited to register with the Department.
- The Department will for the very first time process group applications from Indian and Chinese tourists travelling with approved operators.

# Thailand to allow same-sex couples to marry in January



- Thailand officially enacted its landmark marriage equality bill, allowing same-sex couples to legally marry - to take effect in January of 2025
- Thailand the third country in Asia, after Taiwan and Nepal, to legalise same-sex marriage.
- The bill, which ensures full legal, financial, and medical rights for marriage partners of any gender

# Britain to become first G7 country to end coal power as last plant closes



- Britain's last plant Uniper's Ratcliffe-on-Soar in England
- It will end over 140 years of coal power in Britain.

G7



 G-7 is a group of the most developed and advanced economies of the world. i.e. France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Canada.

# Maldivian President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu decides to introduce India's UPI in Maldives

- Indian tourists will be able to make transactions in Indian rupees on UPI-enabled apps without going through the hassle of converting currency.
- India's UPI has been operational in several international locations, including UAE, Sri Lanka, France, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, the UK, and Mauritius.
- President Muizzu has decided to set up a consortium to introduce UPI in the Maldives
- He appointed TradeNet Maldives Corporation
   Limited as the consortium's leading agency
- India recently launched the RuPay cards in the Maldives to enhance the ease of payments for

Indian tourists as well as for Maldivian nationals visiting India

#### **National Payments Corporation of India**

- It is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- It has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit"
   Company under Companies Act.
- · Headquartered Mumbai.

# United Kindom agrees to hand over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius



 Britain has agreed to give up sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, ending a long-standing



dispute over the **United Kingdom's last African** colony

- after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the UK unlawfully separated the Chagos archipelago from Mauritius before granting it independence.
- This agreement comes after 13 rounds of negotiations, which began in 2022.
- In 2019 and 2021, the ICJ, the United Nations
  General Assembly, and the International Tribunal for
  the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) supported Mauritius'
  claim to sovereignty.
- Britain, which has controlled the Chagos Islands since 1814, separated the islands from Mauritius in

**1965** — three years before Mauritius gained independence — **to establish the British Indian Ocean Territory.** 

- In the 1960s and 1970s, the UK expelled the Chagossians, in what has been labelled a crime against humanity, retaining control of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) after Mauritius gained independence in 1968.
- In the early 1970s, nearly 2,000 residents were forcibly relocated to Mauritius and the Seychelles to make way for an airbase on Diego Garcia, the largest island, which was leased to the United States in 1966.

#### Other Imp. Island Dispute

- · Falkland Islands: Argentina and the United Kingdom
- Kuril Island: Japan & Russia
- · Senkaku (Diaoyu) islands: Japan & China
- Spratly Islands: China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines, Brunei
- Paracel Islands: China, Taiwan and Vietnam

## North Korea defines South Korea as 'hostile state' in Revised Constitution



- North Korea that its recently revised constitution defines South Korea as "a hostile State" for the first time, two days after it blew up the front-line road and rail links that once connected the country with the South
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), is the North's official name,
- while ROK stands for Republic of Korea, the South's formal name.
- North Korea Capital: Pyongyang
- Currency: Korean People's won
- The country is bordered by China and Russia to the north
- and by the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to the south.
- between the East Sea (Sea of Japan) and the Yellow Sea







- South Korea Capital: Seoul
- · Currency: Korean Republic won
- The country is bordered by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) to the north,
- the East Sea (Sea of Japan) to the east, the East China Sea to the south,
- and the Yellow Sea to the west; to the southeast
- it is separated from the Japanese island of Tsushima by the Korea Strait.

### Italy Grants Citizenship to Argentina's President



- The Italian government has granted Argentinian
   President Javier Milei citizenship based on his Italian
   heritage.
- Capital: Rome
- Currency: Euro (€)



Bangladesh: Yunus-Led Interim Government Set To Remove 'Father Of The Nation' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Image From Currency Notes



- As per instructions from the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government
- Bangladesh Bank has begun printing new notes with features of the July uprising, a student-led anti-quota protest which led the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5



Moscow bans adoption of Russian children to countries that allow gender transition





- Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a bill banning the adoption of Russian children by citizens of countries where gender transitioning is legal.
- The adoption ban would apply to at least 15 countries, most of them in Europe, and Australia, Argentina and Canada.
- Adoption of Russian children by U.S. citizens was banned in 2012.
- Russia last year <u>banned gender-transition medical</u> <u>procedures</u> and its Supreme Court declared the <u>LGBTQ+ "movement"</u> to be extremist.

### Germany increases visa quota for skilled Indian professionals from 20 to 90 thousand



- Aimed at strengthening the economic and professional ties between the two countries
- The 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business 2024 (APK 2024) held in New Delhi, India from October 24 - 26, 2024

#### **Germany**



Capital: Berlin

Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

- · Denmark in the north,
- · Poland and the Czech Republic in the east,
- · Austria and Switzerland in the south,
- France and Luxembourg in the south-west,
- Belgium and the Netherlands in the west.

## Venezuelan Opposition Leaders Win EU's Sakharov Prize



 The European parliament has awarded its top human rights honor, the Sakharov prize for Freedom of Thought to Venezuelan opposition leaders María Corina Machado and Edmundo González

- For "representing the people of Venezuela fighting to restore freedom and democracy".
- Awarded for the first time in 1988 to Nelson
   Mandela and Anatoli Marchenko, the Sakharov

   Prize for Freedom of Thought is the highest tribute paid by the European Union to human rights work.

#### Venezuela



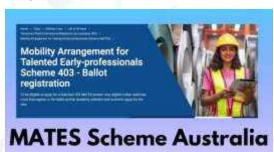
- · Capital: Caracas
- Currency: Venezuelan bolívar
- bounded by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to the north,
- · Guyana to the east, Brazil to the south,
- · Colombia to the southwest and west.

# Student Direct Stream (SDS): Canada Ends Fast-Track Visa for Students



- All study permit applications, from now on, will be submitted using the standard application process.
- The Student Direct Stream (SDS) programme was launched in 2018 to provide faster processing for eligible post-secondary students from 14 countries, including India.
- Besides a shorter processing time, the approval rates were also higher under the programme.
- India is Canada's largest source country of foreign students with an estimated 4.27 lakh Indian students studying there in 2023.

# What is Australia's Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES)?



- MATES gives Indian university graduates and early career professionals a chance to work in Australia for two years.
- · aged 30 or younger at the time of application
- On May 23, 2023, Australia and India entered into a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA).
- MMPA supports and promotes two-way migration and mobility between the two countries, while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration.
- MATES has been established under the MMPA.
- This scheme will open for professionals from December 2024
- MATES will commence as a pilot programme with 3,000 places for primary applicants per programme per year.
- Participants will be able to apply to bring dependents (spouses and dependent children).
- Dependants will have work rights in Australia, and will not count towards the annual cap.

# **Gabon Approves New Constitution in Historic Referendum**



- Gabon held a landmark referendum, where 91% of voters approved a new constitution, marking a significant political shift in the country.
- The constitution aims to end 55 years of dynastic rule and reintroduce a democratic civilian government.
- The current transitional president, Brice Oligui Nguema, had taken power in a coup in August 2023 from Ali Bongo.
- Libreville is the capital and largest city of Gabon

| Summary/Static            | Details                                     |
|---------------------------|---|
| Approval                  | 91% of voters approved the new              |
|                           | constitution.                               |
| Key                       | - Presidential Term Limits: Two             |
| Constitutional            | terms of seven years each.                  |
| Changes                   | - <b>Abolition</b> of the Prime             |
|                           | Minister's Role.                            |
|                           | - No Dynastic                               |
|                           | Succession: Excludes family-                |
|                           | based succession.                           |
|                           | <ul><li>Eligibility: Presidential</li></ul> |
|                           | candidates must have a                      |
|                           | Gabonese parent and spouse,                 |
|                           | disqualifying Ali Bongo.                    |
| Role of Military<br>Junta | Junta, led by Transitional                  |
|                           | President Brice Oligui Nguema,              |
|                           | organized the referendum after              |
|                           | taking power in August 2023.                |
| Transitional              | Civilian rule promised after a              |
| Government                | two-year transition period.                 |

# Allulose – The Rising Sweetener in South Korea



- Found naturally in figs, kiwis and other fruits, allulose has been approved by both U.S. and South Korean regulators.
- researchers say it is 70% as sweet as sugar and almost calorie-free.

### Swiss 'Burqa Ban' to Take Effect from 2025.

 Swiss prohibition on facial coverings in public spaces widely known as the "burqa ban" will take effect on January 1 2025, and faces fines for violators



- anyone who unlawfully flouts it faces a fine of up to 1,000 Swiss francs
- The ban does not apply to planes or in diplomatic and consular premises, and faces may also be covered in places of worship and other sacred sites.
- Facial coverings will remain permitted for reasons relating to health and safety, for native customs, or due to weather conditions

Australian Government to Ban Children Under Age of 16 From Accessing Social Media

> AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED A BAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16



THEY ARE TRIALING AN
AGE-VERIFICATION SYSTEM TO
ASSIST IN BLOCKING CHILDREN
THIS BAN CAN BE ENFORCED BY
THE END OF NEXT YEAR (2025)

- with penalties for platforms like Facebook,
   Instagram, and TikTok if they fail to enforce it.
- The initiative is designed to enhance online safety for young people and hold tech companies accountable.
- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese confirmed that the government aims to introduce the legislation in the Parliament this month
- Australia is trialing an age-verification system to assist in blocking children from accessing social media platforms

# South Africa declares food-borne illnesses a National Disaster after surge in food poisoning cases

- left dozens of children dead and hundreds hospitalized
- poisoned by an organophosphate pesticide called terbufos.



 The chemical is highly toxic and widely used in citrus, maize and potato agriculture, but often also illegally sold as a street pesticide against township rat infestations.

### South Korea President has declared 'emergency martial law'



- South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol accused the opposition of sympathising with North Korea and paralysing the government with anti-state activities.
- Since the establishment of the Republic of Korea, martial law has been declared 16 times. It was last declared in 1980.
- Martial law is the replacement of civilian government by military rule, and the suspension of civilian legal processes for military ones. Standard civil liberties may be suspended for as long as martial law continues.
- According to South Korean law, the government must lift martial law if the majority of the National Assembly demands votes for its repeal.
- South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's cabinet has reversed a martial law order in the country, just hours after he issued the surprise decree that plunged Seoul into political uncertainty and sparked fierce backlash from lawmakers across the political spectrum.

# Switzerland Suspends 'Most Favoured Nation Status' to India

 In a move set to have far-reaching impact on Indian companies operating in Switzerland and Swiss investments in India, Switzerland has announced it will suspend the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) status with India, effective January 1, 2025.



- This unilateral action from the European country stems from a double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) between the two countries.
- The Swiss finance department issued an official statement, pointing to a 2023 ruling by the Supreme Court of India in the Nestle case as the reason for this significant decision.

### What is the MFN status between India and Switzerland?

- The Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) status is a term commonly used in international trade agreements to ensure that a country extends the best possible treatment or tariff rates to one nation, which it offers to others under similar circumstances.
- In tax treaties, such as the Double Taxation
   Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and
   Switzerland, the MFN clause ensures that the lower
   tax rates applied to residents of other OECD
   countries are extended to the treaty partner as
   well.
- The OECD, or Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, was established in 1961 in Paris.
- India and Switzerland initially signed the DTAA in 1994, with amendments made in 2010.
- India had previously signed tax agreements with Lithuania and Colombia, which set lower tax rates on certain types of income compared to those offered to OECD countries. Both of these countries later became members of the OECD.
- In 2021, Switzerland interpreted that the accession of Colombia and Lithuania to the OECD meant that a 5 per cent tax rate on dividends would apply to the India-Switzerland tax treaty under the MFN clause, instead of the 10 per cent rate specified in the agreement.

#### Switzerland opposes SC ruling, revokes MFN status

- Switzerland has responded to the situation by unilaterally revoking India's MFN status, explicitly citing the "Indian Supreme Court" as the reason for its decision.
- This means that starting January 1, 2025,
   Switzerland will impose a 10 per cent tax (up from the current 5 per cent) on dividends payable to

- Indian tax residents and entities seeking refunds for Swiss withholding tax.
- The same will apply to Swiss tax residents claiming foreign tax credits.

# **Britain Becomes First European Nation to Join CPTPP**



- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
- Britain became the first European nation to join an Indo-Pacific trade bloc
- Britain becomes the 12th member of the trade club, which comprises Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Biden signs a bill officially making the bald eagle the national bird of the U.S.



 The bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) is indigenous to North America.

Malaysia has extended visa exemptions for Indian and Chinese nationals until December 31, 2026, allowing 30-day visits



- emphasized that the extension aligns with Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN chairmanship and the preparations for Visit Malaysia Year 2026.
- The visa liberalization plan, initially introduced in 2023.

# Russia Declares Federal Emergency Over Black Sea Oil Spill



- Russia declared a federal emergency over an oil spill caused by two Russian tankers in the Black Sea.
- The tankers were hit by a storm
- Oil pollution refers to the contamination of water bodies, specifically oceans, seas, or rivers, by oil or petroleum products.
- It typically occurs due to oil spills from accidents involving tankers, offshore drilling rigs, pipelines, or other oil-related activities.
- Impact on Marine Biodiversity:
  - Reduces insulation capacity of marine mammals The oil coats the feathers or fur of birds and the fur of marine mammals, reducing their insulating properties and leading to hypothermia.
  - It can also damage the gills of fish and other aquatic organisms, suffocating them or impairing their ability to respire and reproduce.
- Destruction of Habitat:
  - Harms sensitive habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, and estuaries eg. Sunderbans

# India Concerned as China to Construct World's Largest Dam in Tibet



- The Chinese government has given its green signal to the construction of the world's largest dam on the river Yarlung Zangbo/Tsangpo (known as the Brahmaputra in India) on the eastern rim of the Tibetan plateau.
- The project has raised concerns among environmentalists as it will lead to the

- displacement of millions of people and the destruction of the natural ecosystem in Tibet.
- It could seriously affect millions of people downstream in India and Bangladesh.
- The construction of a dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River was announced by China in 2020.
- It will be the world's largest dam in the world overtaking the Three Gorges Dam built on the Yangtze River in China.
- The total investment in the dam is over 1 trillion yuan (US\$137 billion), making it the single largest infrastructure project in the world.
- Currently, the world's largest installed hydel power capacity is the Three Gorges Dam which was designed to produce 88.2 billion kWh.

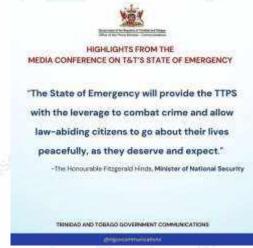
#### **Concern of India**

- The Yarlung Zangbo(Tsangpo) River enters India through the Namcha Barwa mountains.
- There is a concern that China will block or divert the flow of the river away from India.
- China by building the dam on the river could use it as a weapon against India.
- China by storing water can cause water scarcity in India. By suddenly releasing the water, China can create massive floods in Arunachal, Assam, and Bangladesh.
- The Yarlung Zangbo River enters India in Arunachal Pradesh and China claims that Arunachal Pradesh is part of its territory.

#### **About Brahmaputra River**

- Brahmaputra River is one of the largest rivers in the world and originates in the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake, Tibet.
- It is known as the Yarlung Zangbo(Tsangpo) River in Tibet and covers a distance of 1200 km in Tibet.
- It enters Arunachal Pradesh near Namcha Barwa mountain foothills and is known as Siang or Dihang.
- In Assam, the Dibang or Sikang and Lohit rivers join Siang and then it is called Brahmaputra.
- The Brahmaputra enters Bangladesh near Dhubri.
- In Bangladesh, the Teesta River joins it and it is known as Jamuna.
- It finally merges with the river Padma (Ganga in Bangladesh) and forms the world's largest delta before falling into the Bay of Bengal.

### Trinidad and Tobago Declares State of Emergency



- The government of Trinidad and Tobago declared a state of emergency on Monday (December 30), following a deadly weekend of violence in the Caribbean dual-island nation.
- At least 67 people were killed in December alone, increasing the country's annual death toll to 623 the highest since 2013.

### Is this the first time the country is under an emergency?

 No. A state of emergency was declared in the country in 2014 following a similar spike in violence.
 The country also declared a 'limited' state of emergency in 2011 following a spike in drug-related crimes.

### **INDIAN DELEGATES' VISIT**

- 1. BAPS Hindu temple
- 2. 'Ahlan Modi' event
- 3. new CBSE office in Dubai
- 4. Order of the Druk Gyalpo
- 5. PM Modi in Laos to attend ASEAN-India
- 6. Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste

 A Hindu temple will be inaugurated by PM Modi in Abu Dhabi (UAE) - the <u>Swaminarayan temple</u> of BAPS (the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha

# in Abu Dhabi on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb

PM Modi will inaugurate BAPS Hindu temple



#### 'Ahlan Modi' event

- The grand diaspora gathering scheduled in Abu
   Dhabi titled 'Ahlan Modi' ('Hello Modi)
- According to the UN's International Migration 2020 report, the UAE boasts the largest Indian diaspora population at 3.5 million, surpassing the United States of America (2.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million).
- The UAE is the fourth largest investor in India, while it is the third largest trading partner.
- The UAE-India Business Summit, themed "Two Nations, One Vision," occurred alongside the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024

# Visit of Prime Minister Modi to the UAE (13-14 February 2024) - Highlights



- Held bilateral meeting with the President of UAE,
   Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in Abu
   Dhabi on taking forward our Comprehensive
   Strategic Partnership.
- Launched the UPI RuPay card 'Jaywan' in Abu Dhabi
- Participated in the World Government Summit
   2024 in Dubai (India holds the status of guest of honour country alongside Turkey and Qatar.)
- He met the Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

- Inaugurated the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)
   Mandir, the first Hindu stone temple in Abu Dhabi
- Addressed approximately 40,000 Indian expatriates during the 'Ahlan Modi' event in Abu Dhabi.

#### 'Ahlan Modi' event in Abu Dhabi



- PM Modi, during his two-day visit to the UAE, interacted with the Indian diaspora at the 'Ahlan Modi' event in Abu Dhabi's Zayed Sports City Stadium on February 13.
- With approximately 3.5 million members, the Indian expatriate community constitutes the largest ethnic group in the UAE, making up about 35 percent of the country's population.

# PM Modi announces opening of new CBSE office in Dubai



- Announcement was made while addressing the gathering at the 'Ahlan Modi' diaspora event in Abu Dhabi,
- Emphasising the commitment to provide the best education in the UAE - a new Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) office will soon be established in Dubai.

- The master's course was started at the IIT Delhi– Abu Dhabi Campus in January 2024
- These institutions will be helpful in providing the best education to the Indian community here.

#### Launch of UPI RuPay card 'Jaywan' in Abu Dhabi

- PM Narendra Modi and UAE's President Sheikh
   Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan together launched
   the UPI RuPay card service. This will enhance the
   universal acceptance of RuPay across the UAE
- The JAYWAN card is based on India's digital RuPay credit and debit card stack for the UAE market.
- It included an agreement on interlinking of the instant payment platforms - UPI (India) and AANI (UAE), which will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between the two countries.
- Another agreement on inter-linking domestic debit/credit cards was signed vis-a-vis RuPay (India) with JAYWAN (UAE)
- A day earlier, India had announced that its UPI
   payment would not be available in Mauritius and
   Sri Lanka
- Earlier, India formally launched the UPI at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.

# PM Modi Inaugurates First Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi



- The Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)/ बोचासनवासी अक्षर पुरूषोत्तम स्वामीनारायण संस्था temple, also the largest in the region
- The temple is set to open to the public on March 1
- BAPS has a network of around 1,550 temples across the world, including the Akshardham temples in New Delhi and <u>Gandhinagar</u>
- Built in the traditional Nagar style, it is the first traditional Hindu stone temple in the Middle East.
- uses pink sandstone from Rajasthan, the interior uses Italian marbles.
- traditional stone Hindu temple with seven shikhars- are representative of the seven Emirates of the UAE.
- The word 'harmony' has been written in 30 different ancient and modern languages.
- No ferrous material (which is more vulnerable to corrosion) has been used in the temple.



#### India - UAE Relations

- India and the UAE share robust relations across political, cultural, and economic domains.
- UAE being among the largest sources of crude and LPG, India was now entering into long-term contracts for LNG.
- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE marked its one-year completion on April 30, 2023, contributing to a 16 percent surge in trade volume, which reached USD 85 million during the fiscal year 2022-23
- In the same period, the UAE emerged as the fourth-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India, with an investment totalling \$3.5 billion.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bhutan for a 24-hour State visit.
- He will inaugurate a "Mother and Child Hospital" in Thimphu, (India has provided funding support).
- Bhutan plans for its 13<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (FYP 2024-2029), and its request for India's development assistance for various projects including the ambitious new "Gelephu Mindfulness City" planned on Bhutan's southern border with Assam.
- For the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, India's contribution of In Rs 5000 Cr. constituted 73% of Bhutan's total external grant component.

# PM Modi bestowed with Bhutan's highest civilian award 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo'

 Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Bhutan's highest civilian award, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo,' the first foreign Head of the Government to receive the honour.



 Presented by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, in appreciation for "his outstanding contribution to the growth of India-Bhutan relations and for his distinguished service to the Bhutanese nation and people."

#### PM Modi's Historic Visit to Ukraine



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a twonation visit to Poland and Ukraine from 21-23 August 2024.
- Prime Minister Modi's visit to Ukraine is the first by any Indian Prime Minister since establishing diplomatic relations with Ukraine in January 1992.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Ukraine on a special Train 'Rail Force One' (run by the government-owned Ukrainian Railways).
- It was built to carry tourists to Crimea before Russia annexed the region in 2014.
- Since the start of the Russia- Ukraine war in February 2022, the train has emerged as the preferred mode of travel for foreign dignitaries as the Ukrainian air space is closed due to war.
- The Train was named Rail Force One after Joe Biden visited Ukraine in February 2023.



**Four agreements/MoUs were signed** during PM Modi's visit. These are

- Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Industry.
- Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation;

- India to provide Humanitarian Grant Assistance to Ukraine for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects
- Cultural Cooperation for the 2024-2028 period.

Capital: Kyiv
Currency: hryvnya

President: Volodymyr Zelensky

# PM Modi presents 4 BHISM cubes to Government of Ukraine



- BHISHM 'Bharat Health Initiatives for Sahyog Hita and Maitri'
- These are innovative mobile medical units developed by India to provide emergency medical care, particularly in conflict zones and disasteraffected areas.
- This initiative is part of Project Aarogya Maitri, a program aimed at supplying crucial medical resources to developing countries as a form of humanitarian aid.
- The BHISHM project is a joint effort of the Union Ministry of Defence and the Health and Family Welfare.
- Each cube measuring 15 inches and weighing no more than 20 kg, making it easily transportable by individuals.
- each one consists of medicines and equipment for the first line of care for all kinds of injuries and medical situations.
- It also includes surgical equipment for a basic Operation Room that can manage 10-15 basic surgeries per day.
- The cube has the capacity to handle about 200
  cases of diverse nature in emergency situations
  such as trauma, bleeding, burns, fractures, etc. It
  can also generate its own power and oxygen in
  limited amounts

# PM Modi to hold delegation level talks with his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk in Warsaw



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk held a delegation-level meeting in Warsaw, Poland.
- PM Modi also meet President Andrzej Duda of Poland.
- He also pointed out that Kabbadi emerged as a source of connection between the two nations as
   Poland is going to host the Kabaddi championship for the first time this year.

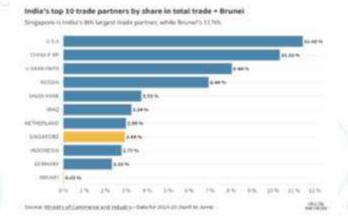


- Capital: Warsaw
- Currency: Złoty (PLN)

#### PM Modi's visit to Brunei, Singapore



 Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a visit to Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam, which will be the first ever bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister.



- Brunei and Singapore are important partners in India's Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific Vision
- India and Brunei celebrate the 40 years of diplomatic relations
- PM will hold meetings with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and members of the Royal family of Brunei. PM Modi was received upon arrival by the Crown Prince, Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.
- In Singapore, he will meet President Tharman
   Shanmugaratnam, PM Lawrence Wong

#### **Brunei Darussalam**

- Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan
- Currency: Brunei dollar (BND)



#### **Singapore**

· Capital: Singapore

Currency: Singapore dollar (\$\$)



# PM Narendra Modi holds delegation-level talks with his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong



 Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Singapore counterpart Lawrence Wong

- the two countries signed four MoUs aimed at bolstering cooperation between the two countries.
- The agreements focus on key areas including semiconductor cluster development and the cultivation of talent in semiconductor design and manufacturing.
- The two leaders discussed the outcome of the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable held in Singapore in August 2024.
- also covered the celebration of the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations in 2025.

#### **Singapore**

Capital: Singapore

Currency: Singapore dollar (\$\$)



# PM Modi arrives in Laos to attend ASEAN-India and East Asia summits



- will participate in the 21st India-ASEAN and the 19th East Asia summits.
- Mr. Modi witnessed 'Phralak Phralam,' the Laotian Ramayan performance. the Lao Ramayana differs from the original Indian version.
- It had reached Laos around the 16th century, brought by Buddhist missions.
- Vat Phou: a symbol of India-Laos close civilizational ties and heritage.
- Archaeological Survey of India has been undertaking exceptional work for restoration and conservation of Vat Phou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Laos



- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) founded in 1967.
- The ASEAN member States are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam.
- The East Asia Summit comprises the 10 ASEAN countries and eight partners — Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.
- Timor-Leste has the observer status at the EAS.
   President Droupadi Murmu arrives in Fiji on two-day official visit



President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Nadi, the



Republic of Fiji on a two-day official visit, marking the first ever trip by the President of India to Fiji.

- President Murmu will hold bilateral meetings with
   President of Fiji, Williame Katonivere and Prime
   Minister Sitiveni Rabuka.
- The President will address the Fijian Parliament and hold a community reception.

- She will also visit the Gandhi Memorial College in Suva and Sri Siva Subramaniya Swamy temple in Nadi.
- The visit aims to bolster the historic ties India share with the island nation.
- · Capital: Suva
- · Currency: Fijian dollar

# Prez Murmu embarks on state visit to Timor-Leste



- · Capital: Dili
- Currency: United States dollarb East Timor Centavo (USD).
- Conferred the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award
- (President Jos Ramos-Horta)





**HONGI PRACTICE** 

HAKKA DANCE

President Murmu confers with Honorary Doctorate in Political Science during her visit to Algeria

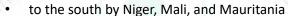


- President Droupadi Murmu, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science by Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers
- President Droupadi Murmu has embarked on a three-nation tour of Africa. Murmu's visit to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi is the first by an Indian head of state.



#### Algeria

- Capital: Algiers
- Currency: Algerian dinar
- Algeria is bounded to the east by Tunisia and Libya



- to the west by Morocco and Western Sahara
- to the north by the Mediterranean Sea

#### Mauritania

- Capital: Nouakchott
- Currency: Ouguiya (MRU)
- Mauritania is bounded to the northwest by Western Sahara
- to the northeast by Algeria,
- · to the east and southeast by Mali,
- To the southwest by Senegal.
- Atlantic Ocean coastline





#### Malawi

- · Capital: Lilongwe
- Currency: Malawian kwacha
- It is bordered by Tanzania to the north
- Lake Malawi to the east,
- Mozambique to the east and south
- · Zambia to the west.



### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari attends swearing-in ceremony of Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian



- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways,
   Nitin Gadkari
- Both sides emphasized the importance of Chabahar Port in strengthening bilateral and regional trade.
- The snap elections in Iran were necessitated by the tragic death of former President Ebrahim Raisi
- Capital: Tehran
- · Currency: Iranian rial
- Supreme leader: Ali Khamenei



### PM Modi to hold talks with Guyana President Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali in Georgetown



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on a State Visit to Guyana from 20-21 November 2024. This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Guyana in 56 years. PM Modi was received by:
- President of Guyana, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali,
- Prime Minister of Guyana Hon'ble Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips
- Prime Ministers of Grenada Dickon Mitchell
- PM of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley.

### Guyana, Barbados to confer their top awards to PM Modi



- Guyana would confer its highest national award, "The Order of Excellence",
- while Barbados will award him the prestigious Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados.

### PM Modi accorded a cermonial Guard of Honour at Bayan Palace in Kuwait



- On the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, PM Modi attended the opening ceremony of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup in Kuwait as his 'Guest of Honour'.
- received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Bayan Palace, Kuwait, in the presence of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.
- Kuwait is hosting the biennial Arabian Gulf Cup with participation from eight countries, including GCC nations, Iraq, and Yemen. This football tournament is one of the most prominent sporting events in the region.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day visit to Kuwait
- This will be the first visit of any Indian Prime
   Minister to Kuwait after 43 years.
- He will also interact with the Indian diaspora at the 'Hala Modi' community event at Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Sports Complex.
- The year 2021-22 marked 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries.



Capital: Kuwait City

- Currency: Kuwaiti dinar
- Kuwait is bounded to the west and north by Iraq, to the east by the Persian Gulf, and to the south by Saudi Arabia.
- India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Kuwait in 1961.

# PM Modi awarded Kuwait's highest honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the 'Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer', the highest honour in Kuwait, by Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah. This is the 20th international honour bestowed on Modi.
- The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer is a Kuwaiti knighthood awarded to Heads of State, foreign sovereigns, and members of foreign royal families as a symbol of friendship.

### **DISEASE AND CALAMITIES**

- 1. Super Typhoon Yagi
- 2. Typhoon Bebinca
- 3. 'Zombie' hurricane John
- 4. Shiveluch volcano
- 5. Mount Etna
- 6. Mount Kanlaon
- 7. DUBAI FLOODS
- 8. Mount Ruang
- 9. Mount Fuji
- 10. Mpox (monkeypox)
- 11. first Leprosy free- nation

#### Super Typhoon Yagi

- Asia's most powerful storm this year made landfall in northern Vietnam
  after tearing through the Philippines and China's island of Hainan
- Yagi is named after the Japanese word for goat and the constellation of Capricornus.
- Last week, Typhoon Shanshan slammed into south-western Japan, the strongest storm to hit the country in decades.
- Climate change is making typhoons stronger and more frequent. This is because warmer ocean waters and atmospheres lead to more energy and moisture, which can cause higher wind speeds and more intense rainfall.



India launches Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance to Typhoon Yagi affected countries

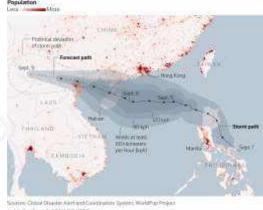




Typhoon Yagi hits southern China

Assa's strongest sturn this year, Subse Typhton Yagi, made Landial) stony the cover.

China's Haman provide on Fiddle.



- Typhoon Yagi a deadly and destructive tropical cyclone hit South-east asia.
- Under" Operation Sadbhav", India has extended assistance to the Government of Vietnam to provide relief to the affected communities in northern Vietnam impacted by the natural disaster.
- "Operation Sadbhav" is part of India's broader effort to contribute to HADR within the ASEAN region, in line with its long-standing 'Act East Policy'.

Typhoon Bebinca, the strongest storm to hit Shanghai since 1949



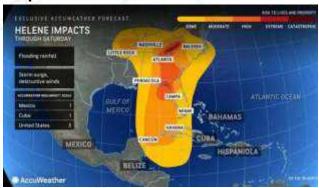
- Typhoon Bebinca landed in the city of Shanghai and across China's densely populated east coast
- the strongest storm to hit Shanghai since Typhoon Gloria in 1949

#### **Storm Boris causes Europe floods**



- Storm Boris, a slow-moving low-pressure system, is bringing extreme torrential rain across central and eastern Europe
- Storm Boris has dumped a month's worth of rain and strong winds in only one day on large portions of Poland, Romania, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.
- Two reasons why the storm has been so destructive are:
  - moisture pulled up from the Black Sea's exceptionally warm seas and the Mediterranean combined with chilly air from the north.
  - There is a low-pressure area that is caught between high pressure to the east and west in a blocked weather pattern.

#### **Tropical Storm Helene**



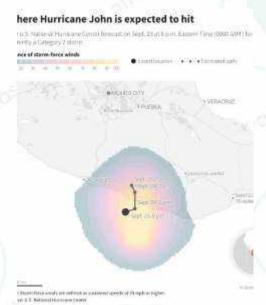
- Tropical Cyclone Helene rapidly intensifying in the Caribbean Sea
- moving north along Mexico's coast toward the U.S.
- is anticipated to strengthen into a major hurricane
   Category 3 or higher
- A hurricane is a powerful and destructive tropical storm characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and low atmospheric pressure.
- Hurricanes are also known as cyclones or typhoons in different parts of the world; the term used depends on the region.
- In the Atlantic Ocean and eastern North Pacific, they are called hurricanes,
- while in the northwestern Pacific, they are referred to as typhoons, and
- in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, they are known as cyclones.

#### Shanghai hit by typhoon Pulasan



- Shanghai was battered by Typhoon Pulasan, just days after Bebinca
- Pulasan is the 14th typhoon this year.
- It made its second landfall in Shanghai, after making its first landfall in Zhejiang Province earlier

#### 'Zombie' hurricane John



- Hurricane John strengthened once again ,it hurled rain at Mexico's southwestern coast.
- referred to John as a "zombie" storm a term that refers to systems that dissipate before strengthening back into a storm
- "zombie" storm first coined by the U.S. National Weather Service in 2020

# Typhoon Krathon lashed northernmost islands of Philippines



- could strengthen into a super typhoon when it changes direction towards Taiwan.
- About 20 storms and typhoons batter the Philippines each year.
- The archipelago also lies in the "Pacific Ring of Fire," a region along most of the Pacific Ocean rim where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.



### Recently, Japan issued its first-ever 'megaquake advisory' on the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone

- **Event:** A 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck southern Japan on Thursday, August 8, prompting the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue its first-ever "megaquake advisory."
- The advisory highlighted an increased likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis, particularly along the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone along Japan's southwest Pacific coast.
- However, this does not mean that a major earthquake would definitely happen during a specific period.

#### What is the Nankai Trough?

 The Nankai Trough is an underwater subduction zone (nearly 900 km long) where the Eurasian Plate collides with the Philippine Sea Plate, pushing the

- latter under the former and into the Earth's mantle.
- This accumulates tectonic stress which can cause a megaquake — an earthquake with a magnitude larger than 8.
- These tremors usually come in pairs, with the second often rupturing in the subsequent two years — the most recent "twin" earthquakes took place in 1944 and 1946.



# Japan on High Alert as Typhoon Shanshan Approaches

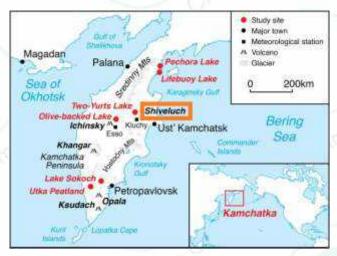
- The typhoon is expected to approach Japan's central and eastern regions, which includes the capital Tokyo, around the weekend
- · Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen
- A typhoon is a tropical cyclone that forms in the Northwest Pacific Ocean, usually over East Asia.



#### Shiveluch volcano in Russia erupts



- Shiveluch volcano in Russia erupted after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck off the eastern coast of the country.
- Shiveluch, also called Sheveluch, which originates from the name "suelich" which means "smoking mountain" in Itelmen is the northernmost active volcano in Kamchatka Krai, Russia.



# Iceland volcano erupts, spewing lava fountains from Reykjanes peninsula

- A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted, its sixth outbreak since December.
- the volcano came to life after being dormant for 800 years.

#### Reykjanes peninsula

- Iceland is located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, technically the longest mountain range in the world, but on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Iceland is home to 33 active volcanoes, the highest in Europe. This unique landscape has given Iceland the epithet, 'Land of Fire and Ice'.

#### eland volcano Fagradalsfjall

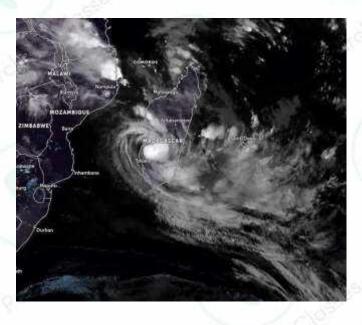




#### Tropical Cyclone 'Alvaro' hits Madagascar

First Cyclone Of 2024





## **Tropical Cyclone Storm Megan hits Australia**

- Cyclone storm 'Megan', brought heavy rain and winds to Australia's Northern Territory.
- Tropical Cyclone lashed island communities for days before it made landfall near the remote town of Borroloola on the southwestern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- McArthur River to peak at 18 metres, three metres higher than previous 2001 record





#### **Mount Etna**



Recently, Italy's Mount Etna and the smaller
 Stromboli volcano spewed hot ash and lava, raising alert levels

#### **Mount Etna:**

- It is Europe's most active volcano and one of the largest in the world.
- Its recorded volcanic activity dates back to 1500 B.C.
- Location: It is on the eastern coast of Sicily.
- It is the highest Mediterranean island mountain and the most active stratovolcano in the world.
- It is about 3,326 metres high and is the highest peak in Italy South of the Alps





#### **Hurricane Beryl**

- Hurricane Beryl grew to an "extremely dangerous"
   Category 4 hurricane set to cause massive damage across the Caribbean's Windward Islands, which form part of the West Indies and comprise
   Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago.
- A hurricane is a powerful and destructive tropical storm characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and low atmospheric pressure.
- Hurricanes are also known as cyclones or typhoons in different parts of the world
- In the Atlantic Ocean and eastern North Pacific, they are called hurricanes, while in the northwestern Pacific, they are referred to as typhoons, and in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, they are known as cyclones.



# Taiwan prepares for Typhoon Gaemi amid military drills

- Taiwan Cancels Air Drills: Air force exercises off the east coast of Taiwan were canceled on Tuesday due to Typhoon Gamei, although naval and army exercises will continue in other parts of the selfruled democratic island.
- Changes in air exercises- Military spokesman said the annual Han Kuang military drills would continue with adjustments to ensure the safety of personnel and equipment, although some maritime and air drills would be changed due to the weather.



# New volcanic eruption near Iceland's town of Grindavik





- Near Grindavik on Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula, a volcano erupted, marking the fifth eruption since December.
- The eruption was preceded by significant seismic activity, with about 400 earthquakes recorded in the previous week, and substantial magma accumulation detected under the Svartsengi area.

# Mount Kanlaon volcano erupted in the central Philippines recently



 Hundreds of people sheltered in evacuation centres after Mount Kanlaon volcano erupted in the central Philippines recently.

#### **About Mount Kanlaon:**

- It is a stratovolcano located in the north-central portion of the island of Negros, Philippines.
- It is the highest mountain on the island of Negros and the 42nd tallest peak on an island in the world.
- It is one of the active volcanoes in the Philippines and part of thePacific Ring of Fire.
- Kanlaon has erupted several times since 1886
   and typically comprise phreatic explosions of
   small to moderate size that produce minor ashfalls
   near the volcano.
- A phreatic eruption is made up of steam-driven explosions that occur when water beneath the ground or on the surface is heated by volcanic activity.
- Phreatic eruptions can often precede, accompany, or follow a more traditional volcanic eruption.
- Groundwater can often be found near volcanic vents, and as the magma rises to the surface of the earth, it heats the groundwater and causes these phreatic eruptions.

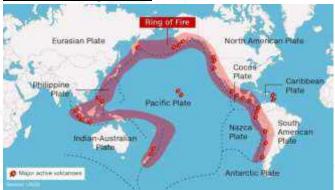
## Massive earthquake of 7.2 magnitude hits Taiwan



- Taiwan is prone to earthquakes as it lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire" — where 90% of the world's earthquakes take place.
- The island and its surrounding waters have registered about 2,000 earthquakes with a

magnitude of 4.0 or greater since **1980**, and more than 100 earthquakes with a magnitude above 5.5

#### What is the Ring of Fire?



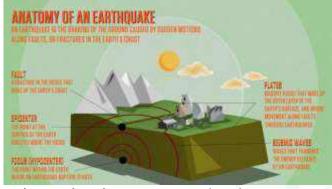
- The Ring of Fire, also referred to as the Circum-Pacific Belt, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- It is a semicircle or horse-shoe in shape and stretches nearly 40,250 kilometres.
- It is largely a result of Plate
   Tectonics where massive Pacific Plate interacts
   with less-dense plates surrounding it.
- Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, United States, Canada, Russia, Japan, Philippines, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, New Zealand, and Antarctica are some of the important places located in the ring of the fire.

#### **Earthquake**

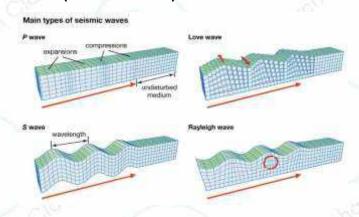
- An earthquake is an intense shaking of the ground caused by movement under the earth's surface.
  - The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the **hypocentre**.
  - The location directly above the hypocentre on the surface of the earth is called the epicentre.
- It happens when two blocks (tectonic plates) of the earth suddenly slip past one another releasing stored-up 'elastic strain' energy in the form of seismic waves.
- These spread through the earth and cause the shaking of the ground.

They are measured on scales called the -

- Moment Magnitude Scale (MMS), measures the movement of rock along the fault. It accurately measures larger earthquakes
- Richter scale (magnitude scale) energy released - 0-10.
- Mercalli scale (The intensity scale) visible damage 1-12.



- ➤ Earthquake waves: An earthquake generates seismic waves that penetrate the Earth as body waves (P & S) or travel as surface waves (Love and Rayleigh)
- P-waves move faster and are the first to arrive at the surface. These are also called 'primary waves', similar to sound waves, travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials.
- S-waves arrive at the surface with some time lag.
   These are called secondary waves, can travel only through solid materials.
- The body waves interact with the surface rocks and generate a new set of waves called surface waves. (more destructive)



#### **DUBAI FLOODS**



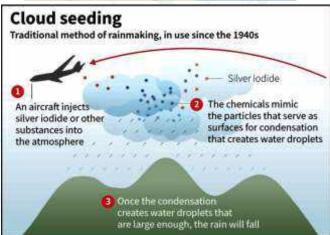
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) recorded the heaviest rain ever after a severe thunderstorm hit the country.
- The rain was "a historic weather event" that surpassed "anything documented since the start of data collection in 1949" – that was before the UAE was established in 1971.

 The thunderstorms in one day had dumped more than 142 millimetres (mm) of rain onto the desert city of Dubai.

#### What led to the heavy rains in Dubai?

- The primary reason for these heavy rains was a storm system, which was passing through the Arabian peninsula and moving across the Gulf of Oman.
- Rains could have been worsened by cloud seeding, a process of spraying salt mixtures in clouds that would result in condensation of the cloud and eventually cause rainfall.
- Some experts have suggested that the soaring global temperatures could also be behind the event.





- While the average global temperature on the Earth has increased by at least 1.1 degree Celsius since 1850, the UAE has witnessed an increase of almost 1.5 degree Celsius in the past 60 years.
- Studies have found that for every 1 degree Celsius rise in average temperature, the atmosphere can hold about 7% more moisture.
- This makes storms more dangerous as it leads to an increase in precipitation intensity, duration and/or frequency, which ultimately can cause severe flooding.

# Thousands displaced by 'Mount Ruang' eruption in Indonesia





 Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire".

#### Hidden hydrothermal system beneath Lake Rotorua



- Lake Rotorua New Zealand
- Lake Rotorua, renowned for its geothermal marvels such as bubbling mud pools, shooting geysers, and natural hot springs
- But despite the intense geothermal activity, its temperature at the bottom remains cooler. averaging around 14 degrees Celsius.

### Volcano Eruption In Reykjanes Peninsula In Iceland; State Of Emergency Declared In Southern Iceland



# Hurricane Oscar makes landfall in Eastern Cuba



- · Capital: Havana
- Currency: Cuban peso (CUP)
- Atlantic Ocean (north and east), the Gulf of Mexico (west), and the Caribbean Sea (south).
- Haiti, the nearest neighbouring country,



#### **Hurricane Milton on the heels of Helene**

| Cyclones      | Location                            |  |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Туре          | a office.                           |  |
| Typhoon       | China Sea and Pacific Ocean         |  |
| Hurricane     | West Indian islands, Caribbean Sea, |  |
|               | Atlantic Ocean                      |  |
| Tornado       | Guinea lands of West Africa,        |  |
| -             | southern USA                        |  |
| Willy-willies | North-western Australia             |  |
| Tropical      | Indian Ocean Region                 |  |
| Cyclone       | 100                                 |  |

| A GC               | - N. 20 MX                        |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cyclone            | Region affected                   |
| Super Typhoon Yagi | northern Vietnam , through the    |
|                    | Philippines and China's island of |
|                    | Hainan                            |
| Typhoon Bebinca    | Shanghai and across China's east  |
|                    | coast                             |
| Typhoon Pulasan    | Shanghai, China                   |
| Tropical Storm     | Caribbean Sea, Mexico's coast     |
| Helene             | toward the U.S.                   |
| Zombie' hurricane  | Mexico's southwestern coast       |
| John               |                                   |
| Typhoon Krathon    | northernmost islands of           |
|                    | Philippines & Taiwan              |
| Storm Boris        | central and eastern Europe        |
| -1 .1              | 10                                |

- Florida prepared for its largest evacuation since 2017
- as Hurricane Milton intensified in the Gulf of Mexico on its path toward the U.S. State's western coast



#### Typhoon Kong-rey hits Taiwan's east coast

- Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall on Taiwan's east coast, the largest storm by size to hit the island in nearly 30 years.
- biggest to hit the island since 1996.

# Mount Fuji Records Latest Snowless Date in History





- Japan's iconic Mount Fuji remains snowless, setting a new record for the longest delay in snowfall since record-keeping began in 1894.
- The peaks of Japan's highest mountain, which usually see snow by early October, have yet to receive any snowfall due to unusually warm weather this year.
- Mount Fuji, a towering 3,776-metre active volcano, stands 100 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.
- Revered as one of Japan's Three Holy Mountains.

The Negro
River, a main
tributary of the
Amazon,
recently
dropped to its
lowest level in
122 years.



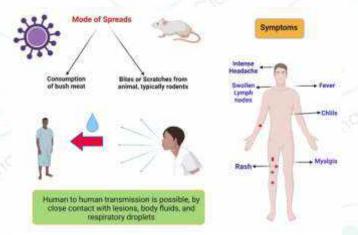


- The Rio Negro is one of the largest tributaries of the Amazon River.
- It is also one of the world's largest rivers in terms of discharge.
- Origin: It originates in several headstreams, which rise in the rain forest of eastern Colombia.
- joins the Solimões River to form the Amazon.
- passes through Colombia, Venezuela, and Brazil.
- Negro, which means black in Portuguese because of the water's dark coloration.
- The river's dark color comes from humic acid, which is produced when vegetation containing phenol doesn't break down completely.
- The Rio Negro is the largest blackwater river in the world, and despite the coloration, the water contains little sediment and ranks as one of the cleanest rivers on Earth.

Sweden confirms first case of mpox outside Africa after WHO declares it a global public health emergency



- The patient is believed to have contracted the virus during a visit to a region in Africa currently experiencing a major outbreak of mpox clade I
- the WHO declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years



#### About Mpox (monkeypox):

- It is a viral zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus.
- The first human case of mpox was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- There are two known types (clades) of mpox virus — one that originated in Central Africa (Clade I) and one that originated in West Africa (Clade II).
- Monkeypox virus Genus: Orthopoxvirus
- Family: Poxviridae
- Symptoms: causes flu-like symptoms, skin rash, which can last 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes. It can be fatal, with 4 in 100 cases leading to death
- Transmission: through close contact, such as sex, skin-to-skin contact and talking or breathing close to another person.
- Treatment: There are no specific treatments for monkeypox virus infection.

# Sudan declares Cholera outbreak, WHO Reports 316 Deaths



- Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by eating or drinking food or water that is contaminated with the bacterium Vibrio cholerae.
- Cholera causes severe diarrhea and dehydration.
- The disease is most common in places with poor sanitation, crowding, war, and famine. Cholera outbreaks are more common in warm climates.
- Can lead to death if left untreated.
- Treatment:
  - Currently, there are three WHO pre-qualified oral cholera vaccines (OCV), Dukoral, Shanchol, and Euvichol-Plus.
  - > Treatment for cholera can include:
    - Rehydration therapy
    - Antibiotics
    - Zinc supplementation for children
- Capital: Khartoum
- Currency: Sudanese pound (SDG)



# Children at risk as new mpox variant hits Congo

- mpox, which was first identified over 50 years ago
- Mpox, a viral infection that can spread through close contact, is usually mild but can lead to death

in some cases. It causes flu-like symptoms and **pus-filled lesions on the body.** 



- The current mpox outbreak in Congo has already seen around 27,000 cases and claimed more than 1,100 lives, most of them children, since the beginning of 2023.
- It began with the spread of an endemic strain, known as Clade I.
- But the new variant, known as Clade Ib, appears to spread more easily through routine close contact, as seems to be the case among children.
- Another mpox variant, Clade IIb, prompted an international health emergency when it spread globally in 2022.
- In Congo, there are no vaccines or specific treatments for mpox available outside of clinical trials.

### What is the Oropouche Virus?

- Brazil has recorded the world's first-ever deaths from
   Oropouche virus, an unknown disease spread by the bites of infected midges and mosquitoes.
- The symptoms
   exhibited were similar
   to those of dengue
- The virus was first

  discovered in Trinidad and Tobago in 1955 which is
  transmitted through the bites of midges, although
  it could be also spread through mosquitoes.
- This disease is not contagious
- Pregnant women could have transmitted the virus to their unborn children.
- Meningitis is a life-threatening complication that could occur in severe cases.
- There are no specific treatments or vaccines for the virus.



### How far has the virus spread?

- The cases have been so far reported in parts of South America, Central America and the Caribbean.
- According to the Brazilian health ministry, Brazil has recorded 7,236 cases in 2024.

# Cameroon starts world's first malaria vaccine program for children



- Cameroon will be the first country to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots are rolled out in Africa.
- Africa accounts for 95% of the world's malaria deaths.
- Cameroon will use the first of two recently approved malaria vaccines, known as Mosquirix.

### 1- Mosquirix Vaccine

 only about 30% effective, requires four doses and protection begins to fade after several months.



21/MATRIX-M

### 2- R21/Matrix vaccine

- vaccine is cheaper, requires three doses
- Trials have shown that the R21/Matrix vaccine, developed by Oxford University together with the Serum Institute of India, reduces malaria by up to 75%.

# WHO certifies Cabo Verde malaria-free; third African country to do so



- Cabo Verde (also known as Cape Verde)
- The country has now joined Mauritius and Algeria, who were certified in 1973 and 2019, respectively.



- Cabo Verde Capital City Praia
- Currency Cape Verde Escudo (CVE)
- President- José Maria Pereira Neves

### Jordon becomes first Leprosy free- nation



- WHO declared Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy.
- Jordan has not reported any autochthonous cases of leprosy for over two decades.
- WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is
  a chronic infectious disease caused by a type
  of bacteria, Mycobacterium leprae.
- The disease predominantly affects the skin and peripheral nerves.
- It is more common in tropical and subtropical
- It is a neglected tropical disease (NTD)
- It is transmitted via droplets, from the nose and mouth, during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.
- Treatment: It is curable with multidrug therapy (MDT) and treatment during early stages can prevent disability.

### Egypt declared malaria free by WHO



 Globally, 44 countries and one territory have now been certified as malaria-free.

### Malaria

- Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by Plasmodium parasites, which are spread to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- It is a life-threatening disease primarily found in tropical countries.
- It is preventable and curable.
- Five species of parasites can cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat.
- The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India has been recommended for use by the WHO.

### WHO declares India Trachoma-free

- WHO has announced that India has eliminated
   Trachoma as a public health problem.
- India is the third country in the South-East Asia Region to achieve this milestone, after Nepal and Myanmar
- Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, presented the certification
- Trachoma is a bacterial infection that affects the eyes - caused by the bacterium Chlamydia Trachomatis.
- Trachoma is contagious, spreading through contact with the eyes, eyelids, nose or throat secretions of infected people, if left untreated it causes irreversible blindness.
- The Government of India launched the National Trachoma Control Program in 1963 and later on Trachoma control efforts were integrated into India's National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB).



# Serum Institute of India joins global network to boost production of affordable outbreak vaccines

- Serum Institute of India (SII) will join a growing CEPI network of vaccine producers in the Global South to support more rapid, agile, and equitable responses to future disease outbreaks.
- CEPI Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness
   Innovations is an innovative global partnership working to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats.

### Japan On High Alert as STSS Infections Surge



- Recent data from Japan's National Institute of Infectious Diseases indicates a troubling surge in STSS cases, with nearly 1,000 reported infections this year
- a flesh-eating bacterial infection known as
   Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS). This virulent infection can prove fatal within 48 hours
- Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) stems from Group A Streptococcus (GAS) bacteria, which release toxins triggering an intense inflammatory response in the body.
- This leads to rapid tissue decay, severe pain, and shock. The infection can swiftly spread through the bloodstream, causing multi-organ failure in a short span.

### Zimbabwe's President Mnangagwa declares national disaster over drought



- Due to the El Nino-induced drought more than 80% of country received below normal rainfall
- The country needs \$2bn to tackle hunger caused by low rainfall which has wiped out about half of the maize crop.
- The grain shortage has pushed up food prices and an estimated 2.7 million people will face hunger.
- Neighbouring Zambia and Malawi have also recently declared states of disasters due to drought.
- The lack of rain induced by the El Nino global weather pattern has also affected electricity production, as Zimbabwe relies on hydroelectric power.
- Currency: Zimbabwean dollar
- Capital: Harare
- El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

### Bomb cyclone strikes northwest US



A powerful storm, one of the strongest in decades, hit the northwest United States and West Canada The storm, referred to as a "bomb cyclone" due to its rapid intensification

### Typhoon Kong-rey hits Taiwan's east coast

### Typhoon Kong-rev

Typhoon Kong-rey is expected to make landfall on Thursday along Taiwan's sparsely populated east st, bringing heavy rain and strong winds across





Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall on Taiwan's east coast, the largest storm by size to hit the island in nearly 30 years (since 1966)

### **Hurricane Rafael Strikes Cuba as a Category 3 Storm**





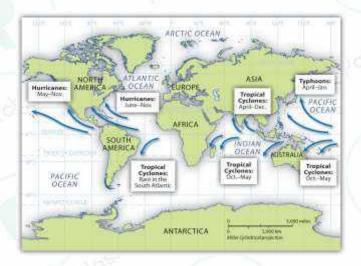
Less than a month after Hurricane Milton (Category 5) churned over the island of Cuba, the

- country has been struck by yet another powerful storm: Hurricane Rafael.
- Category 3 storm, which qualifies it as a major hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale.
- hurricane had crossed back into the Gulf of Mexico as a Category 2 storm

# **Super Typhoon Usagi approaches Philippines**



- Usagi is set to smash onto the main island of Luzon
- The fifth storm to threaten the country in just three weeks.
- September Krathon (Julian)
- 22 October Trami (known locally as Kristine)
- 25 October, Typhoon Kong-rey (locally Leon)
- On 7 November, Typhoon Yinxing, local name Marce
- On 11 November, Typhoon Toraji (locally Nika)
- Typhoon Usagi (locally Ofel)
- TC Man-yi (locally Pepito) is expected



# Tropical Storm 'Sara' Hits Honduras, Threatens Floods in Central America and Mexico



Tropical Storm Sara made landfall in northern
 Honduras, bringing heavy rain and the risk of life threatening flooding to Central America and
 southern Mexico.

# Storm Darragh affected three million people in parts of Wales and south-west England



# Cyclone Chido rips through French territory of Mayotte and heads for Africa's east coast



- The French territory of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean has suffered extensive damage from Cyclone Chido
- The Chido slamed into northern Mozambique

# Mount Fuji Records Latest Snowless Date in History



- Japan's iconic Mount Fuji remains snowless, setting a new record for the longest delay in snowfall since record-keeping began in 1894.
- The peaks of Japan's highest mountain, which usually see snow by early October, have yet to receive any snowfall due to unusually warm weather this year.
- Mount Fuji, a towering 3,776-metre active volcano, stands 100 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

# Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki Erupts, Ash Column Reaches 6,500 Meters



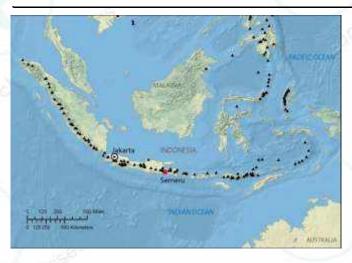
| Indonesia's    | Over 400 volcanoes, 129          |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Volcanoes      | active, 65 classified as         |
|                | dangerous                        |
| Seismic Region | Indonesia is part of the Pacific |
|                | Ring of Fire                     |





### **Mount Semeru Eruption in East Java**





| Category         | Key Points                              |
|------------------|---|
| Why in           | Mount Semeru erupted in East Java,      |
| News             | Indonesia, prompting an aviation        |
|                  | warning. A thick column of ash rose     |
|                  | 1,000 meters into the sky.              |
| Mount            | Located in East Java, Semeru is 3,676   |
| Semeru           | meters tall, one of Indonesia's 127     |
|                  | active volcanoes.                       |
| Past             | Semeru has been in a near-constant      |
| <b>Eruptions</b> | eruption since 1967. Recent eruptions   |
|                  | occurred in 2021, 2022, and 2024.       |
| Geological       | Mount Semeru is in a subduction zone    |
| Location         | between the Indo-Australian plate and   |
|                  | the Eurasian plate.                     |
| Legends          | Named after Sumeru, the central         |
|                  | mountain in Hinduism, it is believed to |
|                  | be the abode of Shiva in Java.          |

### **NEW DISCOVERIES**

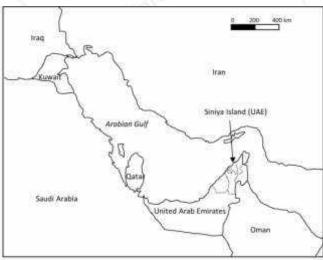
- 1. World's oldest calendar discovered in Turkey
- 2. Ancient Branch of Nile River Uncovered
- 3. Giant Salmon Carp in Mekong River
- 4. Hong Kong discovers dinosaur fossils
- 5. Oldest Eyeliner Discovered in Turkey's Ancient Prehistoric City

### Archaeologists at Göbekli Tepe, an ancient site in Turkey, have possibly discovered the world's oldest calendar, dating back nearly 13,000 years.

- Göbekli Tepe, often referred to as the world's first temple, features a series of large stone pillars with ornate carvings.
- The carvings on the pillars include a series of V-shaped symbols, each representing a single day.
- By counting these symbols, researchers identified a calendar of 365 days, divided into 12 lunar months with an additional 11 days.
- on the pillar, one stands out: a depiction of a "bird-like beast" with a V-shaped marking around its neck.

# Ancient Pearl City Tu'am Discovered in UAE





A long-lost ancient city famed for its pearl industry may have been identified by archaeologists on Siniyah Island, off the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

### World's oldest calendar discovered in Turkey



 believed to be part of the historical city of Tu'am documented in historical sources, its precise location was never precisely known

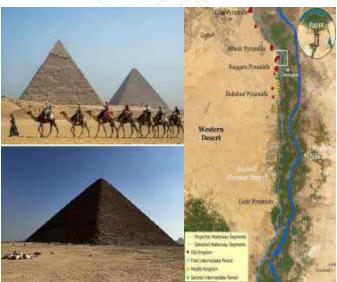
### History of Tu'am

- Tu'am is believed to date back to at least the 4<sup>th</sup> century, reaching its peak in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.
- The city is frequently referenced in ancient texts for its pearls, to have been the capital of a coastal territory famous for its pearl fishing industry.
- The city's decline is attributed to regional conflicts and a bubonic plague epidemic that swept through the Near East, the Mediterranean, and parts of Europe in the sixth century.
- In recent years, archaeologists also uncovered a pearling village and a Christian monastery in the same area on the island.
- Tu'am was believed to be a Christian settlement for around 200 years before the spread of Islam in the region.

# Ancient Branch of Nile River Uncovered Near Egyptian Pyramids

- For many years, archaeologists have thought that ancient Egyptians must have used a nearby waterway to transport materials such as the stone blocks needed to build the pyramids on the river.
- A research team from the University of North Carolina Wilmington has discovered that the pyramids are likely to have been built along a

- **long-lost, ancient branch of the River Nile** which is **now hidden under desert** and farmland.
- The river branch named the Ahramat branch, with "ahramat" meaning pyramids in Arabic - was roughly 64km (39 miles) long and between 200-700m (656-2,296 ft) wide.



- The Ahramat branch flowed near a staggering 31 pyramids, including the iconic Giza pyramid complex. This close proximity indicates that the river served as a vital transportation route.
- The River Nile was the lifeline of Ancient Egypt and remains so to this day.
- The longest river in the world and is called the father of African rivers.



### Archaeologists uncover 7000-year-old Prehistoric Settlement in Serbia



- Archaeologists have recently discovered a 7000year-old pre-historic settlement near the Tamiš River in northeastern Serbia.
- The settlement is believed to date back to the late
   Neolithic period and spans roughly 11-13 hectares



- Serbia, a landlocked country in Southeast Europe.
- · The capital city is Belgrade.
- · currency is the Serbian dinar

### Argentine Scientists Unveil Discovery of Speedy 90-Million-Year-Old Herbivore Dinosaur



- Argentina announced the discovery of a new medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur, which was a fast runner and lived about 90 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous period in present day Patagonia.
- The animal, named Chakisaurus nekul, was found in the Pueblo Blanco Natural Reserve, in the southern province of Río Negro, an area rich in fossils where many mammals, turtles, and fish have been found along with other species of dinosaur,
- 2.5 or 3 meters long and was 70 centimeters high (8 to 10 feet long and 27 inches high).

# Sei Whales Return to Argentina After Century



- Giant blue-grey sei whales that vanished from Argentina's Patagonian coast a century ago due to hunting are starting to flourish once again, demonstrating how species can recover when measures to protect them are put in place.
- During the 1920s and 1930s, sei whales faced intense hunting pressure, primarily from whaling operations in and around Argentine waters.
- Sei whales, scientific name "Balaenoptera borealis," are the third largest rorqual after blue and fin whales.



# Rediscovery of Giant Salmon Carp in Mekong River



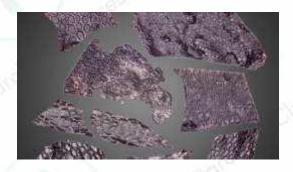
- A huge fish in the Mekong River thought to be extinct has been spotted three times
- The giant salmon carp is like a symbol of the Mekong region
- The predatory fish can grow up to 4 feet in length



### **About Mekong River**

- longest river in Southeast Asia (4,350 km)
- rises in southeastern Qinghai province, China.
- originates from the Sanjianyuang in the Tibetan Plateau
- flows through 6 Asian countries: China, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia,
- drains into the South China Sea south of Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam).
- Vientiane, the capital of Laos, and Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, both stand on its banks.

# Researchers Discover Oldest Known Skin Fossil



- Nearly 300-million-year-old fossilized reptile skin found in Oklahoma cave resembles that of modern crocodiles
- Researchers extracted the fossil from an ancient cave system in Oklahoma.

# Fossils suggest even smaller 'hobbits' roamed an Indonesian island 700,000 years ago



- Twenty years ago on an Indonesian island, scientists discovered fossils of an early human species that stood at about 3 1/2 feet (1.07 meters) tall — earning them the nickname "hobbits."
- Now a new study suggests ancestors of the hobbits were even slightly shorter.
- The original hobbit fossils named by the discoverers after characters in "The Lord of the Rings" — date back to between 60,000 and 100,000 years ago.
- The new fossils were excavated at a site called Mata Menge, about 45 miles from the cave where the first hobbit remains were uncovered.
- In 2016, researchers suspected the earlier relatives could be shorter than the hobbits after studying a jawbone and teeth collected from the new site.
- Further analysis of a tiny arm bone fragment and teeth suggests the ancestors were a mere 2.4 inches (6 centimeters) shorter and existed 700,000 years ago.

# Archaeologists in Egypt unearth section of large Ramses II statue



- A joint Egyptian-U.S. archaeological mission has uncovered the upper part of a huge statue of King Ramses II during excavations south of the Egyptian city of Minya.
- The limestone block is about 3.8 metres (12.5 feet)
   high and depicts a seated Ramses wearing a double crown
- Also known as Ramses the Great, the king was one of ancient Egypt's most powerful pharaohs.
- He was the third pharaoh of the Nineteenth
   Dynasty of Egypt and ruled from 1,279 to 1,213

   BCE.

# Ancient Greek sanctuary slowly sinks into the Aegean Sea



- Delos, one of the most important sanctuaries of the ancient Greek and Roman world, is at danger to be sunk in around 50 years into the Aegean Sea due to climate change
- The island is home to the Sanctuary of Apollo, which includes temples, altars, and other structures dedicated to the god. The sanctuary served as a focal point for religious festivals and ceremonies. Delos is a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- According to Greek mythology, Delos is the birthplace of Apollo. Delos was a thriving commercial and trading hub. Its strategic location made it a key center for trade routes in the Mediterranean.
- Aegean Sea an arm of the Mediterranean Sea, located between the Greek peninsula on the west and Asia Minor on the east.





## Hong Kong discovers dinosaur fossils for the first time



- Hong Kong have discovered dinosaur fossils in the city for the first time, on a remote and uninhabited island
- The fossils were part of a large dinosaur from the Cretaceous period, about 145m to 66m years ago
- The rock was found on Port Island in the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark

# Oldest Eyeliner Discovered in Turkey's Ancient Prehistoric City



- Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest eyeliner from the ruins of a prehistoric city in Turkey which has proved that humans were using makeup more than 8,000 years ago.
- The kohl stick, which is a kind of eyeliner still popular among people, was found in Yeşilova Höyük which is an ancient settlement in western Turkey.

## A vaccine for cancer: What Russian scientists have claimed?



- Russian scientists have developed an mRNA vaccine that has shown the ability to suppress tumour development in pre-clinical trials.
- The vaccine can be "personalised" based on the genetic analysis of each person's tumour in less than an hour using artificial intelligence (AI) to identify mutations called neoantigens.
- The individualised vaccines based on this information will train the body's immune system to recognise and target the cancer cells.
- Russians can get these "cancer shots" for free from early 2025.

### INITIATIVED, PROGRAMMES AND ALLIANCE

- 1. 9<sup>th</sup> AIIB annual meet in Uzbekistan
- 2. Global Anti-Corruption Alliance
- 3. MAITRI maritime initiative in Indo-Pacific
- 4. Falcon Foundation
- Alliance for Global Good- Gender Equity and Equality
- 6. 119th Country to Join International Solar Alliance
- 7. newest member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)
- 8. First Ever Hindi Radio Broadcast Starts In Kuwait
- 9. Global Biofuel Alliance
- 10. UN's First Resolution On Artificial Intelligence
- 11. Pravasi Parichay 2024
- 12. 'Study in India' campaign at UAE Education Show

# Nirmala Sitharaman to attend 9<sup>th</sup> AIIB annual meet in Uzbekistan



- She will attend 9th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
  as the Indian Governor to the AIIB.
- scheduled in Samarkand, and hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar, China, and AIIB President
- on September 25 and 26
- Under the theme "Building Resilient Infrastructure for All"
- India is the second largest shareholder of the bank.
- Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan.
- Will sign a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and Uzbekistan

### Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- AIIB is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.
- Headquarters: Beijing, China.
- began its operations in January 2016.
- India is a Founding Member of AIIB.
- President : Jin Liqun

### India Joins Leadership of Global Anti-Corruption Alliance

- India has been elected to the fifteen-member Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GLobE) Steering Committee during the plenary session held in Beijing
- The Globe Network is an initiative of the G20 group. India had supported the initiative in 2020.
- The GloBE Network now has 121 member countries
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is the central authority for the GLoBE Network from India.
- (GlobE Network) is a platform for anti-corruption law enforcement agencies to:

- Share best practices and criminal intelligence
- Develop strategies
- Support each other in the fight against corruption
- Identify, investigate, and prosecute crossborder corruption offenses
- Recover stolen assets
- Enable transnational cooperation

## India Joins US-Led 'Minerals Security Finance Network'

- India has formally joined the Minerals Security
   Finance Network (MSFN), a US-led initiative
- focused on enhancing cooperation among members to secure supply chains for critical minerals for a clean energy transition.
- critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, graphite, rare earth elements, and copper are essential components in many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies, from wind turbines and solar panels to electric vehicles.

- The MSFN is an extension of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), launched by the US and 10 other nations in 2022.
- India had already joined the MSP in June 2023.

### Members

 Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and European Union.

# Quad launches MAITRI maritime initiative in Indo-Pacific; India to host first training workshop in 2025

- India will host the inaugural symposium of the new regional maritime initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), to train Quad partners "to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behaviour."
- The first MAITRI workshop will be hosted by India in 2025.
- The MAITRI initiative was among the major outcomes of the sixth summit level meeting of the Quad group of countries.

### India, S. Korea, US, Japan, EU launch Biopharmaceutical Alliance



- It is an alliance of India, South Korea, Japan, the United States of America (USA) and the European Union to put joint efforts into building a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- The inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance, held in San Diego, California, during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest biopharmaceutical exhibition.
- The participants emphasised the importance of a reliable and sustainable supply chain and agreed to coordinate the respective countries' biopolicies, regulations and research and development support measures.
- They recognised the production of essential raw materials and ingredients is concentrated in a few

- **countries** and agreed to work together to build a detailed pharmaceutical supply chain map.
- The alliance was launched in response to the drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

# UAE's Technology Innovation Institute Launches 'Falcon Foundation'



- The launch of the Falcon Foundation took place at the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2024.
- In a major boost for open-source artificial intelligence, the United Arab Emirates has launched the 300-million-dollar initiative
- dedicated to advancing open-source generative AI models.

# UNDP and GEF Launch \$135M Blue and Green Islands Integrated Programme



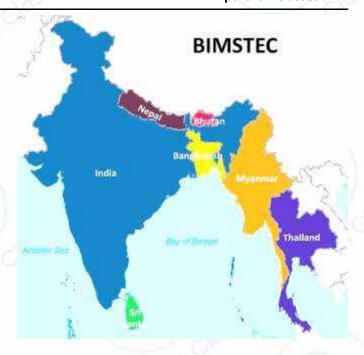
- The United Nations Development Programme
   (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
   have launched the \$135 million Blue and Green
   Islands Integrated Programme (BGI-IP) at the
   Fourth International Conference on Small Island
   Developing States (SIDS4).
- This initiative underscores the critical role of nature and aims to expand nature-based solutions in urban development, food production, and tourism sectors to combat environmental degradation.

- Targeting 15 SIDS, the program seeks to foster nature-positive changes from 2024 to 2034, aligning with the Decade of Action.
- The BGI-IP will support 15 SIDS selected through a competitive "Expressions of Interest" process, representing all SIDS sub-regions: the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS).
- The program will provide resources to expand successful local initiatives addressing sustainable agriculture, fisheries, nature-friendly tourism, pollution reduction, and resilience to extreme weather events.
- Key partners include UNEP, FAO, the World Bank, WWF-US, IUCN, and UNCCD, among others, supporting sustainable economic diversification and job creation.

# Sri Lanka to get blue economy research fellowships from India BIMSTEC initiative



- Government of India has launched BIMReN
   (BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network), a
   joint-initiative of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
   and the Bay of Bengal Programme-Inter
   Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO),
- to facilitate sustainable development of blue economy by networking researchers and research institutions in BIMSTEC countries.
- BIMSTEC It is an economic bloc that came into being on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration.
- BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- 7 Members Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.
- Permanent Secretariat Dhaka, Bangladesh



# Denmark announced the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) at GIM 2024

- At the Global Investors Meet (GIM)
   2024, Denmark unveiled the Green Fuels Alliance
   India (GFAI), marking a significant move under the
   Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) signed between
   India and Denmark in 2020.
- The GFAI aims to accelerate collaboration in the sustainable energy solutions sector, aligning with the joint global objective of carbon neutrality.

### India launches "Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality" at WEF Annual Meeting

- World Economic Forum's annual meeting held at Davos, Switzerland from 15-19 January 2024
- Indian official delegation was led by Smt. Smriti
   Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Women & Child
   Development and Minority Affairs along with Shri
   Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum
   & Natural Gas, Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri
   Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways,
   Communications, Electronics & IT and other senior
   officers of the Government of India.
- India announced the launch of a "Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality" with the support and endorsement by WEF and Government of India.
- The primary objective of this new Alliance is to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the identified areas of women's health, education, and enterprise.

# UK and India Launch New Technology Security Initiative



- The Governments of India and the UK just started the Technology Security Initiative (TSI).
- It will improve their strategic relationship and encourage teams to work together to make progress in important technologies, which will improve national security and the economy.
- Under the TSI, a two-way system will be set up, with the National Security Advisors (NSAs) of both countries in charge. This system will handle trade problems involving important and new technologies, allowing for a full discussion on the most important areas for cooperation.
- The TSI will focus on making it easier for people to work together in several areas, including telecom, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, Quantum Technologies, Biotechnology and HealthTech, Critical Minerals

## Malta Becomes 119th Country to Join International Solar Alliance



- Malta is an island country in the Mediterranean
   Sea, located in Southern Europe.
- The country is made up of an archipelago of islands



# Panama becomes 97<sup>th</sup> member to ratify the International Solar Alliance



- Chile becomes 95<sup>th</sup> member
- Hungary becomes 96<sup>th</sup> member
- International Solar Alliance was launched in 2015
- by India and France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris.
- With the amendment of its Framework Agreement in 2020, all member states of the United Nations are now eligible to join the ISA.

# Spain becomes 99<sup>th</sup> member of International Solar Alliance (ISA)



- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris in 2015.

- Recently, Chile (96<sup>th</sup>), Yemen (97<sup>th</sup>), Panama (98<sup>th</sup>)
   officially ratified the International Solar Alliance
   (ISA).
- 119 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (signatory)

# Nepal Becomes 101<sup>st</sup> Member of International Solar Alliance





- The ISA is a global intergovernmental organization dedicated to advancing solar power adoption for a carbon-neutral future
- It was launched in 2015, by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris.
- Headquarter: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.
- The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy, which aims:
  - To mobilize USD 1000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030
  - To deliver energy access to 1000 million people using clean energy solutions
  - > To install **1000 GW of solar energy** capacity.
  - To mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1000 million tonnes of CO2 every year.

# Algeria is the newest member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)

- Algeria has been approved for membership in the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).
- NDB is aimed at offering an alternative to international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF.
- It has welcomed several country as new members, including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Saudi Arabia.
- NDB, formerly referred to as the BRICS
   Development Bank, is a multilateral development

- **bank** established by the BRICS **countries** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- The Bank formally came into existence as a legal entity in 2015.
- · Headquarters: Shanghai, China
- Membership in NDB is open to any member of the United Nations.

# Israel Joins Asian Development Bank (ADB) as 69th Member Country



- Israel has joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its 69th member and 20th non-regional member
- ADB is a multilateral development bank established on 19th December 1966.
- Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- The ADB's mission is to eradicate extreme poverty in the Asia and the Pacific region
- The ADB provides loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to its members and partners.
- India is a founding member of the ADB

### India becomes affiliate member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum



- India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF),
- The IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the adoption of international medical device regulatory harmonisation and convergence.

 Its members include national regulatory authorities of the U.S., Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore and the World Health Organization (WHO).

# First Ever Hindi Radio Broadcast Starts In Kuwait, Strengthening Ties Between Two Nations



- The Indian community with a strength of around 1 million is the largest expatriate community in
- India has been a natural trading partner of Kuwait, and until 1961, the Indian rupee was the legal tender in Kuwait.
- The year 2021-22 marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

### **Kuwait**



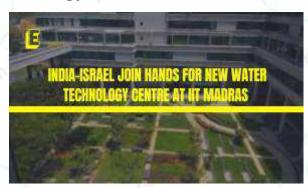
- Oil-rich Kuwait is a tiny country nestling at the top
  of the Gulf. Flanked by powerful neighbours Saudi
  Arabia, Iraq and Iran, its strategic location and
  massive oil reserves make it one of the world's
  richest countries per capita.
- A conservative state with a Sunni Muslim majority and a US ally, Kuwait stands out from the other Gulf monarchies for having the most open political system.

- Leader: Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
- PM Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah

## National Programme for Organic Production

- According to Agricultural & Processed Food
  Products Export Development Authority (APEDA),
  India has the 2nd largest land under organic
  farming and is the largest producer of organic
  products in the world.
- Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under organic certification, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- The total production of organic products in 2022-23 was 3.6 million tonnes.

### India and Israel Launch New Water Technology Centre at IIT-Madras



- This tripartite agreement is signed by the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the AMRUT mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- The Center of Water Technology aims to become a hub for innovation, research, and capacitybuilding in water technologies, particularly focusing on sustainable solutions for urban water supply.
- To kickstart this initiative, a capacity-building course on '24/7 Water Supply in Urban Areas' was organised at IIT-Madras

# Global Biofuel Alliance Attracts Participation from 22 Nations and 12 International Organizations

- Global Biofuel Alliance launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G-20 Summit in New Delhi.
- Biofuel is a fuel derived from biomass, which is a plant or algae material, or animal waste



### **About Global Biofuel Alliance**

- India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations and Industry to facilitate adoption of biofuels.
- Bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels, the initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.
- India is now the world's 3rd largest energy consumer, 3rd largest consumer of oil, 3rd largest LPG consumer, 4th largest LNG importer, 4th largest refiner and 4th largest automobile market in the world.

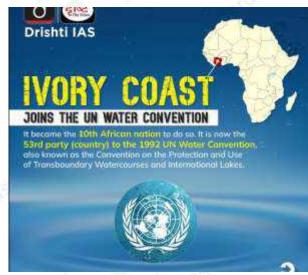
# Philippines chosen to host climate 'loss and damage' fund board



- The Philippines has been chosen to host the board of the "Loss and Damage" fund created by U.N. talks, marking another step towards providing financial help for countries to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming.
- COP27 in Egypt in 2022, establish a U.N. "loss and damage" fund dedicated to addressing irreparable climate-driven damage from drought, floods and rising sea levels, but did not decide on detail.
- Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr

## Ivory Coast Joins UN Water Convention as 10th African Nation

 Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) has recently become the 53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention, officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.



- adopted in Helsinki in 1992 and entered into force in 1996
- 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention to be held in October 2024 in Ljubljana, Slovenia
- It is a unique legally binding instrument promoting the sustainable management of shared water resources, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the prevention of conflicts, and the promotion of peace and regional integration.
- The Water Convention requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management.
- since March 2016 all UN Member States can accede to it.

# **UN General Assembly Approves First Resolution On Artificial Intelligence**

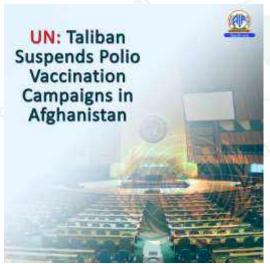


- The resolution gives global support to an international effort to ensure that Artificial Intelligence benefits all nations, respects human rights and is safe, secure and trustworthy.
- The resolution aims to close the digital divide between developed rich countries and poorer

developing countries and make sure they are all at the table in discussions on AI.

The United States spearheaded this first United
 Nations resolution on artificial intelligence

# Taliban Suspends Polio Vaccination Campaigns in Afghanistan.



- Afghanistan and Pakistan remain the only two countries in the world where the spread of the paralysing and potentially fatal disease has not been eradicated.
- India was declared polio-free by the World Health
  Organization (WHO) in 2014, with the last wild
  poliovirus case reported in 2011.
  - Polio is a viral infectious disease that can cause irreversible paralysis and even death by affecting the nervous system.
  - > spreads through the fecal-oral route and can multiply in the intestine
  - It predominantly affects children under five.
- Wild Poliovirus strains: There are three distinct strains of wild poliovirus:
  - Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1)
  - Wild Poliovirus Type 2 (WPV2)
  - ➤ Wild Poliovirus Type 3 (WPV3)

### Pravasi Parichay 2024 Launched in Riyadh



 The 2024 edition of the Embassy's flagship diaspora engagement event, Pravasi Parichay, was inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan at the Embassy Auditorium in Riyadh.

- Titled "Classical Languages of India
- Presented a unique play that featured all 11 classical languages of India: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Odia, Pali, Prakrit, and Sanskrit.

UAE Launches Nationwide Campaign "The UAE Stands with Lebanon" to Support Lebanese People



- The campaign, titled "The UAE Stands with Lebanon," will run from October 8 to 21, 2024.
- It aims to mobilize the entire UAE community, including individuals, institutions, and both public and private sector organizations, in a collective effort to provide aid to Lebanon.

# India launches 'Study in India' campaign at UAE Education Show



- India has officially launched its 'Study in India' campaign at the 20th International Education Show in Sharjah
- Organized by EdCIL, a Miniratna company under the Ministry of Education,
- The 'Study in India' programme showcases over
   590 Indian universities and institutions, offering a variety of courses and exclusive benefits

# Armenia becomes 104<sup>th</sup> full member of International Solar Alliance



- Earlier on June 26 this year, Republic of Paraguay officially became its 100th full member.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an intergovernmental organization that was launched in 2015, by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris.
- Vision: Let us together make the sun brighter.
- Mission: Every home, no matter how far away, will have a light at home.
- Headquarter: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.

### Moldova Joins International Solar Alliance



- Moldova has officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Moldova's inclusion comes after Armenia became the 104th full member last month.
- The ISA is an inter-governmental treaty-based organization founded during COP21 in Paris in

## 2015 by Indian PM Narendra Modi and French President François Hollande.

 ISA aims at mobilising more than USD 1000 billion of investment needed by 203o

### Global Hunger and Poverty Alliance Launched By Brazil's President Lula



- Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has opened the <u>Group of 20 Summit</u> in Brazil by unveiling a global alliance aimed at <u>tackling</u> <u>poverty</u> and hunger.
- The initiative was signed by 81 countries, including 18 of the 19 G20 countries, as well as the European Union and the African Union.
- The only G20 country not to sign on was Argentina.

### India Launches Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)



- Over 19,000 Indian and foreign nationals holding Overseas Card of India (OCI) have been enrolled in India's first Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), started in June this year.
- The facility, started at the Delhi airport, can now be availed at 31 international airports
- The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) scheme was introduced in August 2005 which provides for registration of all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on January 26, 1950, or

thereafter, or were eligible to become citizens of India on the said date.

### Who cannot be an OCI?

- An applicant is not eligible to get an OCI card if his/her parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh.
- Foreign military personnel either in service or retired are also not entitled for grant of OCI.

### **Advantages of OCI card holders**

An OCI card holder — essentially a foreign
passport holder — gets a multiple entry, multipurpose life-long visa for visiting India, and is
exempt from registration with local police
authority for any length of stay in the country.

### **Limitations on OCI card holder:**

- Not entitled to vote; to be a member of a
   Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or
   of Parliament; to hold Indian constitutional posts
   such as that of the President, Vice President, Judge
   of the Supreme Court or High Court.
- He or she cannot normally hold employment in the government.



### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1. France's Highest Civilian Honour
- 2. The Golden Krishna' Exhibition
- 3. WETEX 2024
- 4. SteelFab 2024 Exhibition'
- 5. Baltimore Bridge
- 6. 'Miss AI': World's first beauty contest
- 7. Bharat Mart in Jebel Ali
- 8. Pokhara as Its Tourism Capital
- 9. Madame Tussauds Dubai
- 10. Nagorno-Karabakh
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- 12. Al Center of Excellence' in Paris
- 13. Oxford University Agrees to Return
  Stolen 500-Year-Old Bronze Idol to India
- 14. Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh
- 15. UAE Visa Amnesty program
- 16. Maitri Utasav in Sri Lanka
- 17. Farsi as India's New Classical Language
- 18. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah
- 19. USCIRF Report as Malicious
- 20. Salt Typhoon

# HCLTech's Roshni Nadar Malhotra Receives France's Highest Civilian Honour



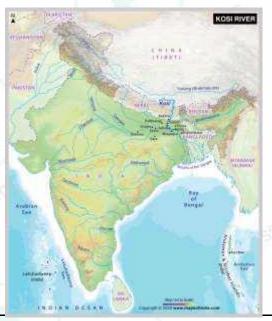
- "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France.
- About the Award
- Instituted: 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte
- Purpose: Recognizes outstanding service to France, regardless of recipient's nationality

### River Sunkoshi Cleanup Campaign Removes 24,575 Kg Of Plastic Waste In Golanjor Municipality Of Nepal In 36 Hours



- To clean river Sunkosi in the Bagmati province of Nepal, 134 people participated in a river cleanup campaign organised by Project CAP (Collaborative Approach for Preventing Plastic Leakages in Rivers) in Golanjor rural municipality under the PLEASE (Plastic Free Rivers and Seas of South Asia) program
- Sunkoshi is a tributary of Satkoshi river
- The Koshi River drains eastern Nepal. It is also known as Saptkoshi River because of the seven

- rivers joining in east-central Nepal to form this river. The main rivers forming the Koshi River system are **Sunkoshi**, Indravati, Tamba Koshi, Bhote Koshi, Dudh Kosi, Arun and Tamur Rivers.
- River Sunkoshi's water source is located in the
   Zhangzangbo Glacier in Tibet, which merges with
   River Saptkoshi ultimately joining River Ganga in
   Katihar district of Bihar in India, finally draining
   into the ocean at the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh.



### Krishn Kanhai's 'The Golden Krishna' Exhibition Opens In Dubai



- Renowned Indian artist Krishn Kanhai unveiled his latest collection, "The Golden Krishna"
- The exhibition showcases Kanhai's exquisite new works centered around Lord Krishna.
- Krishn Kanhai is an Indian artist and painter
- The Government of India honoured him in 2004, with the award of Padma Shri.

## India showcases tourism potential at Arabian Travel Mart 2024



- In a bid to strengthen India's presence in the Middle East tourism market, the Ministry of Tourism is participating in Arabian Travel Mart 2024, being held in Dubai from May 6 to 9, 2024.
- The theme "Empowering Innovation: Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship."
- Highlighting lesser-known yet refreshing destinations, the Ministry of Tourism also launched the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign named 'Coolcations' at Arabian Travel Mart.

# India Showcases Diverse Education Offerings At GETEX 2024



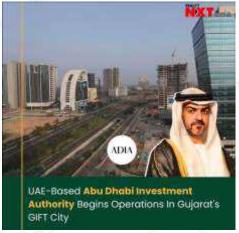
- Global Education and Training Exhibition (GETEX)
   2024 held at the Dubai World Trade Centre.
- The India Pavilion showcases the country's commitment to international higher education.
- Organized by the Services Export Promotion
   Council (SEPC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry
   and the Consulate General of India at Dubai.

### **WETEX 2024 Begins in Dubai**



- The 26th Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2024 began at the Dubai World Trade Centre, (1 - 3 Oct 2024)
- 29 leading companies participating in the Indian pavilion.
- The event, organized by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)
- showcasing cutting-edge innovations in renewable energy, water treatment, and environmental technologies.

# The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will establish a subsidiary at GIFT City



- The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has established a subsidiary at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), India's international financial services centre.
- The subsidiary has been granted regulatory approval by the International Financial Services
   Centre Authority (IFSCA) and is now operational.

# Cancerous Ethylene Oxide Contamination in Indian Spice Brands



- Hong Kong & Singapore recently banned several spice variants manufactured by MDH and one (Fish Curry Masala) by Everest Food Products.
- The decision came after authorities reportedly found the presence of the cancer-causing pesticide ethylene oxide in the spice mixes.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has commissioned quality checks on MDH and Everest products.

### Oil India's First Global Roadshow in Abu Dhabi



- Oil India Limited (OIL) hosted its first-ever global partner roadshow, "Confluence: Where Energy and Opportunity Converge," in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- Oil India Limited (OIL) is India's oldest oil and gas exploration and production company
- This event marks a significant step for OIL as it seeks to achieve ambitious growth and expand its international presence.
- The event aims to streamline the partner onboarding process and strengthen relationships with companies to explore new business opportunities.

  Over 50 leading companies from the energy sector are

  All are sisau multiples.
- Oil India, previously classified as a Navratna company, is now
   Maharatna CPSE (Central Public Sector Enterprises)

- incorporated on 18th February 1959
- Control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- CMD Dr. Ranjit Rath

### SteelFab 2024 Exhibition in UAE



- Took place from January 8–11, 2024
- Organized by Expo Centre Sharjah with the support of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)
- Indian Pavilion has emerged as a powerhouse, showcasing premier companies and brands in the iron and steel sector.

# UN Security Council Urges Yemen's Houthis to Cease Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Shipping Attacks



- The Iran-aligned Houthis, who control much of Yemen, have launched drones and missiles at more than 20 ships since Nov. 19,
- Reason showing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, they were targeting vessels with Israeli links or were sailing to Israel.

### **Baltimore Bridge in US Collapse**



expected to attend.

### Francis Scott Key Bridge or 'Key Bridge'



- A Singaporean-flagged container ship called DALI crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge near the US city of Baltimore, causing most of it to collapse.
- The Baltimore bridge, known more simply as the Key Bridge, was opened in 1977 in honour of Francis Scott Key, a 19th Century poet who wrote for the US national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.
- The bridge was 1.6 miles (2.6km) long and spanned the Patapsco River and Baltimore harbour.

Patapsco River flows out into **Chesapeake Bay**, the largest estuary in the US.



# Dubai launches "India by the Creek" Festival to Celebrate Deep Ties with India



### Iran Attack On Israel

- Iran fired a volley of over 300 drones and missiles on Israel.
- Iran had been threatening to attack Israel since an airstrike last week on Iranian Consulate in Damascus (Syria) killed two Iranian generals.
- Iran has warned the United States that it will target its bases if Washington backs Israel's retaliation.
- The drone attack late Saturday marked the first time Iran had ever launched a full-scale military assault on Israel, despite decades of enmity dating back to the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.
- Later, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has seized the MSC Aries, an Israel-linked Portuguese-flagged commercial vessel in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.
- MSC Aries had approximately 17 Indian nationals onboard



### Iran and Israel



- Iran was one of the first Muslim countries to recognise the new state of Israel.
- However, ties between the two countries collapsed after Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979.
- Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was ousted, and the new supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, pursued a policy of standing up to "arrogant" world powers.
- Still, limited cooperation between Israel and Iran continued into the 1980s.
- But later a hostile rivalry emerged as Iran built up and funded proxy militias in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.
- The main one is **Hezbollah in Lebanon**, formed in the 1980s to fight the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon.
- As a result, a shadow war between Iran and Israel grew over the years.
- Iran's nuclear program (which it has always insisted is entirely peaceful) has been a primary focus of Israeli attacks.
- Hezbollah has been firing rockets into northern Israel since the Gaza war began in October 2023.

# 'Miss AI': World's first beauty contest with computer generated women



- The world's first artificial intelligence beauty pageant has been launched by The Fanvue World Al Creator Awards (WAICAs), with a host of Algenerated images and influencers competing for a share of \$20,000
- The world's first AI beauty pageant has arrived to crown contestants based on their looks, how they command online and the technical skills that went into creating these AI models.

# Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition & Competition makes its mark in Dubai



 The event aimed to discover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai.

### **India Dispatches Malathion to Afghanistan**



- India has sent 40,000 litres of Malathion, a pesticide, to Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar port.
- The pesticide is used to fight the locust menace.
   Malathion is an environment-friendly pesticide and best suited for arid regions.

# Foundation stone laying of Bharat Mart in Jebel Ali, Dubai



- Bharat Mart will propel India-UAE bilateral trade further by leveraging Jebel Ali Port's strategic location and strength in logistics.
- The Bharat Mart has the potential to play an important role in promoting exports of MSME sectors of India by providing them an effective platform to reach out to international buyers in the Gulf, West Asia, Africa, and Eurasia.

# Numaligarh Refinery Opens First Overseas Office In Bangladesh

- The first overseas office of Assam-based
   Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) was opened in
   Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The Friendship Pipeline Project was Jointly inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina in March 2023.
- Designed to supply petroleum products to Bangladesh.

## **Dubai Introduces 5-Year Multiple-Entry Visa for Indian Travelers**

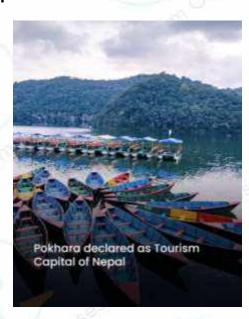


### Science Museum in London opens Adani Green Energy Gallery



- The Adani Group Science Museum in London, UK, had opened 'Energy Revolution: The Adani Green Energy Gallery',
- aim to inspire young minds, scientists and innovators to imagine a future powered by clean energy and build a carbon-free world.

# Nepal Declares Pokhara as Its Tourism Capital



Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' declared Pokhara, a picturesque city in Gandaki province, as the Tourism Capital of Nepal amid a function organised at Barahighat, near the Phewa Lake.

# Allu Arjun becomes first South Indian actor to get a wax statue at Madame Tussauds Dubai



## Closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets 2023



- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
   organized closing ceremony of the International
   Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 on 29 March 2024 at the
   FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
  declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets
  (IYM), a proposal sponsored by the Government of
  India to promote these "nutri-cereals."
- Presenting India as the "Global Hub for Millets," as India produces one-fifth of the world's millets.

### What are Millets?

- Millets are a highly varied group of small-seeded grasses
- This crop is favoured due to its productivity and short growing season under dry, high-temperature conditions (hardy and drought-resistant crops).
- powerhouse of nutrients rich in both iron and zinc

### **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

- Specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- World Food Day 16<sup>th</sup> October (founding of the FAO in 1945).
- Sister bodies are the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

# Armenia, Azerbaijan Agree On Disputed Border Sections In Nagorno-Karabakh



- Armenia and Azerbaijan had agreed a deal on disputed sections of their shared border, a new step towards normalising ties between the historic rivals.
- The deal between the two Caucasus nations, both former Soviet republics, includes the return to Azerbaijan of four border villages seized by Armenia in the 1990s.

### **Background of the Dipute:**



- Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked area in the South Caucasus that has been the center of a longrunning dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan ever since the Soviet Union broke up.
- The area is mostly made up of native Armenians, but it is officially part of Azerbaijan. Since the late 1980s, there have been random acts of violence in the area.
- Armenia and Azerbaijan fought two wars, in the 1990s and in 2020, for control of the thencontested breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Azerbaijan had demanded the return of the four villages as a condition for a peace deal after decades of conflict.

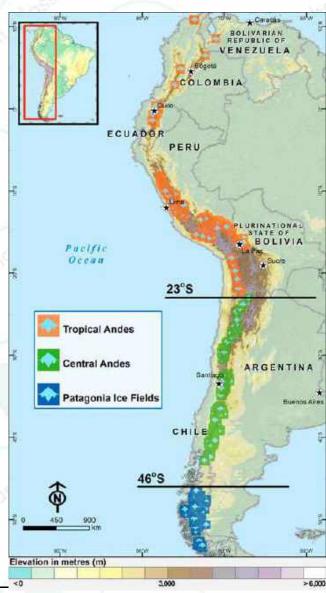
### Venezuela Becomes First Country To Lose All Glaciers

### Venezuela loses its last glacier as it shrinks down to an ice field

Scientists reclassify Humboldt glacier, also known as La Corona, after it melted faster than expected



- Venezuela's (South American nation) only remaining glacier — the Humboldt, or La Corona, in the Andes — had become "too small to be classed as a glacier".
- There were six glaciers in this Latin American country.

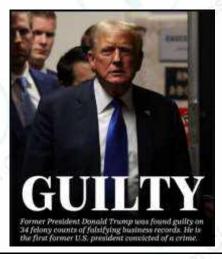


- However, by 2011, five of them had already disappeared forever.
- The disappearance of the last glacier in Venezuela, caused by temperature fluctuations beyond the norm for tropical latitudes, may become one of the critical points for the Earth's cryosphere



- While there is no global standard for the minimum size a body of ice must be to qualify as a glacier, the US Geological Survey says a commonly accepted guideline is around 10 hectares (0.1 sq km).
- A glacier is a large, persistent mass of ice that forms on land and moves under its own weight, typically flowing outward from its place of accumulation. Glaciers form in areas where the accumulation of snow exceeds its ablation (melting and sublimation) over many years, often centuries.
- The compacted snow gradually transforms into ice, which can flow like a very slow river due to gravitational forces and the pressure from the weight of the ice above.

# Donald Trump becomes first former U.S. President convicted of felony crimes



Donald Trump became the first former American

President to be convicted of felony crimes as a New

York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a

scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election

# Rajinikanth receives Golden Visa from UAE's Department of Culture and Tourism



## TCS to set up 'AI Center of Excellence' in Paris

- The country's largest IT services exporter TCS will set up a first of its kind 'human-centric' artificial intelligence centre of excellence in France.
- It will focus on how AI can be "designed and evolved to address business efficiencies and societal priorities"
- The centre will focus on brain-computer interface, building empathy in machines and unleashing the power of AI in arts and culture

# IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi to commence its first Academic Session in 24-25



- The first international campus of IIT Delhi will commence its first academic session in 2024-25 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Initially, the IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi campus will offer undergraduate courses.
- The IIT Delhi said that students can secure admission either through the Combined Admission Entrance Test 20024 or the Joint Entrance Test (JEE) 2024.
- IIT Madras has set up a campus in Zanzibar -Tanzania, which commenced its academic season in 2023-24.

### WHO Launches New 'Investment Round' Aiming To Raise USD 7 Bn To Tackle Global Challenges



- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new 'Investment Round' aiming to raise 7 billion dollars of funds to support countries to tackle challenges like climate change, displacement, poverty and inequality.
- This coincides with the 77th World Health
   Assembly being held in Geneva from May 27 to
   June 1 with the theme "All for Health, Health for All."
- The World Health Assembly is the decisionmaking body of WHO and is attended by delegations from all WHO member states
- WHO chief General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- The World Health Organization (WHO), established in 1948
- Membership: WHO currently has 194 member states
- Headquarter Geneva, Switzerland

# 2025 to be International Year of Quantum Science and Technology: UN



- The United Nations has said 2025 will be designated the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'.
- The initiative will be "year-long", "worldwide".
- The opening ceremony is expected to be conducted on January 14, 2025, in Berlin.
- Next year will be a century since the German
   physicist Werner Heisenberg published a famous
   paper in which he reinterpreted a series of tweaks
   — required for classical mechanics to make sense

- of the quantum phenomena being discovered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries — to lay the foundation stone of what **would come to be called quantum mechanics**
- The Government of India announced a 'National Quantum Mission' in April 2023 at a cost of Rs 6,000 crore, to be implemented from 2023 to 2031 by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

# Oxford University Agrees to Return Stolen 500-Year-Old Bronze Idol to India



- The
   Council of UK's prestigious Oxford University
   supported a claim from the Indian High
   Commission for the return of a 16th-century
   bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar from
   the Ashmolean Museum.
- It is believed to be stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu to India. UK acquired the statue in "good faith" in 1967.

## Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh killed in Iran Tehran





- Ismail Haniyeh had gone to attend the inauguration of the newly-elected Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.
- On October 7, 2023, Hamas killed at least 1,200 Israeli civilians and military personnel, and took about 250 hostages.
- Since then, the Israeli military has pounded Gaza with air strikes and ground operations, with the stated aim of going after Hamas leaders.
- Hamas, an acronym of its official name, Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya, is a Palestinian Sunni Islamist resistance movement governing parts of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip since 2007

# Laos issues world's first-ever stamp depicting Shri Ram Lalla of Ayodhya



- EAM Jaishankar unveils commemorative postage stamp of Ram Lalla in Laos
- Lao PDR (Lao People's Democratic Republic) has issued a postage stamp featuring Shri Ram Lalla of Ayodhya, making it the first country in the world to issue a stamp depicting the revered deity.
- The stamp set consists of two distinct stamps- one features Lord Buddha of Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of Laos, which is also a significant Buddhist site, while the other showcases Lord Shri Ram of Ayodhya.



- In Laos, the Ramayana is known as Ramakien or the Story of Phra Lak Phra Ram.
- It is often performed during auspicious occasions.
- The theme of the stamp set, "Celebrating Shared Cultural Heritage of Lao PDR and India" symbolises the long-standing historical ties.
- India's ambassador to Laos, Prashant Agrawal
- Capital : Vientiane
- Currency Kip (<del>K</del>) (LAK)

# Pakistan invites PM Narendra Modi to attend SCO meeting in Islamabad in October

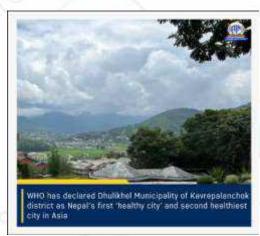


- Pakistan invited PM Modi to the Shanghai
   Cooperation Organisation's Council of Heads of
   Government meeting to be held in Islamabad
- Pakistan holds the rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG)
- The 2024 SCO summit was the 24th annual summit of heads of state of SCO held between 3 and 4 July 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

### SCO stands for "Shanghai Cooperation Organization"

- 1996: 'Shanghai Five' established by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- **2001:** After adding Uzbekistan in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- 2017: At Astana, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full members
- 2023: Iran became a full member of the SCO.
- 2024: Belarus became a full member of the SCO.
- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.
- · The Secretariat: Beijing

## Dhulikhel becomes Nepal's first 'healthy city'



- WHO has declared Dhulikhel Municipality of Kavrepalanchok district as Nepal's first 'healthy city' joining the WHO Healthy City Network
- The evaluations were made on various indicators, including citizens' access to health, their participation in health policy-making, political commitment to health, nutrition, child health and innovative health initiatives.
- The municipality is awarded USD 5,000 for implementing various programmes under the Healthy City initiative.

# 31 August - Hari Merdeka (Malaysia National Day)



- August 31 Malaysia celebrates its independence from British rule, achieved in 1957.
- The theme for 2024, "Malaysia Madani: Jiwa Merdeka"
- Capital: Kuala Lumpur
- Currency: Malaysian ringgit

### Nepal Academy and BHU Sign MoU for Nepali Language and Culture Research

 A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Nepal Academy and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) for the mutual study of Nepali language, literature, culture, and philosophy in Nepal and India.



- Interaction and exchange programs on Nepali language, literature, and philosophy between Nepali and Indian Nepali literary figures and institutions.
- Nepal Academy will provide scholarships and internships for research students studying in the Department of Indian Language.

# India-SriLanka ferry service resumes between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai near Jaffna



- The services were launched earlier in October 2023 between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai near Jaffna in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.
- The ferry Sivagangai run by a private operator,
   IndSri Ferry Services
- In order to make service more affordable for passengers, Government of India has decided to provide financial assistance of over 25 million Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR) per month, for a period of one year, to cover relevant charges and operating costs at Nagapattinam port.
- Similarly, Government of Sri Lanka has reduced the deviation tax currently charged to passengers leaving Sri Lanka by passenger vessels and ships.

### **UAE Visa Amnesty program**

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government's twomonth visa amnesty program began on September 1 and will run until October 30, 2024
- It will give an opportunity for individuals residing illegally in the country to either regularise their residency status or leave without incurring penalties.
- However, amnesty does not apply to those who entered the country illegally.

# Maitri Utasav in Sri Lanka to mark India's Independence Day



- The cultural wing of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre is organising Bharat Sri Lanka Maitri Utsav to commemorate India's Independence Day.
- at the Independence Square in Colombo.
- The four-day-long event will feature a handicraft fair, a food festival and cultural performances.

# Sri Lanka India Friendship Arch Inaugurated as Part of Plant4Mother Campaign



- Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha and Sri Lankan Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, inaugurated the 'Sri Lanka – India Friendship Arch' at the National Sandalwood Garden
- The event was a part of the 'Plant4Mother' campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# Iran's VP Md. Javad Zarif resigns citing disappointment over selection of cabinet members



- Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Javad Zarif has resigned from his post just 11 days after his appointment.
- In a decree on August 1, Iranian President appointed Zarif as Vice-President for strategic affairs and head of the Centre for Strategic Studies.
- Mr. Zarif served as Iran's Foreign Minister from 2013 to 2021 under former President Hassan Rouhan.
- President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian

# **Telegram Founder & CEO Pavel Durov arrested in Paris**



- The Russian-born Pavel Durov was arrested over allegations that his platform is being used for illicit activity such as drug trafficking, distribution of child sexual abuse images, refusal to communicate information to authorities, money laundering and providing cryptographic services to criminals.
- French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed
- Telegram is an app that allows for one-on-one conversations, group chats and large "channels" that let people broadcast messages to subscribers.
- Telegram was launched in 2013 by Durov and his brother Nikola

- The Dubai-based company more than 950 million active users. It is widely used in France as a messaging tool, particularly influential in Russia, Ukraine and the republics of the former Soviet Union.
- Compared to other messaging platforms, Telegram is "less secure (and) more lax in terms of policy and detection of illegal content.
- messaging service WhatsApp "submitted over 1.3 million CyberTipline reports in 2023 (and) Telegram submits none."

### India commits \$85 million to WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre

- India has committed \$85 million over 10 years, 2022–2032, to support the programming of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Traditional Medicine Centre
- In March 2022, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Ayush and WHO to establish the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) world's first - at Jamnagar, Gujarat
- This global knowledge centre for traditional medicine, supported by an investment of USD 250 million from India, aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet

# 90-foot tall bronze statue of Lord Hanuman becomes new landmark in Texas

- A massive 90-foot-tall bronze statue of Lord Hanuman has been unveiled near Houston, Texas ,
   Called the "Statue of Union
- The third tallest in the United States, behind only the Statue of Liberty in New York and the Pegasus and Dragon statue in Florida.

- It is the tallest outside of India and the tallest in Texas.
- The project was the vision of Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, a Padma Bhushan awardee and renowned Vedic scholar, who aimed to create a spiritual epicenter for North America.



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Indian Navy rescued 21 crew members of merchant ship MV Lila Norfolk, including 15 Indians, from pirates off the Somalia coast



- The Navy rushed its warship INS Chennai and deployed Indian navy's Marine Commandos carried operations after a distress signal from the cargo ship.
- The hijacking was reported by the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), a British military organisation that tracks movements of various vessels in strategic waterways.

# India summons Maldives high commissioner over derogatory remarks against PM Modi

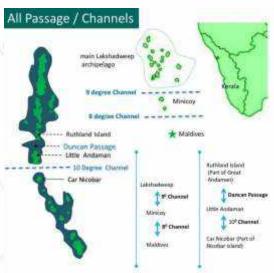


- Maldives High Commissioner Ibrahim Shaheeb.
- Indian High Commissioner to the Maldives Munu Mahawar
- Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu

**About Lakshadweep** 



- India's smallest Union Territory Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km
- Capital Kavaratti
- The name Lakshadweep in Malayalam and Sanskrit means 'a hundred thousand islands'.
- It is a uni-district Union Territory and the islands were constituted a union territory in 1956.



- <u>Fight Degree Channel</u> maritime boundary between the Maldives and India. It separates the islands of <u>Minicoy</u> and <u>Maldives</u>
- Nine Degree Channel separates the island of Minicoy from the main Lakshadweep archipelago
- <u>Ten Degree Channel</u> separates the <u>Andaman</u>
   <u>Islands and the Nicobar Islands</u> from each other in the Bay of Bengal

### Farsi as India's New Classical Language

 The Government of India, under the New Education Policy, has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages of India.

- Farsi, also known as Persian, is an Indo-Iranian language belonging to the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian languages.
- According to the National Education Policy-2020 of India, Pali and Prakrit along with Farsi (Persian) should be preserved.



- India recognized six languages as classical: Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).
- The criteria for declaring a language as 'Classical' include a recorded history of 1500-2000 years, a valuable heritage of ancient literature, an original literary tradition, and distinctness from modern forms or offshoots.
- The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the classical languages (6 languages) and the official languages (22 languages) of the Republic of India.

### India Launches Operation Indravati To Evacuate 12 Nationals From Haiti To Dominican Republic

- India has launched Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- Haiti is facing a major and violent upheaval
   after armed gangs took control of 80 percent of the
   country's capital, Port-au-Prince, locking Prime
   Minister Ariel Henry out of the country and
   triggering his resignation.

Haiti



- located between the <u>Caribbean Sea</u> and the North <u>Atlantic Ocean</u>, Haiti occupies the western one-third of the island of <u>Hispaniola</u>.
- Official Languages: French, Haitian Creole.
- world's first independent, Black-led republic.
- Capital: PORT-AU-PRINCECurrency: Haitian Gourde

## Indian troops begin withdrawal from Maldives



- 25 Indian military personnel deployed in the southernmost atoll of Addu have left the nation ahead of the May 10 deadline.
- Indian troops stationed in the Maldives have begun withdrawing from the island nation, in line with President Mohamed Muizzu's 'India out' promise to his supporters.
- A technical team from India had reached the
   Maldives to replace the troops that were stationed
   to operate the India-gifted aircraft and choppers
   (Dornier 228 maritime patrol aircraft and two HAL
   Dhruv helicopters)



 Addu Atoll, also known as Seenu Atoll, is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives.

# Israel Embassy leads Delhi NCR 'Million Miyawaki' Mission

 The Embassy of Israel in India, in collaboration with the Million Miyawaki Foundation, has officially joined the 'Million Miyawaki' project, a community-led initiative aimed at improving air quality in Indian cities through mass afforestation in tight urban spaces

- Under this project, efforts are made at planting a million trees in Delhi-NCR
- Focus on creating forest-like Miyawaki plantations.
- Miyawaki Method was named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, this method involves planting two to four different types of indigenous trees within every square metre.
- The methodology was developed in the 1970s, with the basic objective to densify green cover within a small parcel of land.

### US returns 297 stolen antiquities to India



- As per the Cultural Property Agreement signed between India and the US
- The 297 artefacts are from a period between 2000
   BCE and 1900 CE.
- While they originate from different parts of the country, the majority are terracotta works from eastern India.
- There are also artefacts of stone, metal, wood and ivory.

# News reports claiming restrictions placed on OCI cardholders are false: Consulate General of India in New York

- Provisions of a gazette notification dated March 4,
   2021, regarding the rights of OCI cardholders,
   continue to remain in force.
- An OCI card holder gets a multiple entry, multipurpose life-long visa for visiting India, and is exempt from registration with local police authority for any length of stay in India.

### What is OCI scheme?

- The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955 in August 2005.
- The Scheme provides for registration as Overseas
   Citizen of India (OCI) of all Persons of Indian Origin
   (PIOs) who were citizens of India on January 26,
   1950, or thereafter or were eligible to become
   citizens of India on January 26.

## India makes its mark in the inaugural Gulf Food Green



- The inaugural Gulfood Green event, held at the Dubai World Trade Centre.
- Dedicated to sustainability and cutting-edge technologies, brought together tens of thousands of visitors from the global food and beverage industry.
- One of the major highlights was the Food for Future Summit
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) led the country's representation with Regional Director Pritee Chaudhary

### National Memorial for Queen Elizabeth II Announced for St James's Park



- The British government has announced plans to erect a national memorial for Queen Elizabeth II in St James's Park, London.
- The final design is expected to be unveiled in 2026, coinciding with what would have been Queen Elizabeth II's 100th birthday

# Kirtan 'Sikh Sacred Music' Now An Official Subject In UK Music Exam

- For the first time in the UK, kirtan is recognised as part of the graded music examination system, with students able to access a formal curriculum and texts for "Sikh Sacred Music"
- Kirtan, the singing of shabads or scriptures from the holy 'Guru Granth Sahib', is a fundamental method of devotion and praise in the Sikh faith.

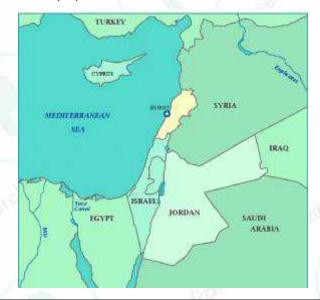
The Sikh Sacred Music curriculum comes alongside recognition of **five Indian string instruments** – dilruba, taus, esraj, sarangi and saranda.

### Israel kills Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in air strike on Beirut





- Israel killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon's Beirut in what they called Operation "New Order"
- Hezbollah, originated during the Lebanese Civil
  War (1975-1990), a conflict partly fueled by the
  presence of Palestinian refugees after the creation
  of Israel in 1948, which led to Israeli invasions of
  southern Lebanon in 1978 and 1982.
- Hezbollah was formed around this period, inspired by Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution
- founded with support from Ayatollah Khomeini's regime in Iran
- The group opposes Israel and Western influence in the region,
- In the mid-2000s, Hezbollah became more involved in Lebanese politics and now holds seats in the country's parliament.



- Lebanon is bounded to the north and east by Syria, to the south by Israel, and to the west by the Mediterranean Sea.
- Capital: Beirut
- Currency: Lebanese pound



# Hamas Chief Yahya Sinwar killed in Rafah (southern Gaza) during encounter with Israeli forces



- Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the soldiers
- However, Hamas has not yet confirmed his death.
   Sinwar was one of the masterminds behind last year's October 7 attacks on Israel.
- 61-year old Sinwar, widely known as Abu Ibrahim, was appointed head of Hamas' political bureau, succeeding Ismail Haniyeh who was killed in Tehran in July
- Weeks before, Israel also killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, through airstrikes in Lebanon.

# Rapa Nui never experienced a ruinous population collapse



- Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island, is a Chilean dependency in the southeastern Pacific Ocean.
- Rapa Nui never experienced a ruinous population collapse, according to an analysis of ancient DNA from 15 former inhabitants
- It is situated about 3,540 km to the west of Chile
- UNESCO named Easter Island a World Heritage
   Site on March 22, 1996, and major parts of the

island have been protected under the Rapa Nui National Park.



- Rapa Nui is famous for its large statues called moai.
- They are shaped like large human heads and erected on stone pedestals.

# NATO plans to set up a new land command in Finland near the Russian border in 2025



- **in Mikkeli** one of the closest cities to Finland's 1,340-kilometre border with Russia.
- to oversee northern European land operations during potential conflicts.
- Finland, joined NATO last year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- Finland Capital: Helsinki
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

Finland is bordered to the north by Norway,

- to the east by Russia,
- to the south by the Gulf of Finland,





- to the southwest by the Gulf of Bothnia,
- to the northwest by Sweden.



# Sweden will be the 32nd country to join NATO, after Hungary held a parliamentary vote to approve the move EUROPS S NATO MEMBERS Foundar members 1949: Joined 1950-2000 Joined 2000-2023 Sweden Jorning 2024 MORNAY ACTALIAND OENMARK FINLAND FINLAND

Sweden clears final hurdle to join NATO

- Formed in 1949 with the signing of the
   Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of
   32 countries from North America and Europe.
- Finland 31st member.

Tanks: 120 Armoured vo Artillary: 357

- Sweden 32nd member (2024)
- NATO Headquarter Brussels, Belgium.

# India Becomes Russia's No. 2 Supplier of Restricted Technology



- India is exceeded only by China.
- Indian exports of restricted critical items such as microchips, circuits and machine tools surpassed \$60 million in both April and May, about double from earlier months this year, and leaped to \$95 million in July.

### **India Rejects USCIRF Report as Malicious**



- India trashed a report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and described it as a "biased" organisation with a "political agenda".
- USCIRF monitors universal right to freedom of religion criticised India for alleged violations of religious freedom.
- It makes policy recommendations to the US
   President, Secretary of State, and Congress and tracks the implementation of these recommendations.
- It also recommended to declare India a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) in the context of religious freedom.

### Brazil becomes second BRICS country after India not to join China's BRI



- Brazil President Lula da Silva
- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Brazil has decided against joining Beijing's multi-billion-dollar initiative becoming the second country after India in the BRICS bloc not to endorse the mega project.
- BRI was launched in 2013 and aims to link
   Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.
- The project was first named the 'One Belt, One Road' but renamed as the BRI

The initiative includes two principal components:



- Silk Road Economic Belt
- Maritime Silk Road.

### What is Salt Typhoon?

- NEWS: Chinese-linked hackers, "Salt Typhoon," breached major US telecoms and targeted 2024 presidential campaigns, including figures like Trump and Harris.
- Salt Typhoon is the name Microsoft cybersecurity experts have given to a Chinese group suspected of using sophisticated techniques to hack into major systems.
- Microsoft's practice of naming hacking groups after types of weather — "typhoon" for hackers based in China, "sandstorm" for efforts by Iran and "blizzard" for operations mounted by Russia.

## Collins Dictionary Names "Brat" 2024 Word of the Year



- Collins Dictionary has named "brat" its word of the year for 2024.
- Defining it as someone "characterized by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude."
- Charli XCX's sixth studio album, Brat, released in June 2024, transformed the term from its traditional, negative meaning to a symbol of bold self-confidence.

### 'Brain rot' is Oxford's word of the year



- 'Brain Rot' describes the cognitive decline attributed to excessive exposure to mindless social media content.
- 'Brain rot' is defined as "the supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state, especially viewed as the result of overconsumption of material (now particularly online content) considered to be trivial or unchallenging.

# Merriam-Webster Picks Polarization As Word of the Year 2024



- Collins dictionary went with "brat". Oxford chose "brain rot".
- US's premier dictionary Merriam-Webster's word of the year is "polarization"
- Merriam-Webster defines polarization as "division into two sharply distinct opposites; especially a state in which the opinions, beliefs, or interests of a group or society no longer range along a continuum but become concentrated at opposing extremes.

### 'Manifest' Cambridge Dictionary Word Of The Year

 "Manifest" means to imagine achieving something you want, in the belief that doing so will make it more likely to happen

# India Spain to Observe 2026 as Year of Culture, Tourism and AI

- India and Spain have agreed to observe 2026 as the Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- This and other agreements were reached between India and Spain to strengthen bilateral ties during the visit of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to India.

### **About Spain**

- Spain is a Western European country located on the Iberian peninsula.
- It is a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).
- It is a constitutional monarchy, and the King is the head of the State.
- · The Prime Minister is the head of the government.

Capital: MadridCurrency: EuroKing: Felipe VI

Prime Minister: Pedro Sanchez



# Replica of Indian Constitution's original manuscript displayed at Sharjah International Book Fair 2024

- The National Book Trust (NBT) of India has showcased a prestigious replica of the original handwritten Indian Constitution manuscript at the 43rd Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF).
- Morocco Guest of Honour
- The theme "It Starts with a Book"
- The exhibit is part of India's comprehensive literary showcase at the event, which runs from November 6 to 17.

 This A3-sized copy of the Constitution of India is certified by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and features superior quality and clarity in the presentation of Acts and Stanzas.



### Pando: World's Oldest Living Organism



- The world's largest tree has been rigorously dated for the first time, confirming it is at least 16,000 years old.
- Named Pando, the tree is a quaking aspen (Populus tremuloides) with around 47,000 stems connected by a root system that sprawls about 100 acres (43 hectares) in Utah's Fishlake National Forest.
- It has long been thought to be among the most ancient living things on Earth, but scientists didn't know for certain how old it is

### **Amul Expands to European Market**

- After launching its products in the US
- The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) sells its dairy products under the popular Amul brand.
- The company will launch the products in Spain first and then look at expanding to other countries in Europe.
- India allows the import of dairy goods at a 30% duty.

# **UNGA Declares December 21 as World Meditation Day**



- India co-sponsored a UN General Assembly draft resolution that was unanimously adopted to proclaim December 21 as World Meditation Day.
- December 21 marks the Winter Solstice, which in Indian tradition is the beginning of "Uttarayana an auspicious time of the year, especially for inner reflection" and meditation.
- It also falls exactly six months after the
   International Day of Yoga commemorated on June
   21, which is the Summer Solstice.

### Nebraska Declares December 6 as Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Day

- Nebraska is a midwestern U.S. state.
- A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled in the State Capitol building in Nebraska



as **December 6 was proclaimed as a day of remembrance for Gandhi** in the US state,
honouring the principles of **non-violence**,
tolerance and justice championed by the iconic
Indian leader.

# Himanta Biswa Sarma attends Bhutan's National Day

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended Bhutan's 117th National Day celebration on 17 December 2024 at Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma was on a three-day visit to Bhutan from 16-18 December 2024 at the invitation of Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

### **Bhutan National Day**

 This day marks the coronation of the first King of Bhutan, Druk Gyalpo Ugyen Wangchuck, on December 17, 1907. In Bhutan, the official title of the King is Druk Gyalpo, which means **Dragon King in Dzongkha.** 



- · Dzongkha is the official language of Bhutan.
- The current King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel
  Wangchuck, is the descendant of the Ugyen
  Wangchuck and is the fifth King of Bhutan.
- · Capital: Thimphu
- · Currency: Nagultram
- Language spoken in Bhutan-Dzongkha
- King: Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay

### **Bhutan**



- Bhutan, also known as Druk Yul, meaning "Land of the Thunder Dragon", is a landlocked South Asian country.
- Bhutan is a Monarchy where the King is the Head of the State while a democratically elected Prime Minister is the Head of the Government.
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim share a land border with Bhutan.
- India shares a 699 km long international boundary with Bhutan.

## India re-elected to U.N. Peacebuilding Commission



- India has been re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission for 2025–2026.
- India's current term on the Commission was expiring on December 31.
- India is founding member and major contributor to @UNPeacekeeping
- The Peacebuilding Commission is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries
- composed of 31 Member States, elected from the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council.
- India is among the largest contributors of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping.
- It currently deploys about 6,000 military and police personnel to UN operations.

# Dubai Breaks Record with World's Largest Gold Bar, Weighing Over 300 KG

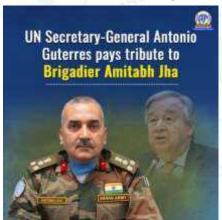


- Dubai has unveiled the world's largest gold bar, setting a new Guinness World Record.
- Weighing 300.12 kg, the bar is valued at approximately \$25 million (₹211 crore).
- Displayed at the Dubai Gold Souk Extension
- Created by Emirates Minting Factory, it was crafted in 8-10 hours, adhering to Guinness standards.

### UN Secretary General Pays Tribute to Brigadier General Amitabh Jha

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has paid tributes to Brigadier General Amitabh Jha of India, who was serving with the UNDOF at Golan Heights
- Brigadier Jha was serving as Deputy Force
   Commander of the United Nations

- **Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)** from April 2023
- He recently served as acting Force Commander of UNDOF in complex circumstances, following the fall of the Assad Government in Syria.



 UNDOF was established in 1974 to maintain the ceasefire and supervise the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces

# Nepal celebrates 101st birth anniversary of Jan-Andolan leader Krishna Prasad Bhattarai

- Nepal celebrates the 101st birth anniversary of the founding leader of the Nepali Congress (NC), Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.
- He is popularly known as Kisunji in the political sphere.
- Bhattarai twice served as the Prime Minister of Nepal, once heading the interim government from 19 April 1990 to 26 May 1991, and then as elected Prime Minister from 31 May 1999 to 22 March 2000.

### Nepal hosts first International Balloon Festival in Pokhara



- Nepal's tourism capital, Pokhara, has taken adventure tourism to new heights with its inaugural International Balloon Festival.
- The **nine-day event**, running from December 24, 2024, to January 2, 2025

