



RAMAN ACADEMY
"inspiring excellence"

OCTOBER 2024

CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH



- Topic wise current affairs
- 150 practice questions
- Detailed analysis of important events

BY RAMAN ACADEMY

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SECTION 1

TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS



BY RAMAN ACADEMY

1: Important Days



International Day of Older Persons : 01 October :-

The International Day of the Older Persons originated with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 45/106, which was enacted in December 1990. The Day, which is observed annually on October 1, strives to raise awareness of the difficulties and problems that older people confront around the world. It aims to raise awareness of the need of honoring and caring for the elderly, as well as their vital contribution to society. It highlights the need to address the unique challenges and issues faced by older persons, such as health care, social inclusion and economic security. This year's theme is 'Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide'.



International Coffee Day : 01 October :-

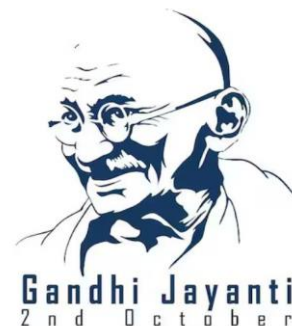
The International Coffee Organization (ICO) founded International Coffee Day, which was first commemorated on October 1, 2015, to acknowledge and promote the global coffee industry. This observance aims to emphasize coffee's economic, social, and cultural

significance, as well as promote awareness about sustainable coffee methods, fair trade, and the issues that coffee growers confront around the world. It serves as an opportunity to promote sustainable and ethical practices in the coffee industry, highlight the hard work of coffee farmers, and raise awareness about the challenges they face. This year's theme is "Coffee, Your Daily Ritual, Our Shared Journey."



World Vegetarian Day : 01 October :-

Every year on October 1, World Vegetarian Day is observed to raise awareness about the benefits of vegetarianism and how it contributes significantly to reducing the environmental imprint. Vegetarianism has grown in popularity in recent decades as research confirms the benefits of plant-based diets and their ability to improve health. The North American Vegetarian Society launched World Vegetarian Day in 1977, which was later adopted by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978, to promote the joy, compassion, and life-enhancing benefits of vegetarianism.



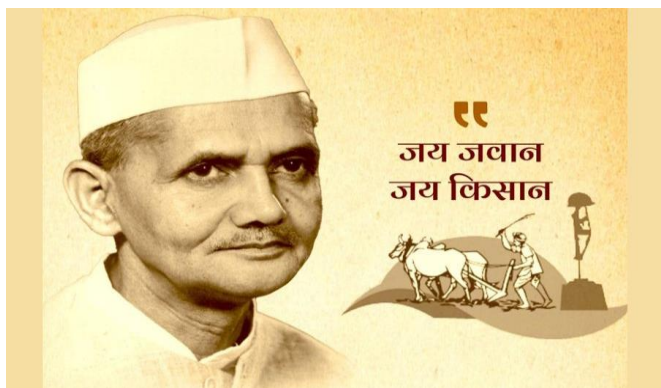
Gandhi Jayanti : 02 October :-

The yearly Gandhi Jayanti on October 2 commemorates the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the nation's father. On this day, we honor Gandhi's message of nonviolence and truth. Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. He was a key figure in India's independence struggle, conducting nonviolent rallies against British rule that helped the country obtain freedom. India achieved its independence in 1947 due to his efforts and those of countless other freedom fighters. His philosophy, which inspired many around the globe, was known as Satyagraha (truth and non-violence).



International Day of Non-Violence : 02 October :-

The International Day of Nonviolence is held worldwide on October 2. It celebrates the nation's father, Mahatma Gandhi, and his role in India's struggle for independence. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of Nonviolence. Gandhi, who helped deliver India's independence, inspired nonviolent civil rights and social change movements all across the world. Gandhi upheld his commitment to nonviolence throughout his life, despite terrible circumstances and seemingly insurmountable obstacles.



Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti : 02 October :-

Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti is celebrated every year on October 2nd in India. On October 2, 1904, Lal Bahadur Shastri was born in Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh. Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's third Prime Minister, is admired for his modesty, simplicity, and dedication to the country. Millions of people are still moved by his contributions to India, especially during terrible times like the 1965 Indo-Pak War, and by his slogan, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan." His leadership and achievements are honoured nationwide on the anniversary of his birth each year. The year 2024 marks his 120th birth anniversary.



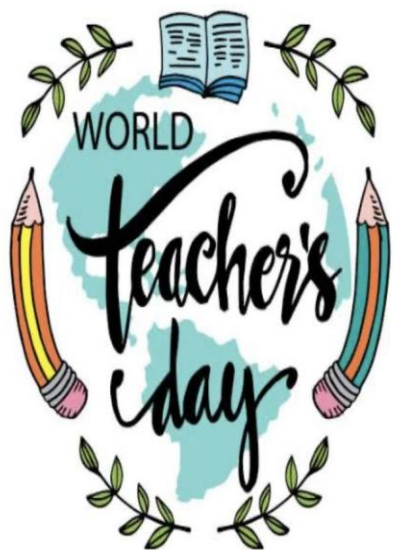
World Animal Welfare Day : 04 October :-

World Animal Welfare Day is a yearly celebration commemorated on October 4th to protect animal rights. As stated by World Animal Protection, World Animal Welfare Day was originally observed on March 24, 1925, in Germany, and was formally founded on October 4, 1925. Heinrich Zimmermann, a cynologist (dog expert), organized the inaugural celebration at Berlin's Sports Palace, which allegedly drew over 5,000 people. The theme for this year's World Animal Welfare Day is "The world is their home too".



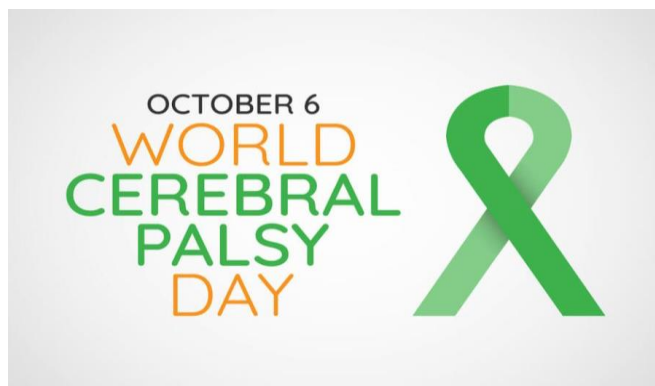
World Space Week : 04 to 10 October :-

World Space Week, held every year from October 4th to 10th, is one of the world's biggest space celebrations. The celebration acknowledges the critical role that space research and innovation play in increasing humanity's welfare. The start and finish dates of World Space Week were chosen to commemorate two significant milestones in space exploration. One of these events occurred on October 4, 1957, when Sputnik 1, the first man-made Earth satellite, was launched. On the other day, on October 10, 1967, a treaty was signed to guarantee the peaceful utilisation of outer space, involving the moon and other celestial bodies. For World Space Week 2024, the chosen theme is "Space & Climate Change."



World Teachers' Day : 05 October :-

Although Teachers' Day is marked in India on September 5, World Teachers Day is observed worldwide on October 5 to recognize and celebrate educators such as teachers, researchers, and professors. UNESCO created it in 1994 to commemorate the signing of the "Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers" in 1966. Since 1994, World Teachers' Day has been observed on October 5, with a different subject each year highlighting major difficulties or advances in the teaching profession. In 2024, World Teachers' Day will focus on the theme "Valuing teacher voices: Towards a new social contract for education."



World Cerebral Palsy Day : 06 October :-

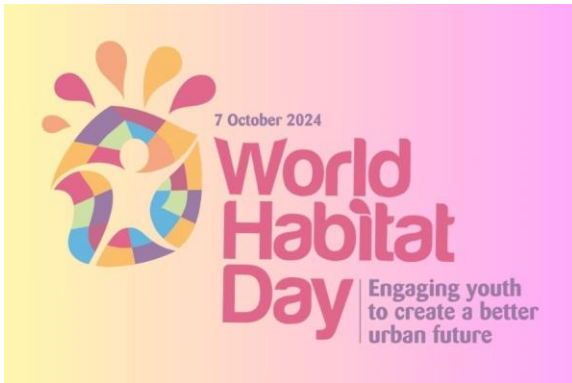
Every year on October 6, World Cerebral Palsy Day is marked, bringing together people with cerebral palsy (CP), their families, and advocacy groups to promote equal rights, accessibility, and opportunity for everyone. Cerebral palsy is a physical impairment that predominantly affects movement and posture, but it can also cause difficulties with vision, hearing, communication, and mobility. Its effects can vary widely, from mild weakness in one hand to near-total lack of voluntary movement. In 2024, the global campaign theme for World CP Day is #UniquelyCP.



World Cotton Day : 07 October :-

Every year on October 7, World Cotton Day is held to promote awareness about the significance of cotton and the cotton industry. Cotton is a natural fiber used to manufacture a wide range of items, including garments, towels, and bedding. It is also utilized in the manufacturing of food and various other industrial goods. The concept of World Cotton Day was first put forward by four cotton producers from Sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali. In 2019, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) officially declared

October 7 as World Cotton Day. The official theme of World Cotton Day 2024 is, 'Cotton for Good'.



World Habitat Day 2024 : 07 October :-

World Habitat Day is observed on the first Monday of October every year. In the year 2024, this day will be celebrated on October 7. The United Nations officially recognises this day. The day is commemorated to recognize the state of our cities and towns, as well as everyone's fundamental right to sufficient shelter. The day is intended to remind people of their ability and obligation to impact the future of their towns. The day was established in 1985 by the United Nations and first time it was marked in 1986. The theme of the World Habitat Day 2024 is "Engaging youth to create a better urban future."



Indian Air Force Day : 08 October :-

Every year on October 8, Indian Air Force Day is observed to honor the Indian Air Force (IAF) and its pilots who risk their lives to protect India. The Indian Air Force officially came into existence on October 8, 1932. Its inaugural flight took out on April 1, 1933, with six RAF-trained officers and 19 airmen. The IAF has participated in four wars with Pakistan: 1947-48, 1965, 1971 (Bangladesh

War), and 1999 (Kargil War). This year, the IAF celebrates its 92nd anniversary under the theme "Bhartiya Vayu Sena – Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar", reflecting the force's commitment to safeguarding India's skies.



World Post Day : 09 October :-

World Post Day is observed worldwide on October 9. The day honors the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which was founded in Bern, Switzerland, in 1874. The UPU Congress, held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969, named it World Post Day. The UPU aimed for a worldwide communications revolution, allowing people to write to others all across the world. This day highlights the importance of postal services. To mark the 150th anniversary of the UPU, the World Post Day theme for 2024 is: "150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations".



Indian Foreign Service Day : 09 October :-

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day is a yearly ceremony that takes place on October 9. This important day commemorates the foundation of the Indian Foreign Service, which is critical to India's diplomatic, consular, and commercial presence around the world. IFS Day originated at a pivotal point in Indian history. On October

9, 1946, the Indian government officially set up the Indian Foreign Service. This development marked a pivotal transition from the Foreign and Political Department to the Ministry of External Affairs as India gained independence.



World Mental Health Day : 10 October :-

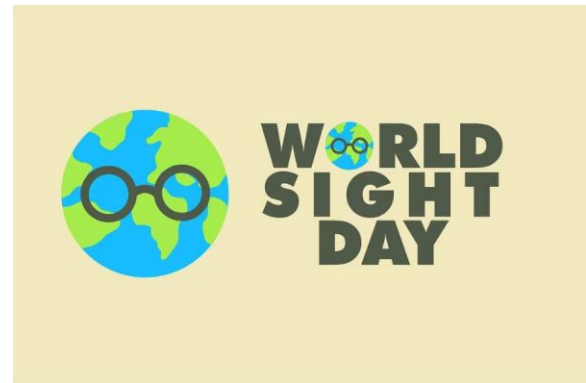
World Mental Health Day, marked annually on October 10th, emphasizes the importance of mental well-being. This day aims to raise awareness, debunk myths, and promote mental health support. World Mental Health Day was established in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), led by Deputy Secretary General Richard Hunter. The first celebration was observed on October 10th with participation from 12 countries. The theme for World Mental Health Day 2024 is 'Mental Health At Work' Which refers to the psychological well-being of people in their workplace environment.



National Post Day (India) : 10 October :-

Every year on October 10, National Post Day is commemorated as an extension of World Post Day, which is observed on October 9. National Post Day commemorates the Indian postal department's role for over 150 years. The British launched postal service in

India. It was established in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie. It is currently managed by the Ministry of Communications and is the world's largest postal system. India has 23 postal circles and 9 postal zones including Army Post Office. Post offices in Indian follow a 6-digit PIN Code system, which was introduced in India in 1972.



World Sight Day 2024 : 10 October :-

World Sight Day is commemorated annually on the second Thursday in October to spread awareness regarding vision impairment and blindness. In 1988, the Lions Club International Foundation established the "Sight First" campaign, which gave rise to World Sight Day. Only in 1999 did the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborate with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) to formally establish World Sight Day. The first observance took place on October 12, 2000. This year, World Sight Day falls on October 10, 2024, with the theme "Children, Love Your Eyes".



International Girl Child Day : 11 October :-

The International Day of the Girl Child is observed on October 11th to empower girls and raise their voices. At the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing,

countries broadly supported the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive plan ever for improving the rights of not only women but also girls. The Beijing Declaration is the first to clearly address girls' rights. On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. The 2024 International Girl Child Day theme is 'Girls' vision for the future'.



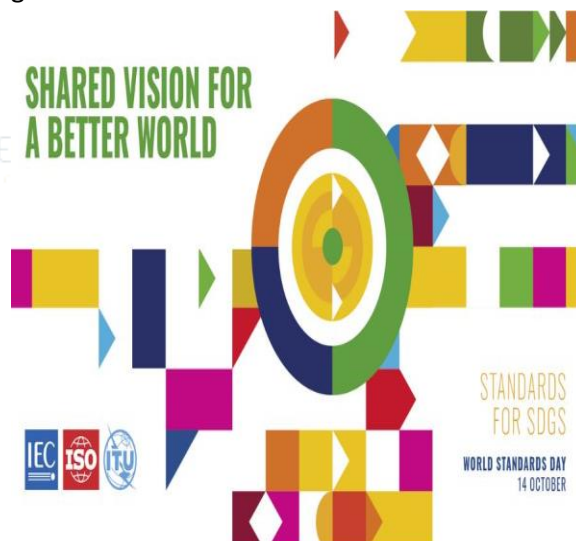
World Arthritis Day : 12 October :-

Every year on October 12, World Arthritis Day (WAD) is celebrated to increase global awareness of arthritis and other rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). It attempts to raise public awareness of these illnesses and their impact on people's daily lives. It also emphasizes the importance of making treatments and therapies more accessible in order to improve the quality of life for arthritis patients. World Arthritis Day was established by the Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996. The theme for World Arthritis Day 2024 is "Informed Choices, Better Outcomes."



International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction : 13 October :-

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) is observed on October 13 each year. The day is dedicated to increasing awareness about catastrophes, their impact on living beings, and prevention strategies. This day is observed around the world to raise awareness about the underlying causes of disasters and injustice. The United Nations General Assembly commemorated the first International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in 1989. Marking this day helps raise awareness about the different dangers related to disasters happening worldwide. This year's theme is 'Empowering the next generation for a resilient future'.



World Standard Day : 14 October :-

Annually on October 14, the world celebrates World Standards Day (also known as International Standards Day). The day commemorates the efforts of thousands of professionals who develop voluntary standards inside organizations that set standards. In 1946, delegates from 25 nations met in London and decided to form an international association to promote standardization. The first World Standards Day was not observed until 1970, despite the fact that ISO was established one year later. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrating World Standards Day 2024 on the theme "Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for Sustainable Development Goals".



World Students' Day : 15 October :-

Every year on October 15, World Students' Day is commemorated to honour former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's contributions to education. The day marks the late teacher's birth anniversary. India's 11th president, also known as the Missile Man of India, was a famous administrator and scientist who worked for the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) for almost forty years. In 2010, October 15 was designated as World Students' Day in honor of Kalam's countless accomplishments, particularly in academia and research. Although the United Nations is credited in numerous publications with making the announcement, the event is not observed outside of India. The theme for World Student's Day 2024 is "Empowering Students to be Agents of Change."



International Day of Rural Women : 15 October :-

The International Day of Rural Women is commemorated every year on October 15. The International Day of Rural Women was first observed in 2008, following a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly. The day was founded to recognize rural women's significant contributions to their communities

and the worldwide economy, as well as to commemorate their critical roles in agriculture, food production, and rural development. This year's theme is "Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future."



Global Handwashing Day : 15 October :-

Global Handwashing Day is an international day that promotes the significance of hand hygiene. It is celebrated on October 15 every year to promote awareness about the importance of handwashing in illness prevention and lifesaving. Global Handwashing Day was founded in 2008 by the Global Handwashing Partnership (GHP), a group of multinational institutions dedicated to promoting hand hygiene. The inaugural event coincided with the International Year of Sanitation, which was led by the United Nations. The 2024 Global Handwashing Day theme is "Why are clean hands still important?"



World White Cane Day : 15 October :-

Every year on October 15th, World White Cane Day commemorates the resilience and accomplishments of the blind and visually handicapped. The white cane represents mobility and autonomy for the blind and visually impaired, and World White Cane Day is an

opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of accessibility and inclusion for individuals with disabilities. The International Federation of the Blind (IFB) launched World White Cane Day in 1964. World White Cane Day is a great opportunity to educate others about the needs of people with disabilities and to promote understanding and acceptance.



World Food Day : 16 October :-

Since 1979, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has designated October 16 as World Food Day. Initially, World Food Day was created to mark the FAO's foundation. The day eventually evolved into a global event, raising awareness about food scarcity and revitalizing food systems around the world. World Food Day is an occasion to highlight the global issue of hunger and malnutrition. The goal of the day is to emphasise equal access to food, and water, promote sustainable agricultural practices and raise awareness about food-related issues. The World Food Day 2024 theme is "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future."



World Anaesthesia Day : 16 October :-

Every year on October 16, the world celebrates World Anaesthesia Day to commemorate one of the most momentous events in medical history. World Anaesthesia Day celebrates the very first successful trial

of diethyl ether anaesthesia in 1846. On October 16, 1846, William Thomas Green Morton, an American dentist and physician, made the first public demonstration of diethyl ether anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, employing ether as an inhalational anaesthetic agent to remove a jaw tumor. This day celebrates the discovery of anaesthesia which made it possible for patients to undergo surgical procedures without any physical pain. The theme for the World Anaesthesia Day 2024 is "Workforce Well Being".



World Spine Day : 16 October :-

World Spine Day, marked on October 16th, is an annual health event aimed at encouraging excellent spine health behaviors. Since 2012, the World Federation of Chiropractic has coordinated World Spine Day in partnership with organizations around the globe. It is believed that about 1 billion individuals worldwide suffer from back pain, spinal discomfort, and disability, which affects people of all ages, including children and the elderly. It is one of the biggest single causes of years lived with a disability on the planet that is one in four adults is estimated to suffer from back pain during their lives. The theme for World Spine Day 2024 is "Support Your Spine".



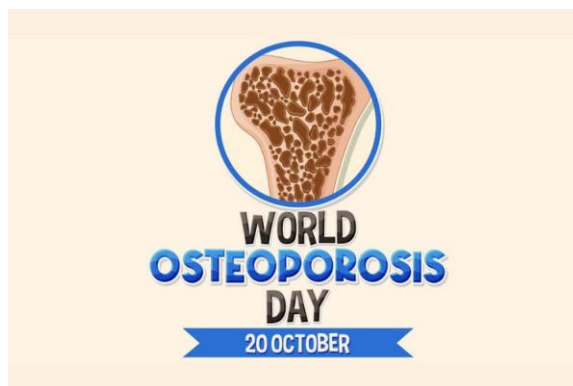
International Poverty Eradication Day : 17 October :-

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is a yearly celebration held on October 17. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was established on October 17, 1987. More than 100,000 people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written in 1948, to pay their respects to those who died as a result of great poverty, violence, and hunger. This day holds immense significance as it serves as a global reminder of the ongoing battle against poverty in all its dimensions. The theme for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2024 is "Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment."



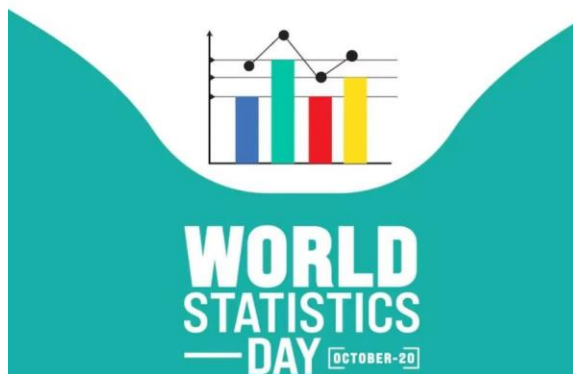
National Solidarity Day (India) : 20 October :-

On October 20, India celebrates National Solidarity Day to honor the soldiers who served in the 1962 Sino-Indian War. This crucial day commemorates India's national integrity during its battle with China. The Sino-Indian War, also called the China-India War, lasted from October to November 1962. The conflict began with a series of border skirmishes and territory disputes. On October 20, 1962, China launched a devastating offensive, defeating India and causing territorial losses, most notably Aksai Chin. In 1966, a committee elected by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi established October 20 as National Solidarity Day to honour soldiers and their families who sacrificed in conflicts. This day continues to be marked as National Solidarity Day, dedicated to honouring the armed forces each year.



World Osteoporosis Day : 20 October :-

World Osteoporosis Day is commemorated yearly on October 20th to spread worldwide attention about osteoporosis, a disorder that weakens bones and increases their susceptibility to fractures. It also attempts to dispel myths about osteoporosis and reduce the stigma related to aging and bone fragility. The United Kingdom's National Osteoporosis Society established World Osteoporosis Day on October 20, 1996. In the following year, it was adopted by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), which has since spearheaded its global campaign. The theme for World Osteoporosis Day 2024 is "Say No to Fragile Bones."



World Statistics Day : 20 October :-

On October 20, 2024, people all over the world will mark World Statistics Day. Although many people are unaware of it, this day is observed every five years to point out the importance of statistics in changing our environment. On October 20, 2010, the United Nations Statistical Commission established the first World Statistics Day to recognize the importance of data authenticity and reliability around the world. In the year 2010, 103 countries celebrated a national Statistics Day, including

51 African countries. The African countries celebrate African Statistics Day on 18 November.



National Police Commemoration Day (India) : 21 October :-

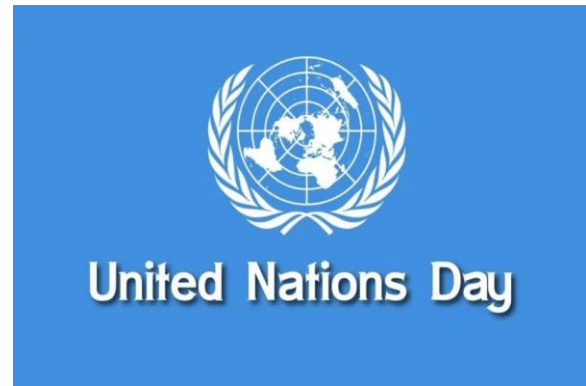
National Police Commemoration Day is observed every year on October 21 to honor police personnel who have given their lives in the line of duty. The day commemorates the India-China conflict, when Chinese troops opened fire on the Indian police force in Ladakh on October 21, 1959. In 1960, an Annual Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories was held to commemorate October 21 as National Police Commemoration Day. The day is set to honour the Bravehearts who protect the citizens of the country and are responsible for the enforcement of law and order.



International Stuttering Awareness Day : 22 October :-

International Stuttering Awareness Day is an annual event conducted on October 22. The International Stuttering Association (ISA) formally created International Stuttering Awareness Day on October 22, 1998, coinciding with the birthday of Sir George Bernard Shaw, a well-known English novelist and playwright who

also stuttered. Stuttering, known as stammering or childhood-onset fluency disorder in medical terms, is a speech impediment that affects countless individuals worldwide. This year, the International Stuttering Awareness Day theme is "The Power of Listening".



United Nations Day : 24 October :-

Annually on October 24, United Nations Day is celebrated. It commemorates the official founding of the United Nations in 1945. On this day, a large number of signatories, comprising the five permanent members of the Security Council, adopted the UN Charter, officially establishing the UN. The Day was first observed in 1948. In 1971, the United Nations also suggested that member states commemorate it as a public holiday. The United Nations was founded immediately after the end of World War II. It is an intergovernmental organisation whose primary role is to maintain world peace and security. The theme of United Nations Day 2024 is, "Global Cooperation for a Better Future."



ITBP Raising Day : 24 October :-

The 63rd Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Raising Day will be commemorated on October 24, 2024, to honour the services and achievements of troops who secure

India's borders from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh. ITBP Raising Day dates back to the Indo-China War in the high-altitude Himalayan region with frigid temperatures. These climatic conditions, coupled with the numerical superiority of the Chinese army, ensured India ended up on the losing side. As a response, a specialised security force, the ITBP, was constituted.



World Polio Day : 24 October :-

Every year on October 24, World Polio Day is commemorated to encourage governments to be alert in their efforts to combat the disease. Rotary International established World Polio Day in 1985 to honor the efforts of Jonas Salk, the lead medical researcher on the team that developed the first polio vaccine. The global drive to eradicate polio gained steam in 1988, when Rotary International and the World Health Organization formed the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). At the time there were around 3,50,000 cases of polio globally. There has been significant progress since then that has resulted in the declaration of the Americas, Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Western Pacific, as polio-free. The theme for World Polio Day 2024 is "A Global Mission to Reach Every Child."



World Development Information Day : 24 October :-

Every year on October 24, the United Nations marks World Development Information Day. In 1972, the UN General Assembly established World Development Information Day to draw attention to developmental issues and the need for increased international collaboration to address them. The main aim of this day is to propagate information and mobilise public opinion in order to draw their attention and create awareness of the problems surrounding development, promoting efforts in the field of international cooperation for growth and development.



J&K Accession Day : 26 October :-

On October 26, citizens in Jammu and Kashmir will commemorate Accession Day, one of the most significant days in Indian history, which marks the event when the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir formally joined the Indian Union. This day honors Maharaja Hari Singh, the then-ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, signing the Instrument of Accession in 1947. Despite the prospect of invasion, he chose to sign the pact, which gave the Indian government responsibility over defense, foreign affairs, and communications. This pivotal decision shaped the region's future and strengthened India's territorial integrity.



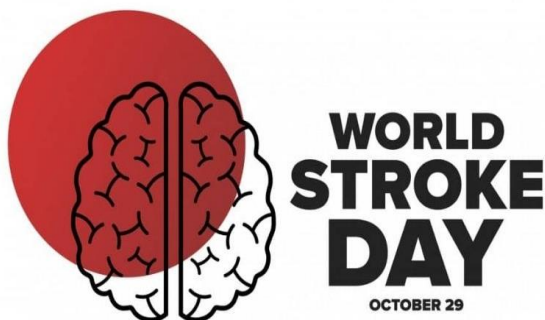
World Day for Audiovisual Heritage : 27 October :-

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH), which is observed on October 27 each year, is an endeavor to raise awareness about the need to take action and recognize the importance of audiovisual preservation. The 21st General Conference of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images established World Day for Audiovisual Heritage in 1980. This day was devised to sensitise people to the need to conserve and safeguard valuable audiovisual resources for future generations.



International Animation Day : 28 October :-

International Animation Day (IAD), marked on October 28 every year, is a global celebration. International Animation Day was established in 2002, but animation originated in 1892 with the first public performance of moving images at the famed Emile Reynaud's Theatre Optique in Paris. The day was first introduced by International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), which is a member of UNESCO. ASIFA tries to push every time it gets a chance to put the art of animation into the limelight.



World Stroke Day : 29 October :-

World Stroke Day is marked every year on October 29 to promote awareness of strokes, their causes, and the need of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. The

World Stroke Organisation established World Stroke Day in 2006 to raise awareness of the global impact of stroke and advocate for preventive measures and improved healthcare solutions. The WSO's vision was to educate the public on stroke symptoms and the need for urgent care, promote government and health system engagement, and support stroke survivors. The theme for World Stroke Day 2024 is “#GreaterThanStroke Active Challenge.”



World Savings Day : 30 October :-

Every year on October 31, the world commemorates World Savings Day, which emphasizes the necessity of future savings. World Savings Day originated at the First International Savings Bank Congress, which took place in Milan, Italy, from October 24 to October 30, 1924. It was formally recognized as an observance on October 31, 1924, and is observed worldwide on the same day. However, in India, World Savings Day is observed a day earlier, on October 30. The primary objective of World Savings Day is to enlighten people about various saving techniques.



Ekta Diwas : 31 October :-

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, or National Unity Day, is observed annually on October 31st in India to commemorate the

birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister, a key figure in the country's war for independence, and the architect of its unity. Since 2014, the Indian government has designated Sardar Patel's

birth anniversary as the "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas". Patel was born on October 31, 1875 in Gujarat's Nadiad. He is credited for the consolidation of more than 560 princely states into the Union of India.

2: Agreements



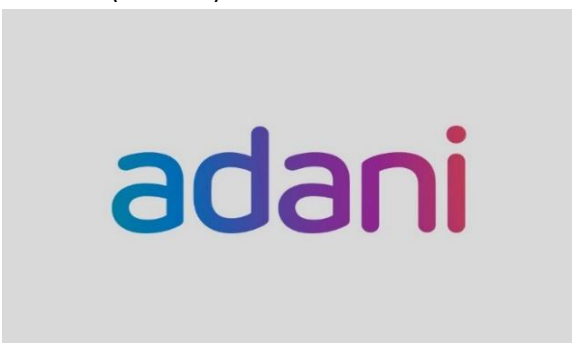
Arunachal Pradesh govt signs MoU with Delhi's ILBS for cashless treatment :-

The Arunachal Pradesh government has inked a memorandum of understanding with Delhi's Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences to provide cashless treatment for up to Rs 5 lakh to beneficiaries of the state's Chief Minister Arogya Arunachal Yojana. According to Chief Minister Pema Khandu, under the MoU, the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) will provide cashless treatment on the basis of credit authorization issued by the Chief Minister Arogya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY) on the suggestion of the referral board at the Naharlagun-based Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHMS).



Reliance Group Collaborates with Bhutan on Renewable Energy :-

Reliance Group, led by Anil Ambani, has announced a collaboration agreement with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd. (DHI), the Royal Government of Bhutan's commercial and investment arm, to carry out different projects in Bhutan's renewable and green energy ecosystem. "The partnership between Reliance Group and Druk Holding will focus on green energy generation, specifically solar and hydropower initiatives, while also exploring innovative green technologies," Reliance Group said in a statement.



Adani Power signs agreement to acquire Dahanu Power for Rs 815 crore :-



Adani and Google Partner to Boost Clean Energy in India

The Adani Group and Google have established a cooperation to improve their sustainability efforts and contribute to the expansion of sustainable energy in India. In a news statement, Adani Group stated that it will deliver renewable energy created by a new solar-wind hybrid project in Khavda, Gujarat, which is host to the world's largest renewable energy plant. The project is anticipated to begin business operations in the third quarter of 2025. This strategic focus aims to assist industries in meeting their energy needs while simultaneously reducing their carbon footprints.



Department of Posts and Amazon Unite to Enhance Delivery Services :-

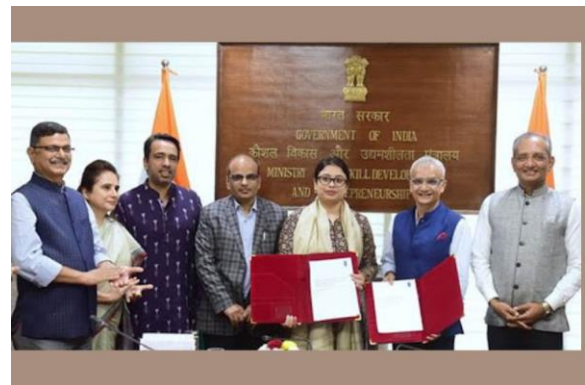
The Department of Posts (DoP) of the Ministry of Communications and Amazon Transportation Services Private Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand their existing partnership. As per to the Ministry of Communications, the MoU, inked in New Delhi, aims to use Amazon's huge postal network and technological prowess to improve parcel transmission and delivery across the country. Amazon transportation services said that in the last 2-3

years, India Post's footprint across Amazon logistics network has more than doubled with pickup points growing from 6 locations to 13 locations across the country.



DigiLocker Partners with UMANG App for Seamless Access to Government Services :-

The National e-Governance Division recently unveiled the collaboration of the UMANG app with DigiLocker, giving residents easy access to a variety of government services. The Electronics and IT Ministry stated that this agreement will enable users to control different services from a single platform. It stated that the UMANG app is available to all Android users, and its services may be accessed via the DigiLocker app. The Ministry said DigiLocker is a flagship initiative under the Digital India program aimed at providing secure cloud-base storage of essential documents.



Skill Ministry and Meta Partner to Launch AI Assistant for Skill India Mission :-

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced a collaboration with Meta to develop an AI Assistant for the Skill India Mission and establish five centers of excellence in virtual and mixed reality. Under

the agreement, a unique AI-powered chatbot based on Meta's open-source Llama model will be created to improve the learner experience on the Skill India Digital (SID) Portal. Sarvam AI, the technical partner for the AI assistant project, will be responsible for the development and deployment of the chatbot, which will be piloted over a six-month period, as per the statement.



India and Mauritania Strengthen Ties with Four MoUs During President Droupadi Murmu's Historic Visit :-

During President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Mauritania, the two countries signed a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), including those on diplomat training and visa exemption. President Murmu met with her Mauritania counterpart, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, in the Presidential Palace in Nouakchott. Both leaders discussed how to develop their connection even further. Highlighting the potential for India-Mauritania cooperation, President Murmu noted that India could contribute to Mauritania's development in various sectors, including human resource development, infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, skill development, and digital innovation.



India and Germany Set to Sign Labor Mobility Pact :-

India and Germany are nearing completion of a bilateral deal. According to media sources, the deal will focus on enabling worker movement between the two countries and recognising skills. According to Business Standard, the deal will make it easy for skilled workers in India to be absorbed by the German sector. This would be the first pact under the G20 'Skills-based migration pathways' framework. The framework was decided upon by member countries last year in New Delhi.



Karnataka, Australia sign MoU for clean energy :-

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the Smart Energy Council of Australia. The agreement seeks to strengthen collaboration in clean energy, renewables, green hydrogen, battery energy storage technologies, and other related areas. According to Energy Department Minister K J George, the MoU was struck to develop renewable energy and green hydrogen activities. The collaboration will strengthen Karnataka's ties with Australian companies. As part of the MOU, KREDL will promote and support integrating Australian technologies into local markets.



India-Pakistan Extend Kartarpur Corridor Agreement for Five Years :-

India and Pakistan have agreed to prolong their agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor, which permits Indian nationals to travel visa-free to the gurdwara established on the Pakistani site where Guru Nanak spent his final years. "It has been agreed between India and Pakistan through diplomatic channels to extend the validity of the Agreement on Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for a further period of five years," the statement said. The agreement, signed on October 24, 2019, to facilitate the visit of Indian nationals to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur at Narowal in Pakistan's Punjab province, was valid for five years.



IIM Shillong and SIDBI Collaborate to Foster Northeast Entrepreneurship :-

To promote entrepreneurship in India's Northeast, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong has collaborated with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). This collaboration, under the IIM Shillong Foundation for Incubation and Enterprise (IIMSFIE), delivers a structured entrepreneurship training and incubation program. This model aims to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with skills, knowledge, and mentorship essential for sustainable business creation and will target 30 selected participants, the program includes classroom learning, hands-on experience, and extensive incubation support for 18 months.



NTPC & Indian Army Collaborate for Sustainable Energy in Ladakh :-

NTPC, in conjunction with the Indian Army, plans to build a Solar Hydrogen-based Microgrid in Chushul, Ladakh, with the goal of delivering a reliable power supply utilizing green hydrogen in off-grid Army areas. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, together with Chiefs of Defence Services, CMD NTPC, and top officials from the Ministry of Defence, Indian Army, and NTPC, lay the project's groundwork via video conferencing. The project will replace the existing diesel generators used in these remote Army locations, situated at an altitude of 4,400 meters where temperatures plunge to -30°C.



Meta teams up with IndiaAI to advance open source AI innovation, R&D, skill development :-

Meta has established an important collaboration with 'IndiaAI' at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to accelerate open source AI innovation, research and development, and talent development in India. This includes the development of IIT Jodhpur's Center for Generative AI, Shrijan, as well as the introduction of the 'AI for Skilling and Capacity Building' program in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The partnership

will enable development of indigenous AI applications, and advance skill development in AI.



Solex Energy Partners with SBI for Solar Project Financing :-

Solex Energy announced a partnership with State Bank of India (SBI) to provide solar financing alternatives for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Solex Energy said in a statement that as part of the cooperation, SBI will provide solar financing for solar projects in India through loans of up to Rs 10 crore under its Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme. While Solex Energy will give customers with end-to-end support, from site evaluation and design to regulatory permissions, SBI will provide a digital platform to enable

a smooth loan application procedure for financing solar projects.



GAIL and VERBIO India Partner to Advance Agricultural Residue-based CBG Projects :-

GAIL (India) Limited and VERBIO India Private Limited inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the development of Agricultural Residue-based Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants in India. This alliance aims to use both companies' expertise to promote sustainable energy solutions and improve the use of agricultural waste. Under the terms of the MoU, the parties intend to work together to identify suitable locations for setting up of greenfield Agri Residue-based CBG plants in a Joint Venture (JV) mode.

3: Appointments



INS elects MV Shreyams Kumar as president for 2024-25 :-

The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has elected M.V. Shreyams Kumar, Managing Director of Mathrubhumi, as its President for 2024-2025. He succeeds Rakesh Sharma of Aaj Samaj. In addition to Kumar, the following major office bearers were elected for the period: Vivek Gupta of Sanmarg as Deputy President, Karan Rajendra Darda of Lokmat as Vice President, and Tanmay Maheshwari of Amar Ujala as Honorary Treasurer. In its annual report, the INS stated that its member publications recorded an 11% rise in ad revenue for the calendar year 2023.



Aviral Jain Joins RBI as Executive Director :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has nominated Aviral Jain as its new Executive Director (ED), effective October 1, 2024, to oversee legal and other divisions. Jain was the Regional Director for Maharashtra before being appointed to Executive Director. The new executive director has over three decades of experience in supervision, currency management, foreign exchange regulation, and human resource management. Previously, the government reconstituted the Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) by appointing economists Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya and Nagesh Kumar to the crucial six-member rate-setting panel for four years, or until further orders.



JP Nadda elected as the Chairperson of the 77th Session of WHO South East Asia Regional Committee :-

The World Health Organization's 77th Regional Committee for Southeast Asia convened in New Delhi from October 7 to 9. JP Nadda, India's Minister of Health, has been voted as Chairperson of the 77th Session. The Seventy-seventh Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia is the region's yearly governing body gathering. The member nations include Bangladesh,

Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.



L Satya Srinivas Appointed CEO of GeM Portal :-

The government has assigned L Satya Srinivas, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, the additional role of CEO of the public procurement platform GeM. The additional charge was imposed since the previous CEO of the Government e Marketplace (GeM), P K Singh, has been named secretary in the renewable energy ministry. Srinivas is a 1991 batch officer in the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes). The GeM portal was launched on August 9, 2016, for online purchases of goods and services by all central government ministries and departments.



Dia Mirza Appointed Jury Member for ALT Environmental Film Festival 2024 :-

Dia Mirza has been appointed to the jury for the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF), which is set to take place from November 22 to December 8. This festival will feature 72 films, 38 of which will have their Indian premieres. The festival's broad selection of films focuses on crucial environmental topics such as climate

change and wildlife conservation. The screenings will be held not only in metro cities but also in 55 locations in small towns and villages across India over the festival period.



Amit Kumar Appointed Next CMD of AI Assets Holding Limited :-

Amit Kumar is slated to become the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of AI Assets Holding Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. He was recommended for the position by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) Committee. He is currently the Executive Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). AI Assets Holding Limited is a SPV formed by Government of India with an aim to provide unified Asset Holding Services as stated in Object Clauses of its Memorandum of Association.



Rashmika Mandanna Appointed as National Brand Ambassador for Cyber Safety :-

Rashmika Mandanna has been named the national brand ambassador for the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), a cybercrime prevention effort launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs in India. As ambassador, Ms. Rashmika will lead cyber awareness programs across the nation to educate the public about

cybercrime, that include deepfake technology, malicious AI-created content, cyberbullying, financial fraud, and other online scams. The actor has 44.2 million followers on Instagram and 4.9 million followers on X.



YES BANK Appoints Nirav Dalal As Country Head Of Financial Markets :-

Yes Bank, a private sector lender, has appointed Nirav Dalal as the country head of its financial market section. Dalal is a veteran banking executive with around 27 years of experience in financial markets and treasury management. He has a successful track record of establishing and growing proprietary and client-facing enterprises. Before joining Yes Bank, he worked as an adviser - treasury consulting at Ernst & Young (EY), where he was instrumental in growing the treasury business of a large private sector bank in India. Dalal holds a master's degree in business administration (finance) from the K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management Studies & Research.



Ganguly Takes Charge as JSW Sports Director of Cricket, Heads Delhi Capitals :-

Saurav Ganguly, a former Indian captain and BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) chief, took on a new post on October 17 as Jindal South West (JSW) Sports' cricket director. Ganguly, who came to Delhi Capitals as an

advisor in 2019, will now supervise all of JSW Sports' cricketing properties, including the Delhi Capitals team in the IPL and WPL, as well as the Pretoria Capitals in the SAT20 League. The management of cricket operations for the Delhi Capitals' men's and women's teams in both the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Women's Premier League (WPL) will be governed by a two-year rotational policy between their co-owners, GMR Group and JSW Group.



Abhyuday Jindal assumes charge as Indian Chamber of Commerce president :-

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), a national business body, has appointed Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director of Jindal Stainless Limited, as its new president. The statement was announced at the ICC's yearly plenary session in New Delhi. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, was the chief guest. Piyush Goyal hailed Jindal's appointment, underlining the importance of young leaders in defining India's future, according to a press release. In his remarks, Abhyuday Jindal outlined his vision for Indian Chamber of Commerce, expressing his commitment to making the organization a key catalyst for economic growth and innovation.



Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar Appointed As Chairperson Of NCW :-

The National Commission for Women has a new chairperson in Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar, who previously served as the chief of the Maharashtra Women's Commission from 2016 to 21. As the ninth chief, she replaces Rekha Sharma, whose second term expired in August. Rahatkar's appointment is effective immediately, according to the official statement. According to a statement released by the women and child development ministry, Rahatkar was the BJP's national secretary and co-in-charge of Rajasthan. In addition to the appointment of Rahatkar, Archana Majumdar has been officially named a member of NCW for a tenure of three years, the ministry said.



ECI Appoints Ajay Kumar Singh as Jharkhand's New DGP Ahead of Elections :-

The Election Commission of India announced Ajay Kumar Singh's appointment as Jharkhand Director General of Police (DGP). Mr. Singh, an Indian Police Services officer from the 1989 batch, is the cadre's most senior official. He was chosen from a panel of three IPS officers appointed by the State government after the ECI ordered the immediate dismissal of Acting DGP Anurag Gupta on October 19, sources said. Mr. Gupta, a 1990-batch IPS officer had been made DGP on July 26 replacing Mr. Singh, who had been in the position since February 2023 after the retirement of his predecessor Neeraj Sinha.



Prabhakar Raghavan, IIT-Madras Alumnus Appointed as Google's Chief Technologist :-

Google has officially selected Prabhakar Raghavan as their next Chief Technologist. He previously held the position of senior vice president, in charge of Google Search, Assistant, Geo, Ads, Commerce, and Payments. Prabhakar Raghavan, 64, joined Google in 2012 following a successful career at Yahoo, where he handled search and ad rankings as well as designed ad marketplaces. Raghavan started his academic career at Bhopal's Campion school and later at IIT Madras, earning a bachelor's in electrical engineering. He even wrote a famous book on randomized algorithms and has shared his work in over 100 places, getting 20 patents.



JP Morgan Chase India Appoints Pranav Chawda as New CEO :-

JP Morgan Chase Bank India announced the appointment of Pranav Chawda as CEO. The appointment has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India. Chawda joined JP Morgan in 2019 and currently leads the commercial banking division. In his new position, he will also supervise the corporate banking sector, reflecting the company's ambition to merge its commercial and

corporate banking activities in India. The position fell vacant after former CEO Prabdev Singh stepped down before the end of his term.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna Appointed as 51st Chief Justice of India :-

President Droupadi Murmu named Justice Sanjiv Khanna as India's 51st Chief Justice. Justice Khanna, who is expected to take the oath on November 11, will succeed CJI D Y Chandrachud, who is set to retire on November 10. Justice Khanna will serve only six months, retiring on March 13, 2025. He graduated from Delhi University's Campus Law Centre and became an advocate in 1983, mostly practising before the Delhi High Court. Before his elevation as judge of Delhi High Court in June 2005, he served as Senior Standing Counsel of the Income Tax Department and was also the standing counsel on civil matters for the Delhi government.



Dr. Neena Malhotra Appointed Ambassador to Sweden :-

The Ministry of External Affairs has nominated Neena Malhotra as India's next Ambassador to Sweden, according to a statement. Malhotra is currently an Officer on Special Duty at the Ministry, according to the

statement. According to the statement, she will begin working on the assignment soon. Earlier in October 2020, she was appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino while also serving as India's Ambassador to the Republic of Italy. According to an official statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Malhotra, 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, had the residence in Rome.



Deepak Agarwal Appointed as Managing Director of NAFED by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet :-

Days after assigning additional charge of the Managing Director, National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) to a Ministry of Cooperation official, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed Deepak Agarwal, a 2000-batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer, as NAFED's regular MD for a five-year term. The ACC issued an order to this effect. The order came days after the ACC entrusted charge of the post to an official of the Ministry of Cooperation, a week after Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's decision to assign the additional charge of MD, NAFED, to an Agriculture Ministry official.



Bharti Airtel Announces Shashwat Sharma as New CEO

Bharti Airtel has announced a top-level restructuring, which includes the appointment of a new CEO. Shashwat Sharma, Chief Operating Officer (COO), will take over as the next managing director (MD) and CEO, with incumbent Gopal Vittal named vice-chairman beginning January 1, 2026. Vittal has been at the helm for the last 12 years. For the next 14 months, Sharma will be CEO designate of the company, the second-largest telecom operator of the country said. Company officials didn't confirm if the move to bring in Sharma, 43, was made in anticipation of Vittal, 58, retiring.



Vipin Kumar Assumes Role as Chairman of Airports Authority of India :-

Vipin Kumar, an IAS officer from the 1996 Bihar cadre, was officially appointed Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Prior to joining AAI, Kumar was the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education & Literacy, where he handled significant projects such as the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, National Education Policy-2020, and PM-SHRI Scheme. With a background in Electronics & Communication Engineering, Kumar brings both technical and administrative expertise to his new role at AAI.



FSIB Recommends Ashok Chandra as Next MD and CEO of PNB :-

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), which appoints the chiefs of public sector banks, proposed Ashok Chandra for the job of Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Punjab National Bank. Chandra presently serves as the Executive Director of Canara Bank. In 1991,

he began his banking career as a Probationary Officer at what was then Corporation Bank. He holds a Masters in Economics and is also a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers. FSIB had interviewed sixteen candidates for the position of MD & CEO of PNB, the head hunter said in a statement.

4: Awards



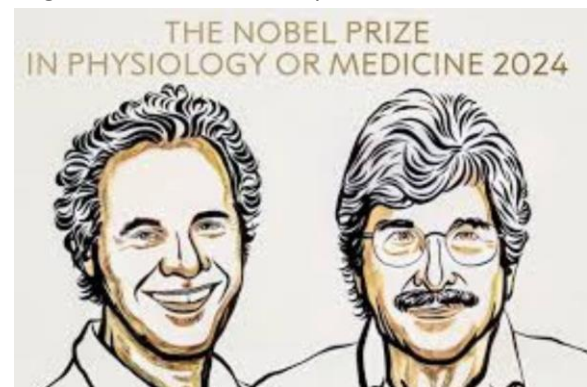
Mithun Chakraborty To Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award :-

Mithun Chakraborty, a Bollywood legend, will be awarded this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's top film honor from the government. Mithun Chakraborty, 74, will receive the honor on October 8 at the National Film Awards ceremony, according to the government. The renowned actor, a former Trinamool Rajya Sabha member who joined the BJP in 2021, received the Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian decoration, earlier this year. Mithun Chakraborty, born in Kolkata, made his acting debut in the 1976 film Mrigayaa and won the National Film Award for Best Actor.



2025 National Anubhav Awards :-

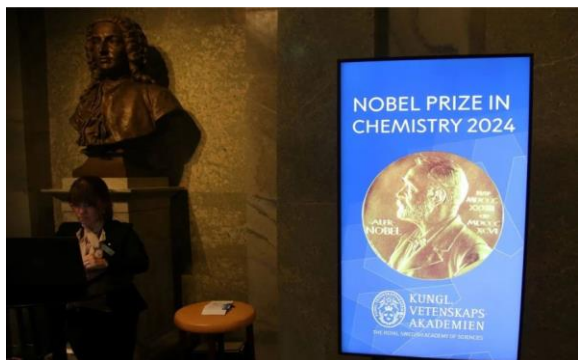
In March 2015, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare created 'Anubhav', an online platform that allows 'qualified' retiring/retired government employees to share their experiences working for the government. The National Anubhav Awards Scheme, 2025, marks a watershed moment in Anubhav Portal history because, for the first time, employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), which includes Public Sector Banks, will be eligible to submit write-ups.



Ambros & Ruvkun's Breakthrough in Gene Regulation Wins Nobel in Medicine in 2024 :-

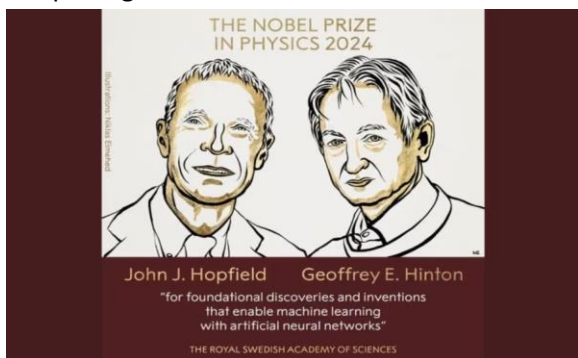
Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun of the United States earned the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2024 for discovering microRNA and its critical function in the growth and survival of multicellular organisms. Their research contributed to understanding how cells specialize and differentiate into different types, such as muscle and nerve cells, despite the fact that all cells in an individual possess the same set of genes and instructions for growth and survival. Ambros is a professor at the

UMass Chan Medical School, while Ruvkun is a professor at Harvard Medical School and also affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.



Baker, Hassabis, Jumper Awarded Nobel 2024 in Chemistry for Pioneering Protein Research :-

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has announced that the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry will be split in two: one half to David Baker for his ground-breaking work in computational protein design, and the other half to Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper for their revolutionary contributions to protein structure prediction. David Baker, a professor at the University of Washington, created history in 2003 by successfully developing a previously unknown protein. His innovative research group has since developed numerous novel protein structures. Following the award announcement, Baker expressed his excitement and honour at receiving the prestigious accolade.



John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton Awarded Nobel Prize 2024 in Physics :-

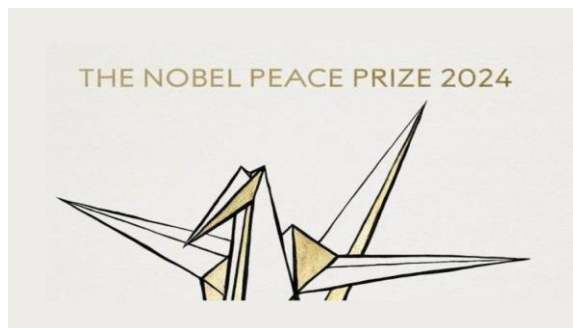
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences bestowed the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics on John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton "for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial

neural networks." The two Nobel Prize winners used physics tools to create approaches that serve as the foundation for today's advanced machine learning algorithms. John Hopfield developed associative memory, which can store and reconstruct images and other patterns in data. Geoffrey Hinton invented a method that can autonomously find properties in data, and perform tasks such as identifying specific elements in pictures.



South Korean Author Han Kang Wins The Nobel Prize 2024 In Literature :-

The Nobel Prize in Literature was recently bestowed to South Korean novelist Han Kang, 53, for her "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life". Her publications comprise The Vegetarian, The White Book, Human Acts, and Greek Lessons. Han is the very first South Korean author and the 18th woman to win the award. Her "empathy for vulnerable, often female, lives is palpable, and reinforced by her metaphorically charged prose," said Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel committee.



Nihon Hidankyo Wins 2024 Nobel Peace Prize :-

Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of survivors of the atomic bomb from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, received

the Nobel Peace Prize as a warning to countries with nuclear weapons not to use them. Several survivors of the only two nuclear bombs ever used in combat, known as "hibakusha" in Japanese, have committed their lives to the fight for a nuclear-free world. The Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its citation the group was receiving the Peace Prize 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".



Nobel in Economics 2024 Awarded to Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson :-

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson have been awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics for their research into the inequalities in prosperity between nations. The three economists "have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity," according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences' Nobel Committee. Acemoglu and Johnson work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while Robinson does research at the University of Chicago. The economics prize is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.



Mendis and Beaumont Clinch ICC Player of the Month Awards for September 2024 :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis and England's Tammy Beaumont as the ICC Players of the Month for September 2024. Mendis extended his record-breaking streak in Test cricket in September, winning the ICC Men's Player of the Month title, while Beaumont shined in England's short format victory in Ireland, winning the ICC Women's Player of the Month. Both players win their respective accolades for the second time – Mendis having previously won in March 2024, with Beaumont backing up her other previous award in February 2021.



ISRO Chairman S. Somanath Receives Prestigious IAF World Space Award for Chandrayaan-3 :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that its Chairman, S. Somanath, awarded the International Astronautical Federation's (IAF) coveted World Space Award for Chandrayaan-3's amazing achievement. "This recognition celebrates India's contributions to space exploration. Celebrations underway in Milan (Italy) as we continue to strive for new frontiers," the national agency stated in an online statement. Chandrayaan-3 was launched from Sriharikota spaceport on July 6, 2018, and successfully landed near the South Pole on August 23.



Aditi Anand's 'Marigolds' Wins Prestigious UK Award, On Display at V&A :-

An emerging artist from Karnal, Haryana, who recently graduated from a UK university, has won the Emerging Illustrator category at the famous Victoria and Albert Museum's Illustration Awards in London. Aditi Anand, 25, of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge, England, got the award at a recent ceremony for her artwork 'Marigolds', which will be displayed at London's world-famous Victoria and Albert (V&A) Design Museum until September 2025. Selected from over 2,000 entries that the V&A awards received, 'Marigolds', which bagged the GBP 3,000 prize, is set in India and addresses the theme of child labour and lost childhoods.



Actor Darasing Khurana Wins Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award in UK :-

Darasing Khurana, an actor, got the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award for his efforts to raise awareness about mental health concerns as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion'. Khurana, 32, an Indian actor and philanthropist, was also the keynote speaker at the Global Mental Health Summit 2024, held at Oxford University's historic Oxford Union, before traveling to Samoa for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). At CHOGM, the model-turned-actor is moderating a session on mental health with the Prime Minister of Samoa, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland and Under Secretary General of the United Nations Rabab Fatima.



SAIL receives prestigious SHRM HR Excellence Awards :-

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) received SHRM - HR Excellence Awards in the categories of 'Excellence in Inclusion, Equity & Diversity' and 'Excellence in Managing the Distributed Workforce' at the renowned SHRM India Annual Conference 2024 in New Delhi. The awards recognise SAIL's pioneering HR policies and initiatives for inclusive workforce growth at its different facilities and units across the country. The company regards its employees as fundamental to its success and at the heart of all its operations.



Urmila Chaudhary Honored with Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024 :-

Urmila Chaudhary of Nepal received the Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024, presented by Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken. This award recognizes six civil society leaders for their remarkable courage, leadership, and dedication to promoting racial equity, justice, and human rights. Urmila Chaudhary, an abolitionist and labor campaigner, was freed from child servitude at the age of 17. Urmila Chaudhary is honoured for her dedication to advancing the rights of marginalized castes and ethnic communities in Nepal and for combating systemic racism and intersectional abuses.



Venezuelan Opposition Leaders Awarded EU Parliament's Human Rights Honor :-

The European Parliament has declared that María Corina Machado and President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia will receive the 2024 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. The two are being recognized for their work restoring democracy and freedom in Venezuela, according to a committee announcement. Parliament President Roberta Metsola made the declaration following a resolution by the Conference of Presidents. The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, named after Soviet physicist and dissident Andrei Sakharov, is the European Union's highest human rights honour.



Bhubaneswar wins the 'City with the Best Public Transport' :-

Bhubaneswar received the 'City with Best Public Transport System' award from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for its 'Mo Bus' and 'Mo-E Ride' services related to urban mobility. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Housing and Urban Development Minister, got the award from Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the 17th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat. This is the sixth time the Odisha government initiative, managed by the Capital Region Urban

Transport (CRUT), has received the Centre's recognition as one of the finest urban mobility.



Bibhab Talukdar Wins IUCN's Top Conservation Leadership Award :-

Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, a conservation scientist from Assam, has received 'The Harry Messel Award' for conservation leadership from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission (SSC). Talukdar received the prize at the 5th IUCN SSC leaders' meeting in Abu Dhabi, which brought together over 300 conservation professionals to address the interconnected problems of biodiversity and climate change. He has been associated with IUCN SSC since 1991 and became the chair of the Asian Rhino specialist group in 2008.



Rodri and Aitana Bonmatí win men's and women's Ballon d'Or :-

It was a fantastic night for Spanish soccer at the Ballon d'Or awards event, which honors the best players in men's and women's soccer. Rodri, a Manchester City and Spain midfielder, earned his first Ballon d'Or, while Barcelona and Spain star Aitana Bonmatí received her second consecutive Ballon d'Or Féminin during the presentation. There was a Spanish presence in a number of other awards during the presentation in Paris,

including the irrepressibly brilliant teenager Lamine Yamal winning the award for best player under 21. Rodri had an exceptional 2024 and was crucial to both Manchester City's and Spain's success throughout the year.



Chiranjeevi Honored with ANR Award by Amitabh Bachchan :-

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan presented legendary actor Chiranjeevi with the ANR National Award in Hyderabad to commemorate Akkineni Nageswara Rao's 100th birthday. Big B praised Chiranjeevi in his address before presenting him with the trophy. He also thanked Nagarjuna and his family for bringing him to such a renowned event. Chiranjeevi got emotional while receiving the award from Big B. As a mark of respect, he bowed down in front of Amitabh, touched his feet and sought his blessings. The award instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation annually honours artists for their lifetime contribution to cinema.



Pro Kabaddi League Wins 'Best Sports League' at CII Awards :-

The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) received the title of 'Best Sports League of the Year' at the CII Sports Business Awards 2024 in New Delhi. The ceremony for the award held during the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Score Card 2024 event, which also marked the start of the league's 11th season. This honor recognizes the league's enormous impact on the Indian sports landscape and its critical role in promoting kabaddi. In addition, defending champion Puneri Paltan was honoured with the 'Sports Franchise of the Year' award.



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Honoured with Fiji's Highest Civilian Award :-

Fiji, a South Pacific island nation, has bestowed its highest civilian accolade on Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the global spiritual teacher and humanitarian leader, in recognition of his untiring contributions to the upliftment of the human spirit and the peaceful and harmonious connection of many people. Ratu Wiliame M. Katonivere, President of the Republic of Fiji, appointed Gurudev as a 'Honourary Officer Of The Order Of Fiji'. Fiji has become the sixth country to confer the highest civilian award upon Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, recognising the vast scope of his humanitarian work globally through his 'The Art of Living Foundation'.

5: Banking



SBI Card Launches Co-Branded Credit Card With Singapore Airlines :-

SBI Card and Singapore Airlines (SIA) have partnered to launch the KrisFlyer SBI Card. The newly introduced credit card comes in two versions: KrisFlyer SBI Card and KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex. According to an SBI Card press release, this travel-centric co-branded credit card is aimed at catering to super-premium cardholders, providing special benefits in the air and on ground with the SIA Group, which includes Singapore Airlines, Scoot airline, KrisShop.com, Kris+ lifestyle app, and Pelago. The joining and annual renewal fee for the KrisFlyer SBI Card is Rs 2,999 plus applicable taxes, and Rs 9,999 plus applicable taxes for the KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex.



RBI and Maldives Monetary Authority Sign \$400 Million Currency Swap Agreement :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement that it has signed a currency swap agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) as part of the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27. It should be mentioned that the SAARC Currency Swap Framework

went into effect on November 15, 2012, to provide a backup line of credit for short-term foreign exchange liquidity needs or short-term balance of payments stress until longer-term arrangements are completed. The RBI added that the agreement would be valid till June 18, 2027.



Indian Navy Partners with Bajaj Allianz for Naval Civilians' Insurance Coverage :-

The Indian Navy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company to provide a wide product portfolio, including term insurance, to naval civilians at competitive premiums with numerous possibilities. Naval civilians can obtain insurance on a voluntary basis. This will assist in giving immediate financial relief in the event of the incumbent's death or any other unforeseen occurrence covered by the insurance coverage, according to a statement from the Ministry of Defence. The year 2024 has been declared 'Year of Naval Civilians' by Indian Navy in order to provide thrust to new initiatives and effectively improve the overall work environment for naval civilians.



Bank of Baroda rolls out Utsav Deposit Scheme to offer up to 7.90% interest :-

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the Bob Utsav Deposit Scheme, a 400-day term deposit scheme with 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 and above), and up to 7.95% p.a. on Non-Callable Deposits. The initiative began on October 14, 2024 and applies to fixed deposits under ₹3 crore. bob Utsav is a limited period offer. As a part of the festive campaign, the bank has also increased interest rates in the above 3-year to 5-year bucket by 30 basis points (bps) – from 6.50% p.a. to 6.80% p.a.



HDFC Opens First Singapore Branch To Expand Global Presence :-

Private lender HDFC Bank has opened its first branch in Singapore, providing banking services to the country. HDFC Bank is going to continue offer loan-related administrative services to NRIs in Singapore seeking housing loans and purchasing properties in India through its new branch, the bank stated. The branch was inaugurated by Rakesh Singh, Group Head - International Banking, Investment Banking, Private Banking, Digital Ecosystems and BaaS, HDFC Bank in the presence of Mr. Gaurav Khandelwal, CEO, HDFC Bank, Singapore and other senior management persons from the Bank.



Kotak Mahindra Bank lowers savings account rate to 3% on balances under ₹5 lakh :-

Kotak Mahindra Bank has reduced the savings account interest rate for accounts below ₹5 lakh by 50 basis points, from 3.5% to 3%. The bank formerly provided two rate slabs: 3.5% for accounts under ₹50 lakh and 4% for balances exceeding ₹50 lakh. Interest rates on balances exceeding ₹5 lakh stay unchanged. Savings accounts account for around 28% of Kotak Mahindra Bank's total deposits. Earlier this month, MD and CEO Ashok Vaswani said the bank wants to be one of the top three banks in India over the next five years.



Kotak Mahindra Bank to buy Standard Chartered's Rs 4,100 crore personal loan book :-

Kotak Mahindra Bank will purchase Standard Chartered Bank India's personal loan book, which has an overall outstanding of roughly Rs 4,100 crore, in an attempt to strengthen its retail lending operations. The proposed purchase, announced by Kotak Bank, will include 'Standard Loans' and is scheduled to be finalized within the next three months, subject to regulatory approvals. These are loans that are performing well and not showing any signs of distress or default. Kotak Bank will be acquiring the loan book that will be outstanding closer to the completion date for the deal.



Indian Overseas Bank launches Mahila Shaksham scheme to empower women entrepreneurs :-

The public enterprise Indian Overseas Bank launched the 'Mahila Shaksham' scheme to finance individual Women Self-Help Group members as part of the Centre's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission project. The plan, which aims to promote women entrepreneurs by assuring financial self-reliance, is similar to the Ministry of Rural Development's 'Lakshpati Didi Yojana' scheme, which is intended to strengthen the financial position of women self-help group members. It also promotes the financial independence of women and aims to deepen credit outreach to self-help group members, the statement added.



Navi Finserv Withdraws Bond Sale Following RBI Ban On New Loans :-

Navi Finserv has called off its planned bond issue. This ruling comes only days after the country's banking authority prohibited the non-bank finance firm (NBFC) from making new loans. According to bankers, the company wanted to raise Rs 1 billion (almost \$12 million) using two-year and three-month notes with a coupon of 10.40% and a quarterly payment schedule. On October 17, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took action against four NBFCs, including Navi Finserv, citing material supervisory concerns and instructing them to cease the sanction and disbursement of loans.



Freo Secures IRDAI License to Expand Insurance Offerings :-

Freo, a digital finance app, is expanding its offerings by entering the insurance market, having obtained a Corporate Agent License from India's Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI). Currently, Freo provides flexible credit, credit cards, UPI, investment and savings options, and insurance. The Peak XV-backed start-up intends to offer its customers' insurance plans in collaboration with prominent insurance providers in over 1200 cities. Freo's insurance offerings will initially focus on essential coverage for common diseases.



Paytm Receives NPCI Nod to Onboard New UPI Users After RBI Restrictions :-

One97 Communications (OCL), the firm that controls the Paytm brand, announced that it has acquired approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to onboard new UPI users, almost nine months after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a ban on new customer acquisition. In a letter to the Noida-based company's founder and CEO, Vijay Shekhar Sharma, NPCI chairman Dilip Asbe accepted and authorized the company to commence new customer onboarding. The permissions are subject to NPCI's procedural guidelines and agreements with Payment Service Provider (PSP) banks.



SBI Raises Rs 5,000 Crore via AT-1 Bonds at 7.98% :-

State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs 5,000 crore through a Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) bond issue

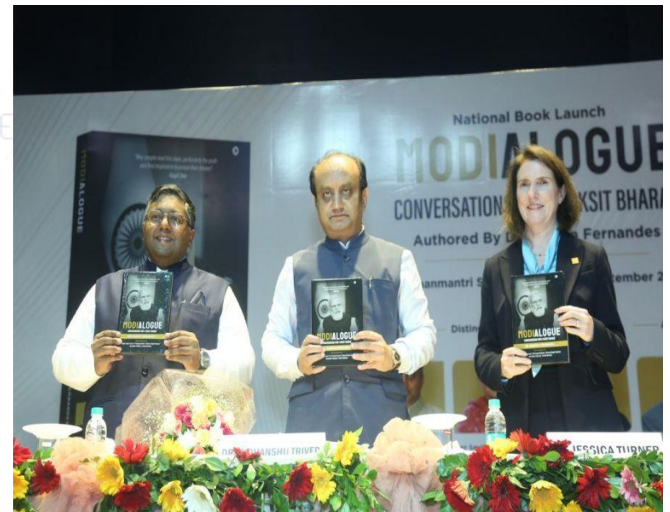
with a yield rate of 7.98%. This is the bank's first AT-1 bond issue for the current fiscal year. These bonds have a perpetual tenor, with a call option after 10 years and on each anniversary date afterward, according to India's largest bank. CRISIL Ratings and CARE Ratings both rate the bonds as AA+, with a stable outlook. The issue attracted bids from investors in excess of 3.5 times the base issue size of Rs 2,000 crore, the bank said, adding that the total number of bids received from qualified institutional bidders was 108.

6: Books and Author



Dr MK Ranjitsinh's fourth book 'Mountain Mammals of the World' released in New Delhi :-

Author Dr. MK Ranjitsinh, a member of the royal family of Wankaner in Saurashtra (Gujarat), is widely recognized for his conservation efforts. Former politician-author Padma Vibhushan Dr Karan Singh recently launched his fourth book, 'Mountain Mammals of the World', at the WWF in New Delhi. The book includes 58 species and 119 mountain animal taxa from throughout the world, as well as images and maps. Dr MK Ranjitsinh dedicated his latest book 'Mountain Mammals of the World' to his four grandchildren.



Dr Ashwin Fernandes's book Modialogue Launched at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya :-

Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi, National Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Member of the Rajya Sabha, along with Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Former Union Cabinet Minister, and Ms. Jessica Turner, CEO of QS Quacquarelli Symonds, attended the official book release of the highly anticipated book "Modialogue: Conversations for a Viksit Bharat," which was written by Dr. Ashwin Fernandes, Executive Director of the global university rankings agency QS Quacquarelli Symonds. The book highlights how this platform has fostered engagement among citizens, providing a voice for the people and mirroring their aspirations, concerns, and hopes for the future.



Telangana Chief Minister releases senior journalist's book 'WittyLeaks' :-

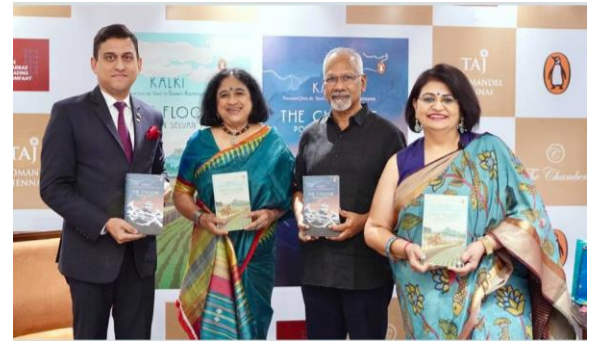
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy unveiled the memoirs of senior journalist A. Saye Sekhar's "WittyLeaks - compilation of stories" in Hyderabad. The journalist, who started his career in 1988 with the Telugu daily 'Eenadu,' in his book follows the enjoyable aspects of encompassing different chief ministers from N.T. Rama Rao to Marri Chenna Reddy to N. Janardhan Reddy, K. Vijayabhaskara Reddy, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhkar Reddy, N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, and the most recent Chief Minister. He also shares interesting anecdotes from his reporting of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and other notable figures.



Telangana Government Advisor Releases Book In Tirupati :-

K.S. Sreenivasa Raju, advisor to the Government of Telangana, published the book 'Jakkadona', written by acclaimed writer R.C. Krishnaswamy Raju, at the Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) campus in Tirupati. Mr. Srinivasa Raju, who previously served as the Joint Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), praised the work and thanked the author for bringing the rural dialect of Chittoor region to light. Meanwhile, Mr. Krishnaswamy Raju called his collection

of 21 stories as revolving around the little village named Jakkadona in Chittoor district.



Ponniyin Selvan 1 & 2 by Kalki Translated by Gowri Ramnarayan Launched :-

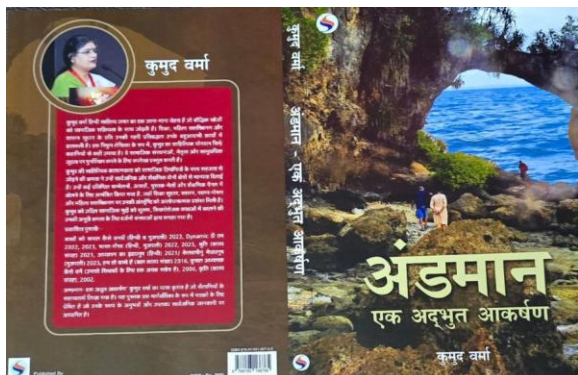
Penguin Random House is excited to announce the publication of "Ponniyin Selvan 1 & 2" by Kalki, translated by Gowri Ramnarayan, in collaboration with Rendezvous by The Chambers at Taj Coromandel, Chennai, and The Madras Reading Club. The book launch commemorates Ponniyin Selvan's 75th anniversary. Shri Mani Ratnam, a renowned director, launched the book. The 125th anniversary of Kalki Krishnamurthy's birth occurs in 2024. In honour of this momentous occasion, Gowri Ramnarayan-Kalki's granddaughter and an acclaimed playwright and musician-presents a fresh and dynamic translation of the epic.



A New Book "War" By Veteran Investigative Journalist Bob Woodward :-

Bob Woodward, a veteran investigative journalist best known for his part in unearthing the Watergate scandal, is about to release his next book, "War," which has already begun to upset the political landscape. This highly anticipated book dives deeply into the power dynamics of former US President Donald Trump, current

President Joe Biden, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, giving startling insights into their leadership and the ongoing global issues. Like his previous works, Fear, Rage, and Peril, this book aims to provide a behind-the-scenes look into Trump's political maneuverings and relationships.



The Book 'Andaman: Ek Adbhut Akarshan' Launched at AILF-2024 :-

A appealing book combined with recollections, feelings, and suggestions for traveling about the Andaman, 'Andaman: Ek Adbhut Aakarshan' by renowned Hindi writer Kumud Verma, was published at the just-concluded 9th edition of the Ahmedabad International Literature Festival in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in the Mrinalini Sarabhai auditorium of the stunning Centre for Environment Education campus. The book was released by her fellow travellers to Andaman in the recent trip, Umashankar Yadav - Founder of AILF, Prof. Sanjay Verma of IIMA and Umlsh Yadav and Serene Yadav.



Anurag Anand's new spy thriller 'Operation Bamboo Garden' launched in Delhi :-

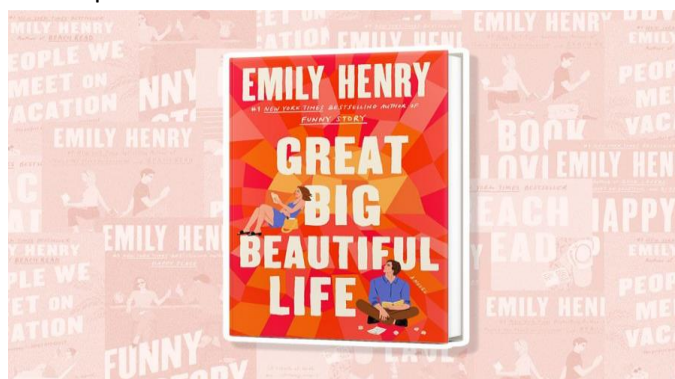
The much-anticipated book 'Operation Bamboo Garden' by novelist and artist Anurag Anand was launched at Kunzum Books in Delhi. Eminent personalities attended the book launch, including Major Gaurav Arya (Retd),

Smita Mishra, Lifestyle Editor of The Times of India (Digital), and author-moderator Rrashima Swaarup Verma. Anurag Anand discussed the uniqueness of his method. 'Operation Bamboo Garden' offers a different perspective by making the spy a part of the common people. He remarked, "The spies in my book are very real and relatable, they are just like one of us."



Taylor Swift Book: Taylor Swift to release her first official book after Eras Tour ends :-

Taylor Swift is finally becoming an author, after months of speculation and anticipation. Taylor announced the momentous news on Good Morning America. Surprising her admirers, the singer-songwriter said that she is going to release her first official book shortly after her Eras Tour, which concludes in December 2024 and is "the most wondrous tour" of her life. Sharing details about her much-awaited book, Taylor said that the 256-page book will give an "official perspective" of her tour. In the upcoming book, which is aptly titled 'The Official Eras Tour Book', Taylor will share her stories and memories from her Eras Tour and it will have some never-seen-before pictures from it.



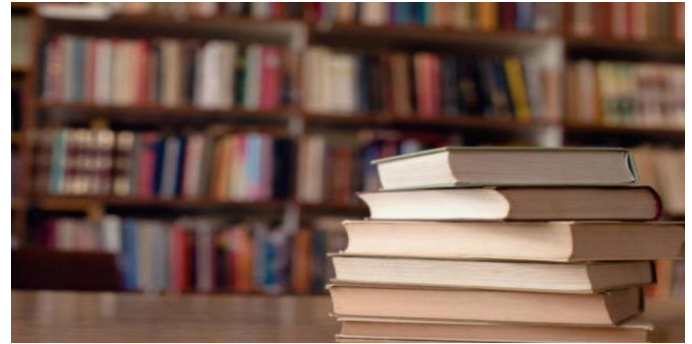
Emily Henry has officially announced her latest novel, 'Great Big Beautiful Life' :-

Emily Henry has officially revealed the release date of her latest novel, 'Great Big Beautiful Life', which will be on April 22, 2025. Henry is known for her fascinating romantic comedies, and her new book follows the narrative of two writers, Alice Scott and Hayden Anderson, who compete to write the life story of Margaret Ives, a reclusive heiress. The novel is already available for pre-order across various platforms, and its release will likely draw significant interest, considering Henry's strong following from previous works like 'Beach Read', 'Book Lovers', and 'Happy Place'.

Kerala govt. releases books for parents to address their children's educational needs :-

The Kerala government launched an innovative program, releasing a series of books aimed at empowering parents to assist their children's educational needs from pre-primary to higher secondary levels. State General

Education Minister V Sivankutty released the four-book set titled 'Parents with the Growing Child', according to a government release. Speaking after the book release, the minister said, "Kerala has always been a leader in education with numerous exemplary initiatives. This new project further strengthens the partnership between parents, schools, and children, ensuring the comprehensive development of students."



7: Defence



KAZIND 2024 Exercise Commences In The Uttarakhand

The eighth edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2024 began at Surya Foreign Training Node in Auli, Uttarakhand. The exercise will take place from September 30 to October 13, 2024. KAZIND-2024 is a yearly joint exercise that has been held since 2016. The last round of the Joint Exercise took place in Otar, Kazakhstan, from October 30 to November 11, 2023. The Indian Armed Forces, comprising 120 personnel, are being represented by a battalion of the KUMAON Regiment of Indian Army, along with other arms and services, as well as personnel from Indian Air Force.



Two women officers of Indian Navy embark on global sailing voyage :-

On October 2, two female Indian Navy officers set out from Goa on a difficult journey to complete a full circumnavigation, traveling 21,600 nautical miles over the course of eight months. It is anticipated that Lieutenant Commanders Dilna K. and Roopa A. would return to Goa in May 2025. The historic voyage was flagged off from the Naval Ocean Sailing Node, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mandovi, near Panaji, as both the officers sailed on the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini.



Lokesh Machines Delivers First Indigenous Submachine Guns To Indian Army :-

Lokesh Machines Limited has delivered its first substantial order of the indigenously produced Asmi submachine gun (SMG) to the Indian Army's Northern Command, marking a watershed moment in the country's private defence manufacturing sector. This contract for 550 SMGs marks a key milestone in India's effort for domestic production of modern military weaponry. This accomplishment is particularly significant because it is the first time a private, 100% indigenous manufacturer has met such a requirement.



Army tests indigenous equipment to help soldiers in high-altitude conditions :-

During the ongoing border stalemate with China, the Indian Army is looking for indigenous solutions to meet the issues of habitat and logistics at high altitudes for its soldiers stationed near the Line of Actual Control. DTech 360 Innovations, a Delhi-based firm, was recently invited to Leh to demonstrate its sophisticated high-altitude habitat solution, known as 'Peak Pods', which is a fully relocatable shelter developed to sustain inside temperatures without the use of heaters, kerosene, or generators. The Army has been actively testing

indigenous technologies and equipment in real-world conditions.



56 years after IAF plane crash, body of Army soldier handed over to extended family :-

Soldier Narayan Singh's body arrived at his ancestral village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on October 3, 56 years after his death, and was received by his extended family. Narayan was one of four crew members on the Indian Air Force AN-12 cargo jet that crashed into snow-covered mountains in Rohtang, Himachal Pradesh, on February 7, 1968. A joint team of Dogra Scouts of the Indian Army, in collaboration with representatives of Tiranga Mountain Rescue, recovered the remains of four individuals from the crash site, almost 16,000 ft. above sea level near Dhaka glacier, earlier.



Army to organise Walong Day in honour of fallen heroes

The Indian Army is planning a series of magnificent festivities to commemorate the 62nd Walong Day, which will honor the soldiers' unwavering courage and sacrifice throughout the Battle of Walong in the 1962 Sino-Indian War. The celebrations will begin on October 17, 2024, with a somber inaugural event and wreath-laying at the Walong War Memorial, which honors the courageous hearts who gave their lives defending our nation. A defence spokesperson said that the 62nd Walong Day

will not just be a tribute to the past but a vibrant celebration of gallant spirit of the Indian Army.



Indian Navy Commissions New Deep-Water Survey Vessel Niradeshak (Yard 3026) :-

Niradeshak (Yard 3026), the second of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships under the command of the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and manufactured at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata, has been delivered to the Indian Navy. The class's first ship, INS Sandhayak, was commissioned on February 3, 24. The contract for four Survey Vessels (SVL) was finalized on October 30, 2018. The ship aims at full scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic survey of port/ harbour approaches and determination of navigational channels/routes. The delivery of Niradeshak is a reassurance on impetus of the Government of India and the Indian Navy towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.



Army Chief Launches "Agniashtra" Multi-Target Detonation Device In Gangtok :-

General Upendra Dwivedi, Army Chief, officially introduced "Agniashtra," a portable multi-target detonation device, amid the Army Commanders Conference in Gangtok. This device, invented by Major Rajprasad RS of the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers, is regarded as a significant breakthrough across

conventional and counter-terrorism operations. On March 19, Major Rajprasad's innovation was granted a patent. According to Indian Army officials, the device holds "tremendous potential" for use in room interventions, remote bunker or hideout destruction, and reserve demolitions.



Army looks to hire civil choppers for logistics on northern borders :-

The Indian Army is trying to employ helicopters from civil agencies to perform a variety of tasks along the country's northern borders, including logistics supplies, transporting troops to forward locations, and casualty evacuation when necessary. It intends to deploy these single-engine helicopters in select areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including Drass, Kargil, Batalik, Doda, Kishtwar, and Gurez. Barring the specific sectors, the helicopters will be mostly deployed during the winters — from November to April — for stocking of ration, fuel, other stores and operational purposes.



Army chief Gen Dwivedi embarks on Japan visit to boost defence ties :-

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi is on a four-day visit to Japan to strengthen India-Japan defence cooperation. The Army chief will visit Hiroshima from

October 14 to 17, where he will lay a wreath at the Hiroshima Peace Park and give floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue. The visit is a "significant step in bolstering defence cooperation between India and Japan," according to a statement from the defence ministry. He engaged in dialogue with the senior military leadership of Japan at the defence ministry in Ichigaya October 15, 2024.



S. Paramesh Assumes Office as New Director General of Indian Coast Guard :-

Paramesh Sivamani became the 26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). In September 2022, he was promoted to Additional Director General and assigned to the Coast Guard Headquarters in the nation's capital. He was assigned the additional position of DG ICG in August 2024 following the sudden death of then-Director General Rakesh Pal from a heart attack in Chennai. Mr. Sivamani specialises in navigation and direction and his sea commands include all major vessels of ICG which include advanced offshore patrol vessel Samar and offshore patrol vessel Vishwast.



Indian Coast Guard Conducts 'Sagar Kavach' Coastal Security Drill :-

On October 16-17, the Indian Coast Guard successfully conducted the Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' for the State of Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu. The two-day "SAGAR KAVACH - 02/24" comprehensively assessed the effectiveness of the Coastal Security Mechanism. Various stakeholders, including the Indian Navy, State Police, Marine Police, BSF, National Security Guard, GMB, Fisheries, Intelligence Bureau, Port Authorities, CISF, and others, took part in the exercise, which was supervised by ICG. Significant among the assets participating are Ships and Boats from Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy and Marine Police apart from extensive aerial surveillance of coastal areas by Indian Coast Guard aircraft and Drones, as per the release.



Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps conducting 'Swavlamban Shakti' exercise :-

The Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Southern Command is carrying out 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi to improve combat capabilities by integrating niche and developing technology. The drill began on October 17 and will continue until October 22, according to a defence announcement. The XXI Corps, also known as the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, is the army's striking corps with its headquarters in Bhopal. The exercise that aims to integrate New Technology Equipment (NTEs) into the Army's offensive strategies, ensuring readiness for future warfare scenarios, started in the presence of Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh, General Officer Commanding of Sudarshan Chakra Corps.



India and Oman Conduct Joint Naval Drill 'Naseem Al Bahr' off Goa :-

The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman recently completed their bilateral naval exercise, 'Naseem Al Bahr', off the coast of Goa. The exercise ran from October 13 to October 18. The Indian Navy announced the specifics of the naval drill on the social media site X. According to the press statement, the exercise was divided into two phases: the harbour phase, which lasted from October 13 to October 15, and the sea phase, which ran from October 16 to October 18. As part of harbour activities, personnel from both Navies engaged in professional interactions, including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges and planning conferences.



India Strengthens Navy with Fourth Nuclear Submarine

Official sources verified that India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), known as S4*, was successfully launched into sea at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam. This submarine is larger and more capable than its predecessor, INS Arihant (S2), which was mainly a technology demonstrator created under the Advanced Technology Vessel program. The S4* was launched into water on

October 16 at SBC, multiple sources confirmed. It has significant indigenous content, with Indian industry being extensively involved, according to a source.



Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) 2024 :-

The 31st Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) will take place at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam until October 29, according to a press statement from the Ministry of Defence. The exercise will be divided into two phases: the Harbour Phase, which will take place from October 23 to 25 in Visakhapatnam, and the Sea Phase, which will take place from October 28 to 29 in the Bay of Bengal. The opening ceremony to mark the beginning of SIMBEX24 was conducted on October 24, onboard INS Shivalik and was attended by participating units of the Eastern Fleet and the Singapore Navy.



GRSE's Seventh ASW Ship, 'Abhay', Joins Indian Navy Fleet :-

Sandhya Pendharkar, president of the Navy Wives Welfare Association (NWWA), Eastern Region, launched the seventh anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW SWC), 'Abhay', which is being built by India's foremost shipbuilding and repair company, Garden

Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). The envisioned capabilities of ASW SWC ships include search attack unit (SAU) and coordinated ASW operations with aircraft,

interdiction/destruction of sub surface targets in coastal waters and carrying out search and rescue by day and night in coastal areas.

8: Economy



GST Council Establishes Group of Ministers On Compensation Cess :-

The GST Council has formed a 10-member GoM, headed by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to make decisions on the taxing of luxury, sin, and demerit products after the compensation cess expires in March 2026. The Group of Ministers (GoM), which consists of members from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, will submit its report to the Council on December 31. The task before the GoM is quite critical as it would have to suggest whether the levy would continue as cess or additional tax.



Finance Ministry Introduces New Norms For Handling Delayed Tax Refund Claims :-

The Ministry of Finance has issued new guidelines for dealing with delayed tax refund requests and loss carry

forward applications. The new standards raise the maximum on tax refund claims in cases of delay, which will benefit taxpayers who failed to file any ITR while having a tax refund owed to them. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which is part of the Ministry of Finance, has issued a new circular outlining a structured approach to the condonation of delayed applications. Taxpayers will no longer need to approach higher authorities if the tax refund amount increases, and a five-year time limit has been imposed for filing condonation applications.



Bharat Electronics and Israel Aerospace Industries Form Joint Venture :-

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna military PSU, and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's foremost aerospace and defense business, have announced the formation of a joint venture company (JVC) called 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, Bengaluru-headquartered BEL said in a statement.



India's Forex Reserves Surpass \$700 Billion Milestone for the First Time :-

India has become the world's fourth economy to have more than 700 billion US dollars in foreign reserves, behind China, Japan, and Switzerland. India's foreign exchange reserves increased by 12.588 billion dollars to a new all-time high of 704.885 billion dollars in the week ending September 27. The currency reserves increased by 2.8 billion to 692.3 billion dollars in the previous week, which ended September 20. The sharp increase in forex reserves strengthened India's ability to cushion against global economic uncertainties and provides greater stability to its currency in the face of volatile international markets.



**POWER FINANCE
CORPORATION
LIMITED**

Power Finance Corporation Secures Record USD 1.265 Billion Loan :-

The state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) stated that it had obtained the largest-ever foreign currency term loan of USD 1.265 billion. According to a corporate release, this landmark transaction was carried out through a facility arrangement with various banks situated in IFSC GIFT City, Gandhinagar. According to the announcement, PFC announced the successful

conclusion of the largest-ever foreign currency term loan from an Indian PSU, totaling USD 1.265 billion. The loan will primarily be deployed towards financing assets other than thermal generation projects, furthering PFC's strong commitment to decarbonization and the transition to green energy.



India's textile sector expected to grow \$350 billion by 2030 :-

India's textile market is estimated to reach about 350 billion dollars by 2030. According to the country's trade figures for August 2024, ready-made clothing are up 11 percent year on year. According to a statement from the Ministry of Textiles, the Indian government intends to attain this goal through a variety of schemes and policy measures. It said that over 90 thousand crore rupees of investment is expected to flow through the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes in the next three to five years.



HAL Becomes 14th Maharatna Company :-

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been promoted to the level of Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). The plan for HAL upgrade was

previously recommended by two high-level committees: the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), chaired by the Finance Secretary, and the Apex Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. HAL, which operates under the Department of Defence Production (DoDP), recorded an annual turnover of Rs 28,162 crore and a net profit of Rs 7,595 crore for the financial year 2023-24.



BEML Secures Contract for India's First Indigenous Bullet Trains :-

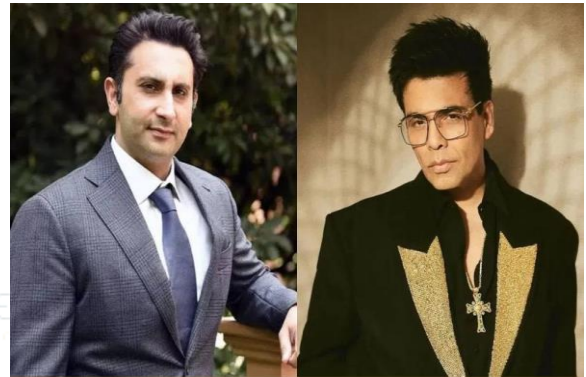
BEML, a state-owned company, has been given a contract worth Rs 867 crore to design, manufacture, and commission two high-speed train sets, marking the first time such work will be done in-house. The contract was given by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai. "The price of each car is Rs 27.86 crore and the total contract value is Rs 866.87 core which includes design cost, one-time development cost, non-recurring charges, one time cost towards jigs, fixtures, tooling and testing facilities, which will be utilised for all future high-speed projects in India," BEML told exchanges in a disclosure.



Chennai Metro Rail to Launch Trial Run of Driverless Train for Phase II Project :-

Chennai Metro Rail's first three-coach driverless train for the Rs 63,246 crore phase II project is expected to make

its debut on October 26. Chief Minister M K Stalin and Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar have been requested to flag off the first train, according to sources. According to Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) authorities, the three coaches of the driverless train arrived from Sri City at the depot facility for the phase II project at Poonamallee early on October 17. CMRL has built some new features in the phase II trains including new digital displays for showing routes and charging points.



Adar Poonawalla Acquires 50% Stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions :-

Serene Productions, helmed by Adar Poonawalla, has agreed to invest ₹1,000 crore in Dharma Productions and Dharmatic Entertainment, owned by Karan Johar. Serene Productions will control 50% of Dharma as a result of this deal, while Karan Johar will keep the remaining 50%. According to a statement, Karan Johar, the executive chairman, will lead the company's creative direction. As the chief executive officer, Apoorva Mehta will work with Karan Johar in steering the strategic direction and overseeing the organisation's operational excellence.



Hindalco Industries Ltd. Joins the International Copper Association (ICA) as Newest Member :-

The International Copper Association (ICA), a global industry group, has elected Aditya Birla Group firm Hindalco Industries Ltd as its latest member. Hindalco Industries, the Aditya Birla Group's metals flagship firm, has been in operation since 1958 and is a prominent producer of copper and aluminium. The company manufactures copper cathodes and continuous cast copper rods for the domestic and foreign markets. "We are excited to join ICA and collaborate with the global copper fraternity to develop the value chain for this critical metal for the world's net zero transition," Rohit Pathak, CEO-Copper Business of Hindalco was quoted as saying in a press statement.



Airbus Launches State-of-the-Art Headquarters and Training Centre in India :-

Airbus recently dedicated its innovative headquarters for India and South Asia at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, strengthening its long-term goal for the region's aerospace and defense sectors. The brand-new facility is designed to consolidate all three of Airbus' business units—Commercial Aircraft, Helicopters, and Defence & Space—under a single facility, bringing the company closer to its customers in India and South Asia. CEO of Airbus Defence and Space, and Rémi Maillard described the launch as a significant milestone, saying, "This headquarters embodies Airbus' commitment to growing India's entire aerospace ecosystem."



EIB Funds ₹2,800 Cr for Bengaluru Suburban Railway to Enhance Urban Mobility :-

The European Investment Bank has announced a loan of Rs 2,800 crore for the Bengaluru suburban railway. The bank also established a technical assistance center for urban mobility solutions. Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Nicola Beer, stated that the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Network will assist reduce pollution and carbon emissions while also improving the safety of female passengers. She mentioned that the disbursement of the money will occur over the next five years. The network will stretch over 149 kilometres and include 58 stations.



US, Japan, and South Korea Collaborate on India's Digital Infrastructure :-

The United States, Japan, and South Korea have announced the start of a new framework that would strengthen their partnership with the Indian private sector to promote digital infrastructure in India. DFC CEO Scott Nathan, JBIC Governor Nobumitsu Hayashi, and Korea Eximbank Chairman and CEO Hee-sung Yoon inked the Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India Framework (DiGi Framework) to promote information

and communications technology projects such as 5G, Open RAN, submarine cables, optical fiber networks, telecom towers, data centers, smart cities, e-commerce, AI, and quantum technology, according to a media release.



SBI and India Exim Bank Bridge Trade Financing Gaps in Africa :-

The South African CEOs of the State Bank of India and the India Exim Bank told the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF) in Johannesburg that their organizations are assisting African enterprises in filling trade finance gaps. Ashutosh Kumar, CEO of State Bank of India (SBI), and Shyamashish Acharya, Resident Representative of India Exim Bank's Johannesburg Representative Office, both discussed the

advantages of using their services to conduct import and export trade between India and Africa.



Slice Completes Merger with North East Small Finance Bank :-

Slice, a fintech startup, finalized its merger with North East Small Finance Bank, combining the financial institutions' activities, assets, and brand identities into a single institution. The combination got the necessary shareholder and regulatory authorizations, the firms stated in a joint statement. The merger was completed more than a year after the bank acquired a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Reserve Bank of India. The merged entity aims to deepen the bank's presence in the country's north-eastern region.

9: International



UN Chief Guterres Banned To Enter In The Israel :-

Israel has barred UN Secretary-General António Guterres from visiting the country since, as stated by Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Guterres did not strongly criticize Iran's missile attack on Israel and Hamas attacks. Katz claimed that anyone who cannot condemn these activities is unworthy to visit Israel. He stated that the

country will defend its citizens and maintain its dignity, with or without the UN chief's assistance. UN chief Guterres condemned the ongoing escalation in the Middle East after Iran's rocket barrage on Israel, but without naming Iran or Israel.



Claudia Sheinbaum sworn in as Mexico's first female president :-

Claudia Sheinbaum took oath as Mexico's first female president, riding the wave of enthusiasm for her predecessor's social projects while simultaneously confronting persistently high levels of violence. The 62-year-old scientist-turned-politician inherits a country plagued by a slow economy, incomplete construction projects, growing debt, and the hurricane-damaged vacation city of Acapulco. Sheinbaum romped to victory in June with nearly 60% of the vote, propelled largely by the sustained popularity of her political mentor, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.



Italy and Switzerland To Redraw Alpine Borders :-

Switzerland and Italy are planning to partially redraw their land borders near the famed Matterhorn mountain, as melting glaciers in the area have forced the present borders to change. The two countries have developed a treaty, which has been approved by the Swiss Federal Council and is anticipated to be signed by the Italian government shortly. Once both governments have signed off, it is envisaged that the specific geographic areas affected will become obvious. Swiss authorities are hopeful of finalising the agreement before the end of the year. The shared border between Italy and Switzerland is around 578 km long.



UK Agrees to Transfer Chagos Islands Sovereignty to Mauritius :-

In an agreement that assures the existence of a strategically significant UK-US military station, the British government decided to give Mauritius sovereignty over the long-disputed Chagos Islands, a group of more than 60 islands in the Indian Ocean. According to British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, the agreement guarantees the key military facility at Diego Garcia, the largest of the chain of islands off India's tip, for the future. The base, which is home to around 2,500 personnel, mainly Americans, has been involved in military operations, including the 2003 war in Iraq and the long-running war in Afghanistan.



Nepal Appoints Prakash Man Singh Raut as Chief Justice

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel has chosen Prakash Man Singh Raut as the country's new Chief Justice. Mr. Paudel delivered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Justice Raut during a special ceremony held in Sheetal Niwas, the President's Office, according to officials. On September 16, the Constitutional Council recommended Mr. Raut for the office. His appointment comes after the retirement of outgoing Chief Justice Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 65.



UNGA Elects 18 New Members to Human Rights Council for 2025-2027 Term :-

The United Nations General Assembly selected 18 members to the 47-member Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 session. The 18 countries, comprising Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand, were chosen using a secret ballot. The elected members are given three-year terms commencing January 1 of next year. The Geneva-based Human Rights Council is an international body within the United Nations system tasked with promoting and safeguarding human rights around the world.

**US Sends THAAD Missile Defense System to Israel :-**

While Israel faces growing criticism for targeting UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, the US has announced that it will send its powerful missile defense system THAAD, as well as troops for operating it, to the West Asian country. THAAD stands for Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence, and the battery is designed to intercept and destroy hostile missiles. A THAAD battery consists of 95 soldiers, six truck-mounted launchers, 48 interceptors (eight per launcher), radar surveillance and radar, and a tactical fire component, according to a paper by the US Congressional Research Service.

**World Health Organization Obtains \$1 Billion Funding for Upcoming Years :-**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has received \$1 billion in commitments for its next budget, 2025-28. New financing promises from various European governments, foundations, and organisations accounted for nearly \$700 million of this total. Meanwhile, \$300 million was raised from repeated financing promises. The financing was revealed during the WHO Investment Round Signature Event during the World Health Summit in Berlin, which was co-hosted by Germany, France, and Norway. This event marked a crucial moment in the global health strategy outlined by WHO's Fourteenth General Programme of Work 2025-2028, approved by the Organisation's 194 Member States earlier this year at the World Health Assembly.

**FATF Tightens Grey Listing Rules with New Risk-Based Focus :-**

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has announced that it would make significant modifications to the criteria to focus on nations that pose bigger risks to the global financial system. The global anti-money laundering agency stated that the impact of illicit financial flows is felt most severely by the least developed countries, which impedes sustainable development. Proceeds of crimes like tax evasion, corruption, and organized crime, divert billions of dollars annually away from essential public goods like education and health, according to the statement.



Subianto Announces Indonesia's Largest-Ever Cabinet :-

Indonesia's newly elected President Prabowo Subianto unveiled the country's largest Cabinet ever, with 109 members signifying his vow for a strong government. He dubbed his Cabinet of Ministers, Vice-Ministers, and heads of state agencies the "Red and White Cabinet," a reference to the colors of Indonesia's flag. Mr. Subianto's predecessor Joko Widodo's Cabinet included 34 Ministers and heads of government agencies. Mr. Subianto has said earlier that he needs a strong administration, even though analysts said that his "fat" Cabinet would bloat the bureaucracy.



IIT Madras Set to Launch International Research Centre in Dubai by 2025 :-

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras plans to open its first international flagship centre for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in early 2025. The IITM Global Dubai Centre will focus on cutting-edge sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI), data science, robotics, and sustainable energy, establishing a new link to India's entrepreneurial environment. The Institute's plans to establish the Centre in Dubai has been facilitated through an agreement between Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) and the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET).



Pakistan Limits Chief Justice's Term to Three Years :-

Pakistan adopted legislation limiting the Chief Justice's term to three years and establishing a special panel to pick the top judge from three senior Supreme Court judges, despite opposition from imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party. President Asif Ali Zardari signed the Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024, after it was enacted by both Houses of Parliament - the Senate and the National Assembly. With the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill becoming law, the government can now prevent Justice Masoor Ali Shah from succeeding current Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, who is slated to retire on October 25 after reaching retirement age of 65 years.



Vietnam Elects Military Leader Luong Cuong as President :-

Vietnam has chosen Luong Cuong, a military general, as its next president, the fourth official to assume the largely ceremonial position in 18 months. Cuong, 67, was voted by the National Assembly to succeed To Lam, who remained president despite being formally installed as general secretary of the ruling Communist Party in August. The general secretary has the most powerful position in Vietnam, whilst the presidency is primarily ceremonial and involves meetings with foreign leaders. His appointment took place after months of uncharacteristic tumult in Vietnam's politics and the death of former party general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.



NCGG Completes 34th Training for Maldivian Civil Servants, Boosting Indo-Maldivian Ties :-

On October 25, the National Centre for Good Governance finished the 34th Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants in New Delhi. The two-week training began on the 14th of this month, in partnership with the External Affairs Ministry. The program was attended by 35 Maldivian civil servants, including directors, assistant directors, and senior administrators. Further, this was the second program under the second phase for civil servants of the Maldives following the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding to train 1,000 Maldivian civil servants.



Salt Typhoon: Chinese Espionage Group Targets Trump And Vance In 2024 U.S. Election :-

Chinese hackers are targeting the communication devices of many US presidential contenders, such as former President Donald Trump and his running mate, JD Vance. This comprehensive hacking assault was purportedly carried out by a Chinese cyber espionage cell known as 'Salt Typhoon'. According to the New York Times, the gang entered telecommunications networks and may have obtained sensitive information from major

service providers, including Verizon. According to reports, Salt Typhoon's targets in the US include not only Trump's campaign but also Democratic contenders, including Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate Tim Walz.



Brazil Opts Out of China's Belt and Road Initiative :-

In a big defeat for China's BRI, Brazil has decided not to join Beijing's multibillion-dollar program, becoming the second BRICS country after India to reject the megaproject. Brazil, led by President Lula da Silva, will not participate in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) but would instead seek new methods to engage with Chinese companies, according to Celso Amorim, special presidential adviser for foreign affairs. Brazil wants to "take the relationship with China to a new level, without having to sign an accession contract", he told Brazilian newspaper O Globo.



World's First Green Energy Island Sails Into Cost Storm :-

In the midst of the North Sea, an ambitious green energy venture is coming together. The "energy island," named after Belgium's Princess Elisabeth, was inaugurated in 2021 to support a massive increase in wind energy

production, reducing the country's reliance on climate-warming fossil fuels. However, supply chain issues have caused costs to more than quadruple to more than € 7

billion, according to some estimates, prompting calls for construction to be halted at a time of growing political opposition to ambitious green targets across Europe.

10: Miscellaneous



IBBI Celebrates Its 8th Annual Day :-

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) celebrated its Eighth Annual Day on October 1, 2024. The biggest ceremony commemorating the anniversary was held in New Delhi. Chief Justice (Retd.) Mr Ramalingam Sudhakar, President of the National Company Law Tribunal, was the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote presentation. Over the past eight years, the IBBI has significantly accelerated the resolution of insolvency cases, bolstering investor and stakeholder confidence and fostering a more favourable environment for business growth.



Rafael Nadal Announces Retirement from Tennis After 23 Years and 22 Grand Slams :-

Rafael Nadal, the 22-time Grand Slam champion and arguably one of the finest tennis players of all time, has announced his retirement from the sport. The 38-year-old has announced that he will step down from tennis at the end of the current season, effectively after the Davis Cup final. Nadal ranks second in the list of men's tennis Grand Slam winners, trailing only Novak Djokovic (24). Overall he won 92 career titles and earned a whopping prize money of \$134,946,100. His best came at the French Open in Paris which he won 14 times. He also won the US Open four times, the Australian Open, and the Wimbledon two times.



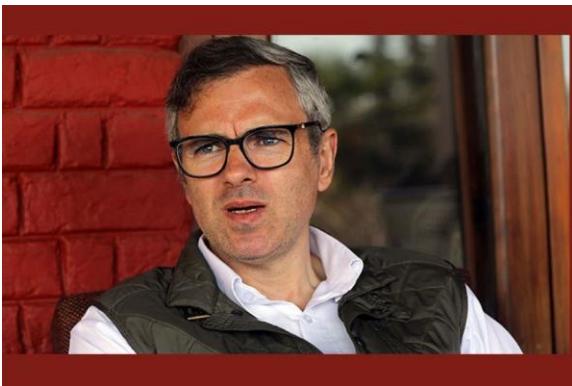
Young Sherpa Conquers World's Tallest Mountains at 18 :-

A Nepalese teenager has surpassed the global record for the youngest-ever mountaineer to summit the planet's 14 tallest peaks. Nima Rinji Sherpa, 18, stood atop Tibet's Mount Shishapangma at approximately 06:05 local time on October 9. In doing so, he became one of only a few dozen persons to have scaled all of the world's "eight-thousanders" - the 14 summits recognized by the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) as being more than 8,000 meters above sea level. Sherpa, who started climbing high-altitude mountains at the age of 16, summited all eight-thousanders in 740 days.



President's rule lifted in Jammu and Kashmir :-

As National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah and lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha pushed their claims for forming a new administration in Jammu and Kashmir, President's authority in the union territory was lifted. On October 31, 2019, the former state was separated into two Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and central rule took effect. After a decade-long gap, the assembly elections resulted in the National Conference winning 42 seats, with its pre-poll allies Congress and CPM securing six and one seats, respectively.



Omar Abdullah Takes Oath as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir :-

Following his National Conference's victory in the first assembly election since Article 370 was repealed, Omar Abdullah sworn in as the first chief minister of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The chief minister and his council of ministers took their oaths at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar. Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the chief minister and his ministers. The Congress,

however, said it has decided not to join the council of ministers in the newly formed Jammu and Kashmir government as the party was "unhappy" that statehood was not restored to the Union territory.



Indo-Turkiye Friendship Association Launched in Hyderabad :-

In order to promote connections between India and Turkey, the Indo-Turkish Friendship Association (ITFA) was established in Hyderabad. The program seeks to strengthen bilateral collaboration in sectors such as the economy and trade, culture and tourism, science and technology, and education. At a media interaction, Consul General of Turkiye in Hyderabad, Orhan Yalman Okan, and ITFA Chairman Faiz Khan underscored measures the association would take up to strengthen ties between the countries.



India Delivers Haemodialysis Machines to PNG, Supplies Aid to Lebanon :-

India is providing 33 tonnes of medical supplies to Lebanon as humanitarian help. The first shipment of 11 tons of medical supplies was sent out on October 19. The consignment contains a diverse range of pharmaceutical products, such as cardiovascular pharmaceuticals,

NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), anti-inflammatory treatments, antibiotics, and anesthesia. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post that this fulfils India's commitment made at the FIPIC III Summit, and the assistance will help strengthen the healthcare system of Papua New Guinea.



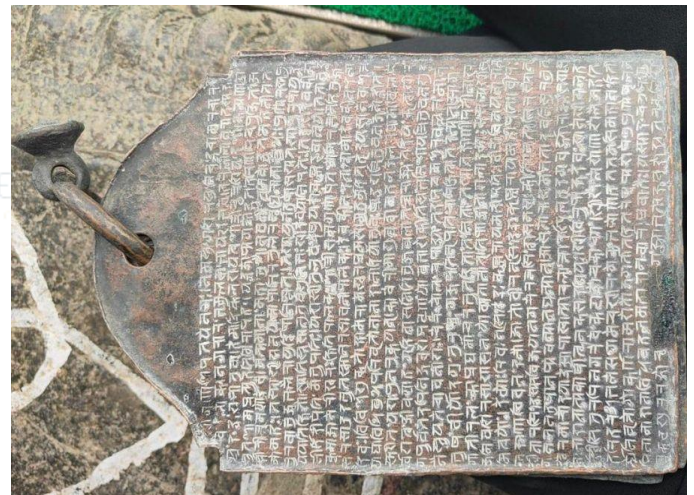
Saharanpur, Rewa, and Ambikapur Airports Launched by PM Modi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually opened three airports in India: Surguja in Chhattisgarh, Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, and Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The airports were built as part of the Central Government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), and flight operations are set to begin soon. The Chhattisgarh government believes the air connectivity will provide easier access to residents of Surguja as well as nearby districts such as Jashpur, Surajpur, Balrampur, Korea, and Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur to major cities across the country.



18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to Be Held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha :-

Odisha will hold the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in its capital city, Bhubaneswar, from January 8th to 10th of next year. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has granted approval for a proposal in this respect from the Union Ministry of External Affairs. The huge event will take hosted at Bhubaneswar's Janata Maidan. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, numerous Union Ministers, and Odisha Chief Minister, among others, are set to attend the ceremony. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is being celebrated to commemorate arrival of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi in India from South Africa on 9th of January, 1915.



Discovery of 16th Century Copper Plates in Tiruvallur District :-

A pair of copper plate inscriptions with two pages from the 16th century CE were recently unearthed in the Sri Singeeswarar temple in Mappedu village, Tiruvallur district. As per T.R. Prakash, Executive Officer (Additional Charge) of the temple, the inscriptions were discovered during a routine check of the lockers on the premises, which are administratively controlled by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department. The two leaves of the copper plates were strung together using a ring that had the seal of the Vijayanagara Kingdom. The official alerted the epigraphy division of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) through the State Archaeology Department.



Egypt Declared Malaria-Free :-

Egypt has been certified malaria-free. The World Health Organization has described the achievement as "truly historic". "Malaria is as old as Egyptian civilisation itself, but the disease that plagued pharaohs now belongs to its history and not its future," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated in a press release. After malaria's incidence reached 40%, Egypt categorized it as a notifiable disease in 1930. Egypt witnessed several spikes in malaria cases: in 1942 when medical supplies were disrupted due to the Second World War and in 1969 when the Aswan Dam was constructed raising risk for malaria as the standing water became a breeding ground for mosquitoes.



Delhi Government Establishes Special Courts for People with Disabilities :-

The Delhi government has announced the formation of special courts to serve the requirements of people with disabilities. The program, endorsed by Chief Minister Atishi, seeks to streamline the judicial process for people with disabilities, ensuring fair, timely, and inclusive justice. "This is a historic step by the Delhi government toward ensuring justice for people with disabilities," said CM Atishi. "By approving the establishment of these special courts, we are reforming the judicial system to better serve the interests of those with disabilities" she added.



PM Modi and Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez Jointly Inaugurate Tata Aircraft Complex in Vadodra, Gujarat :-

In Vadodra, Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez jointly inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex, which would manufacture C-295 aircraft. The C-295 programme includes 56 aircraft, 16 of which are being delivered directly by the Spanish aircraft manufacturer Airbus, and the remaining 40 will be built at the facility, which is India's first private sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aircraft. The Ministry of Defence in 2021 signed a ₹ 21,935-crore contract with Airbus Defense and Space SA, Spain for the supply of 56 aircraft.

11: National



Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Panchayati Raj hosting workshop to bring together stakeholders :-

Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel inaugurated National Workshop on People's Plan Campaign 2024 – Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas Abhiyan on 30th September, 2024 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is organizing a National Workshop on 30th September, 2024 on People's Plan Campaign–2024 (Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas) being launched nationwide on 2nd October 2024 to mark the beginning of annual exercise for preparation of Development Plans in Panchayats at all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).



Union Cabinet approves 78-day bonus to Railway employees :-

The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has authorized the payment of a 78-day Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) to nearly 11.72 lakh railway personnel. The entire bonus amount is Rs 2,028.57 crore, and it will benefit a large number of non-gazetted railway employees, comprising track

maintainers, loco pilots, train managers (guards), station masters, supervisors, technicians, technician helpers, pointsmen, ministerial officials, and other Group C employees. This bonus is seen as a reward for the excellent performance of the Railway staff during the year 2023-24.



13,822 Jan Aushadhi Kendras Established Nationwide:-

Jan Aushadhi Kendras within Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) recorded record sales of Rs 200 crore in September, the biggest monthly sales in PMBJP history, according to a statement from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Sales in September 2023 totaled Rs 141 crore, representing a strong 42% increase year on year. Overall up to September 2024, there has been 31.20 per cent total annual growth as the sales target of Rs. 913.30 crore has already been achieved, as per the statement.



PM Modi Inaugurates Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Mumbai :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai, which seeks to create an industry-ready workforce for Industry 4.0 by providing

cutting-edge technology and hands-on training in a variety of trades such as factory automation, digital manufacturing, mechatronics, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and additive manufacturing. 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 (a section 8 company under Tata Trusts).



Honoring Ratan Tata: Bihar Postal Circle Releases Special Cover :-

The Bihar postal circle published a commemorative cover in memory of Ratan Naval Tata, an industrialist and philanthropist who died on October 9. The commemorative cover recognizes his achievements to the nation, society, and industrial progress. The unique cover, unveiled during a function organized by Bihar circle chief postmaster general (CPMG) Anil Kumar, sheds focus on Tata's visionary leadership and commitment to the social ideal of public welfare as the ultimate goal of all activities. Apart from being a tribute, the cover will also serve as a collector's item.



Successful IAF C-295 Landing at Navi Mumbai Airport :-

The Navi Mumbai International Airport achieved a key milestone when an Indian Air Force C-295 aircraft made

its first landing at the facility. A Sukhoi-30 fighter jet flew overhead during the trial. The first phase of the airport, which is being built jointly by Adani Airports and CIDC, is slated to be finished in March 2025. The aircraft landed on the recently finished 3,700-metre runway, a significant milestone in the airport's development. Officials reported that 75% of the terminal building has already been constructed.



EAM Jaishankar Launches e-Migrate Portal to Ensure Safe Overseas Travel :-

Dr S Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister, launched the eMigrate V2.0 web platform and mobile app in Delhi. The eMigrate platform offers safe and legal movement options for Indian migrants. In his speech, Dr. Jaishankar stated that the inauguration of the eMigrate V2.0 portal demonstrates the government's commitment to provide secure, transparent, and inclusive mobility for Indians. He said the revamped version of the portal is a symbol of the government's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of Indian workers in foreign lands.



Union Minister Inaugurates Skill Training Institute in Visakhapatnam :-

Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has inaugurated a new National Skill Training Institute (NSTI)

extension centre at Visakhapatnam's Andhra Medical Tech Zone (AMTZ) campus. Mr Jayant Chaudhary shared specifics, stating that the extension centre will offer Computer Software Applications (CSA) training through the Crafts Instructor Training Scheme (CITS) beginning with the 2024-25 academic year. The Minister said it will also offer short-term courses on various applications of computers, under the Advanced Vocational Training scheme, implemented by the Directorate General of Training (DGT).



Indian Railways Reduces Advance Reservation Period from 120 to 60 Days :-

The Indian Railways has decreased the advance reservation period (ARP) from 120 days to 60 days, providing significant assistance to travelers traveling vast distances by train. Effective November 1, the move will prevent money being blocked in rail tickets four months in advance, particularly during festival and holiday seasons. Since April 1981, this will be the 13th time the Indian Railways has changed the time window for booking ARP in long-distance trains. The circular also stated that cancellations made beyond the ARP of 60 days will be permitted.



India Doubles Grant to Enhance Education in Sri Lanka's Plantation Sector:-

India has increased its donation to ₹172.25 million to assist education in Sri Lanka's plantation districts for Indian-origin Tamils. Santosh Jha, the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, and J.M. Thilaka Jayasundara, Secretary of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, signed and exchanged diplomatic letters to formalize the arrangements. "The project envisages the upgrade of infrastructure of nine plantation schools identified by the Government of Sri Lanka. These include six schools in the plantation areas of Central Province and one school each in Uva, Sabaragamuwa and Southern Province," Mr. Jha said.



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Launches 'eShram – One Stop Solution' for Unorganised Workers' Welfare :-

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced the improved 'e-Shram: One-Stop Solution' platform, which would enable over 300 million unorganised workers with seamless access to the government's many social security systems, such as health, pension, and food. "Every day, around 60,000 to 90,000 workers are joining the e-Shram platform, which demonstrates their confidence in this initiative. This platform will act as a bridge, connecting the workers to the numerous benefits offered by the government and making the registration process easier and more transparent," said Mandaviya at the launch of the platform.



Launch of Bharat Chana Dal Phase II by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi :-

Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New and Renewable Energy, has launched Phase II of the Bharat Chana Dal program in Delhi-NCR, which aims to make pulses more accessible and inexpensive to customers. According to the Ministry, 3 lakh tons of Chana stock from the price stability buffer will be transformed into Chana Dal and Chana Whole at retail prices of Rs 70 and Rs 58 per kg, respectively. In addition to Chana, the government has introduced Bharat-branded pulses such as Moong and Masur dals to the market. Bharat Moong Dal will be available at a retail price of Rs 107 per kg, Bharat Moong Sabut at Rs 93 per kg, and Bharat Masur Dal at Rs 89 per kg.



Govt Announces Extra Pension for Seniors Over 80 :-

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) recently stated that central government retirees aged 80 and over will be eligible for an additional stipend called compassionate allowance. New guidelines have been released to allow central government civil service retirees who reach the age of 80 to receive these supplemental payments. The recommendations

streamline the procedure of providing these additional allowances. The additional pension or compassionate allowance will be effective from the first day of the month in which the pensioner reaches the designated age. This additional pension payment is designed to assist pensioners in managing the rising cost of living often associated with ageing.



Centre to Begin Census from 2025 :-

The government is likely to conduct the next census, an official survey of the country's population, in 2025, following a four-year delay, according to sources. The process will begin in 2025 and is projected to go on until 2026. After the Census, the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats will begin, with the exercise expected to be finished by 2028, according to sources. This development comes amid demands from several opposition parties for a caste census. However, the government has not yet made a decision, and the details of the census process are yet to be made public.



Railway Protection Force Unveils 'Digital Memorial of Valour' :-

The Railway Protection Force, a paramilitary organization under Indian Railways, has developed a 'Digital Memorial of Valour' where you can digitally adorn a martyr's photo with a wreath and candle. The 'Digital Memorial of Valour' website, which honors the sacrifices of its brave personnel, was launched on

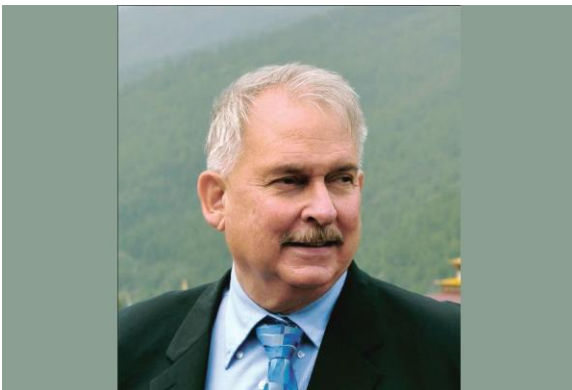
October 25, 2024, in New Delhi. This is a unique digital platform where civilians can pay tribute to the Force's martyrs. Aligned with the government's 'Digital India' initiative, the 'Digital Memorial of Valour' serves as a platform for those who are unable to attend physical commemorative events.

12: Obituaries



'Beverly Hills Cop' star John Ashton passes away at 76 :-

Actor John Ashton, known for his portrayal as Detective Sergeant John Taggart in the 'Beverly Hills Cop' film series, has died at the age of 76. Ashton's manager, Alan Somers, confirmed his death after a brief fight with cancer, reported The Hollywood Reporter. Ashton's performance of Detective Taggart in the first 'Beverly Hills Cop' pictures, released in 1984 and 1987, was popular with viewers. Notable works include 'An Eye for an Eye' (1973), 'So Evil, My Sister' (1974), 'Cat Murkil and the Silks' (1976), 'Borderline' (1979), and 'Honky Tonk Freeway' (1981).



American-Indian architect Christopher Benninger passes away at 81 :-

Christopher Benninger, a well-known American-Indian architect and urban planner, died in Pune following a long fight with cancer. He was 81. Benninger graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and taught at Harvard's Graduate School of Design from 1969 to 1972, following which he permanently relocated to India. He first relocated to Ahmedabad, where he served as a Ford Foundation advisor to the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) and co-founded the Faculty of Planning alongside BV Doshi and Yoginder Alagh. Early this year, Benninger was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from CEPT University.



Malayalam actor Mohan Raj passes away :-

Veteran actor Mohan Raj, also known as his stage name Keerikkadan Jose, died at home, according to film industry sources. He was seventy. According to reports, Mohan Raj died while being treated for numerous ailments at his house in Kanjiramkulam. He got significant recognition for his legendary villainous role as

"Keerikkadan Jose" in Mohanlal's film Kireedam. Mohan Raj's career spanned three decades and included numerous prominent villain roles, leaving an unforgettable mark on Malayalam cinema. His notable works include Uppukandam Brothers, Chenkol, Aaram Thampuran, and Narasimham, among others.



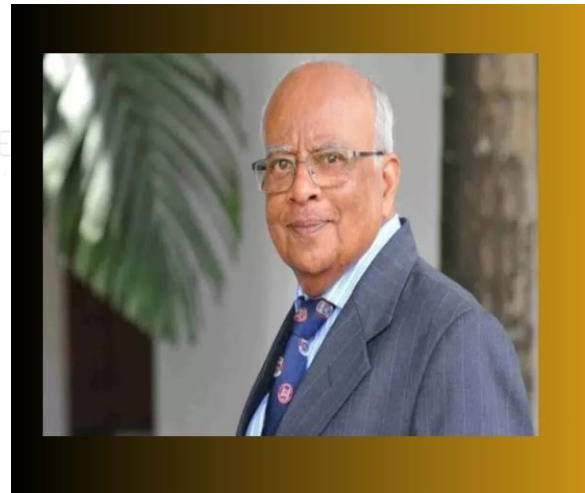
Former Akashvani news anchor M Ramachandran passes away :-

M Ramachandran, a former news anchor for All India Radio known as Akashvani, died on October 5. He was 89. Ramachandran is recognized with developing a new style of news reading. Aside from news bulletins, he also broadcast Kouthuka Varthakal, a special bulletin about interesting people, places, and events from throughout the world. The Kouthuka Varthakal is regarded as Ramachandran's best work. He was one of the most popular voices during the 1980s and 90s. Ramachandran started his radio career at the Delhi unit of the All India Radio.



Five dead, several hospitalised after chaos at IAF air show in Chennai :-

Five persons died as a result of probable dehydration while attending the Marina Beach air show. The deceased have been reported as D. John (56) of Korukkupet, Karthikeyan (34) of Tiruvottiyur, Srinivasan of Perungalathur, Mani (55) of Marakkanam, and Dinesh. They fainted upon returning from the event and were sent to the hospital, where they were confirmed dead. Over 300 people fainted during the event, with hospital sources estimating that approximately 43 received medical care at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital. Around 200 people were administered first aid at the venue by emergency staff and a few others were rushed to other hospitals including the Government Royapettah hospital.



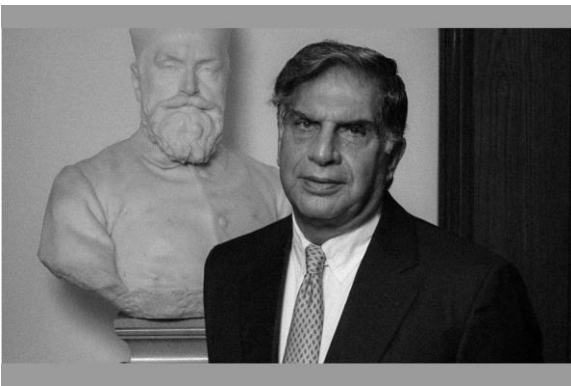
Former Delhi AIIMS director, cardiac surgery pioneer Dr P Venugopal passes away at 82 :-

Dr. P Venugopal, the former director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, died at the age of 82. Dr. Venugopal, a leader in cardiac surgery in India during the 1970s, performed the country's first heart transplant at AIIMS in New Delhi. Throughout his career, he conducted over 50,000 heart operations. During his four-decade employment, he led the AIIMS cardiothoracic center and ultimately became dean and director. Dr. Venugopal, along with his wife Priya Sarkar, had recently published his memoir titled Heartfelt: A Cardiac Surgeon's Pioneering Journey, which was released on July 7 this year.



Mollywood actor T P Madhavan passes away at 88 :-

T.P. Madhavan, a Malayalam actor, died Wednesday (October 9, 2024) at a private hospital in Kollam, Kerala. He was 88. T. P. Madhavan, the first general secretary of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), appeared in over 600 films. Madhavan made his film debut in 1975, when actor Madhu offered him his first opportunity. He rose to prominence as an antagonist before transitioning to humor and eventually becoming a character actor. Afterwards he made a few more appearances in serials and films. In recent years, Madhavan has been suffering from age-related ailments. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his condolences on the demise of Madhavan.



Ratan Tata Died at the Age of 86 :-

Ratan Tata, the emeritus chairman of one of India's largest companies, died at the age of 86 following a long illness. Ratan Tata, who is well recognized for his humanitarian efforts, was the chairman of the Tata Group from 1991 until 2012. During his tenure, he made substantial contributions to the company formed by his great-grandfather over a century before. Tata founded Tata Teleservices, the group's telecommunications arm,

in 1996, and led the IPO of Tata Consultancy Services, the group's information technology division, in 2004. Tata was awarded two of India's highest civilian honors: the Padma Bhushan in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008.



Nobuyo Oyama, voice of iconic 'Doraemon', passes away :-

Nobuyo Oyama, who voiced the iconic Japanese cartoon "Doraemon" for a generation of Asian youngsters, died at the age of 90, her agency reported. Oyama died on September 29 of old age, confirmed the Actors 7 agency. It apologized for the delay in releasing the message, adding, "We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the kindness you extended to the deceased during her lifetime." She voiced Doraemon from 1979 to 2005, winning over millions of admirers in Japan and around the world. The character of Doraemon, created by Fujiko F. Fujio in 1970, became a cultural phenomenon.



Indranand Singh Jha, Akashvani Darbhanga Radio Presenter, Dies at 77 :-

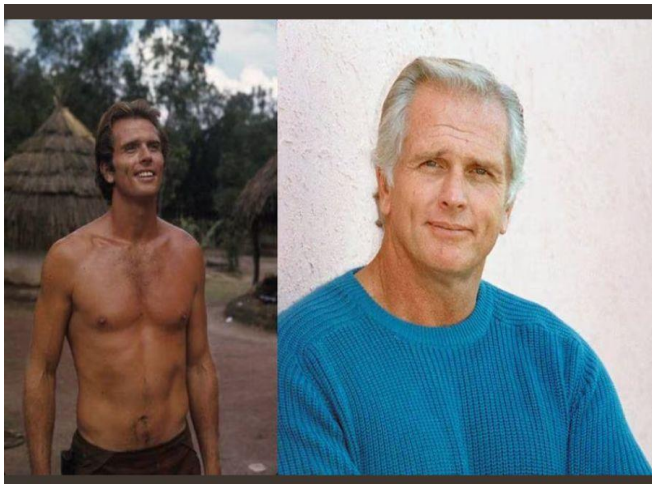
Indranand Singh Jha, a well-known former radio announcer and Akashvani Darbhanga compere, died at his home town of Chanaur in Darbhanga. He was 77 years old. Known for his rural radio chat show Gamghar from

Akashvani Darbhanga station under the pen name Khur Khur Bhai, he was immensely popular among radio listeners throughout his tenure. Indranand Singh Jha's efforts to Akashvani Darbhanga through his engaging shows have left an everlasting impression on the radio landscape, demonstrating the value of rural voices in the media.



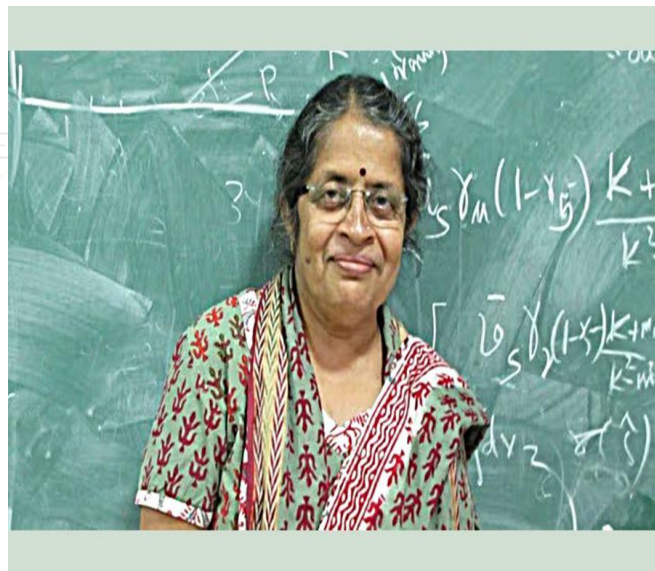
Renowned Marathi Actor Atul Parchure passes away at 57:-

Renowned actor Atul Parchure has died at the age of 57. He was a well-known Marathi actor who participated in a number of Hindi television shows and films, included an unforgettable appearance on Kapil Sharma's comedy show. He rose to prominence through a variety of ventures, including "Vasu Chi Sasu", "Priyatama", and Tarun "Turk Mhatre Arka". His filmography boasts appearances in movies such as "Navra Mazha Navsacha", "Salaam-E-Ishq", "Partner", "All the Best: Fun Begins", "Khatta Meetha" and "Buddah Hoga Terra Baap" among others.



Ron Ely, TV's Iconic 'Tarzan,' Passes Away at 86 :-

Renowned US actor Ron Ely, best known for his role as 'Tarzan' in the 1960s TV series, has died at the age of 86. Ron Ely began his career with minor roles in films including 'South Pacific,' 'The Fiend Who Walked the West,' and 'The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker.' He rose to prominence in 1966, when he was cast as Tarzan in the NBC television series. Throughout the act, Ely performed the majority of his own stunts, which resulted in injuries such as two broken shoulders and multiple lion bites. Ely also appeared in other productions, including 'The Aquanauts' (1960-61), the Western adventure film 'The Night of the Grizzly' (1966), and Jurgen Goslar's slavery film 'Slavers' (1978).



Physicist Rohini Godbole passes away :-

Professor Rohini Godbole, a renowned physicist and Padma Shri laureate, died in Bengaluru at the age of 72 following a brief illness. She was a major advocate for women's equal opportunity in science. She was a professor at the Centre for High Energy Physics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. She was among the members who submitted the report titled '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 later as a career.

13: Ranks & Reports



September GST collections reach ₹1.73 lakh crore, slowest growth in collections in 40-months :-

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues in September fell to a 40-month low of 6.5%, generating revenues of Rs 1,73,240 crore, almost 1% lower than in August. According to the most recent data, the monthly average of GST revenues decreased to Rs 1.77 lakh crore in the second quarter of FY25, down from Rs 1.86 lakh crore in the previous quarter. In the previous month, domestic revenue experienced a 5.9% growth, reaching around Rs 1.27 lakh crore. Import revenue also saw an 8% increase, totaling Rs 45,390 crore.



Employment in India Up by 36% : Center Reports :-

Contrary to allegations of "jobless growth," the most recent government figures show that employment in India grew by 36% (17 million jobs) during 2016-17 and 2022-23. During the same period, the gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an average pace of more than 6.5%. According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, employment data from the Reserve Bank of India's KLEMS database, which is based on surveys such as the Employment and Unemployment Survey

(EUS) and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), show a consistent increase since the 1980s.



WHO Certifies India's Triumph Over Trachoma Elimination :-

The World Health Organization honored India on eliminating trachoma as a public health hazard, making it the region's third country to do so after Nepal and Myanmar. The WHO also honored Bhutan for meeting interim targets for cervical cancer elimination, the Maldives and Sri Lanka for controlling Hepatitis B in children, Timor-Leste for eradicating lymphatic filariasis, and six countries for meeting SDG and global targets for lowering under-five mortality and stillbirth rates. "India's success is due to the strong leadership of its government and the commitment of ophthalmologists and other cadres of health-care workers", it said.



UPI Transactions Surge 52% to 78.97 Billion in H1 2024: Report :-

According to a research, transaction volumes for India's rapid payment method Unified Payments Interface (UPI) increased by 52% year on year in the first half (H1) of 2024, hitting 78.97 billion. In its India Digital Payments

Report for the first half of 2024 (January to June), payment technology service firm Worldline found that UPI remains the dominant payment method and is rapidly expanding its reach. When comparing H1 2024 to the same period in 2023, UPI transaction volumes surged 52%, from 51.9 billion to 78.97 billion, according to the report.



Global Biodiversity Declines 73% Since 1970 : WWF :-

The average size of monitored wildlife populations fell by 73% in just 50 years (1970-2020), based on WWF's Living Planet Report (LPR) 2024. The report cautions that, as the Earth approaches critical tipping points that pose serious hazards to mankind, a massive communal effort will be required over the next five years to address the simultaneous climate and natural crises. The Living Planet Index (LPI), provided by ZSL (Zoological Society of London), includes almost 35,000 population trends of 5,495 species from 1970-2020. The strongest decline is reported in freshwater ecosystems at 85%, followed by terrestrial at 69% and marine at 56%.



India ranks 105th in Global Hunger Index 2024 :-

India ranks 105th out of 127 countries in the 2024 Global Hunger Index. The nation is one of 42 countries rated as "serious" in terms of hunger, along with Pakistan and

Afghanistan. "With a score of 27.3 in the 2024 Global Hunger Index, India has a level of hunger that is serious," according to the study. The report, which India rejected last year, indicated that more than 35.5% of the country's children under the age of five are stunted, with about 18.7% being wasted. Meanwhile, over 13.7% of the population is undernourished. In contrast, South Asian neighbors like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have achieved better GHI scores, placing them in the "moderate" category.



India's Bird Population Declines Significantly, Vultures Hit Hardest :-

It is no surprise that India's bird population has been declining, but a recent analysis stated that a drop in the numbers of vulture species was most noticeable between 1992 and 2002, and the overall bird population from open environments has fallen significantly over the last 50 years. Between 1992 and 2002, the numbers of the white-rumped vulture, the Indian vulture, and the slender-billed vulture decreased by 98% and 93% respectively. The decline in the population of these apex aerial predators was compared to their populations from the 1980s, according to the *Living Planet Report, 2024*.



राष्ट्रीय कृषि और
ग्रामीण विकास बैंक
(नाबार्ड)
NATIONAL BANK FOR
AGRICULTURE & RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
NABARD

Monthly income of rural households increased by 57.6% in five years: NABARD survey :-

According to a recent survey conducted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), rural households' average monthly income increased by 57.6 percent over the course of five years. The second 'All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22' discovered that the average monthly income increased by 57.6%, from Rs 8,059 in 2016-17 to Rs 12,698 in 2021-22. 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. A significant 66 per cent of households reported saving in 2021-22, up from 50.6 per cent in 2016-17.



Wholesale Inflation Rises to 1.84% in September, Food Prices Surge :-

India's wholesale inflation increased to 1.84 percent on an annual basis in September, up from 1.31 percent in August, due to a rise in food costs, according to government data. The WPI for September 2023 was set at 0.26 percent. Wholesale inflation, as measured by the Wholesale Price Index, was predicted to be 1.92%, according to experts polled by Reuters. Fuel and power deflated in September with prices falling over 4 per cent when compared to 0.67 per cent in the previous month. Food prices, a key indicator went up to 9.47 per cent in September from 3.26 per cent in August, showed government data.



Abu Dhabi Crowned World's Richest City in Sovereign Wealth Funds :-

As of October 2024, Global SWF proclaimed Abu Dhabi as the world's richest country in terms of sovereign wealth funds (SWF). The country is believed to have a remarkable \$1.7 trillion in capital, followed by Oslo (home to the world's largest SWF, NBIM), Beijing, Singapore, Riyadh, and Hong Kong. These six cities collectively oversee two-thirds of global sovereign wealth funds' capital, which totals \$12.5 trillion as of October 1, 2024. Sovereign wealth fund, is a government-owned investment pool created from surplus reserves, often accumulated through government-generated revenue.



IMF Maintains India's GDP Growth at 7% for FY25, 6.5% for FY26 :-

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) maintained its growth predictions for India at 7% and 6.5 percent for fiscal years 25 and 26, respectively. In its most recent monetary policy committee (MPC) review earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained its growth forecast for the current fiscal year at 7.2%. It claimed strong consumer and investment momentum.

On the global growth front, the latest outlook notes that the growth projection is virtually unchanged from those made earlier in July.



Indian Football Team Climbs to 125th in FIFA Rankings :-

The Indian men's football team moved up one spot to 125th in the latest FIFA rankings, owing to a hard-fought 1-1 draw over Vietnam in an international friendly earlier this month. Despite new coach Manolo Marquez, India has failed to win a match. The team under Marquez was defeated once and drawn twice, earning +0.26 points and bringing its total points tally to 1133.78. In the AFC standings, India have also improved one notch to be 22nd, behind Vietnam who have lost three rungs. Overall, world champions Argentina maintained their supremacy at No. 1 with 1883.5 points, while France, European champions Spain and England and Brazil complete the top-five.



Nvidia Overtakes Apple A New Leader in Market Value

Nvidia has dethroned Apple as the world's most valuable business, following a record-breaking stock rise fueled by ravenous demand for its latest supercomputing artificial intelligence chips. Nvidia's stock market value

temporarily reached \$3.53 trillion, while Apple's was \$3.52 trillion, according to LSEG statistics. In June, Nvidia temporarily became the world's most valuable corporation until being surpassed by Microsoft and Apple. The tech trio's market capitalizations have been neck-and-neck for several months. Microsoft's market value stood at \$3.20 trillion.



India Ranks 79th in World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2023 :-

According to the World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2023, India ranked 79th out of 142 countries, indicating a continued slide in global rule of law. This year's Index reveals a fall in the rule of law in 59% of the nations surveyed, marking the sixth year of global declines since 2016. Notably, India's score has dropped in numerous critical areas, particularly the Fundamental Rights element, where it decreased from 0.50 in 2022 to 0.49 in 2023. This decline is attributed to ongoing issues such as corruption, judicial inefficiency, and government overreach.



Shaktikanta Das Earns A+ in Central Bank Report Card 2024 :-

Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was awarded an A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Cards 2024 for the second year running. The award, awarded by Global Finance in Washington, D.C., USA, acknowledged the RBI Governor's outstanding performance and effective leadership in guiding India's central bank through severe economic challenges. The

Central Bank Report Cards, published annually by Global Finance since 1994, grade the central bank governors of nearly 100 key countries, territories, and districts, as well as the European Union, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Bank of Central African States and the Central Bank of West African States.

14: Schemes & Committees



Railway Ministry prepares for Kumbh Mela with 992 special trains and Rs 933 crore investment :-

The Railway Ministry is going all out to prepare for the next Kumbh Mela, including intentions to run 992 special trains and a Rs 933 crore budget for infrastructure and amenity renovations. This massive religious gathering is slated to take place in Prayagraj beginning January 12th, with an estimated 30 crore to 50 crore devotees. With a focus on ensuring seamless travel for the pilgrims, the Railway Ministry is working on doubling the railway tracks at an approximate cost of Rs 3,700 crore in the Prayagraj Division and its adjoining areas.



Ministry of Panchayati Raj launches Jan Yojana Abhiyan

In a nationwide effort to promote inclusive development, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj of the Government of India announced the Jan Yojana Abhiyan for the drafting of Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) for 2025–26. The 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' campaign encourages rural inhabitants to actively shape the future of their communities, according to a PIB announcement. The campaign began with a special Gram Sabha/Orientation/Training Programme in 750 Gram Panchayats across the country. This initiative, marking the 75th year of the Indian Republic, aims to ensure inclusive and transparent development planning at the grassroots level.



Launch Of 'Cruise Bharat Mission' To Boost Cruise Tourism In India:-

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, recently launched the Cruise Bharat Mission from Mumbai port as a landmark move to enhance India's cruise tourist sector. This strategy program intends to restore the cruise tourist industry by doubling passenger volume by 2029, with an emphasis on both ocean and river cruises. According to the official

statement, the mission seeks to attract over 1.5 million river cruise passengers by leveraging more than 5,000 kilometers of India's operational waterways.



Govt launches PM E-DRIVE subsidy scheme with Rs 10,900 cr outlay :-

The government has announced the PM E-DRIVE Scheme, with an expenditure of Rs 10,900 crore, to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, establish charging infrastructure, and grow India's EV manufacturing ecosystem. The system will be implemented from October 1, 2024 until March 31, 2026. The EMPS-2024 (Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme) being implemented for the period April 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024 is being subsumed under the PM E-DRIVE scheme. The subsidy under the PM E-DRIVE scheme for electric two-wheelers has been fixed based on battery power at Rs 5,000 per kilowatt hour but the overall incentive will not exceed Rs 10,000 in the first year.



Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan Scheme Launched by PM :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in Jharkhand would assist the tribal people of Jharkhand "greatly" by

connecting the "unconnected section of tribal population" to government projects. This initiative is named after liberation warrior Birsa Munda. PM Modi said, "Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, Mobile Medical Units, Electricity, Water, Solar Energy and other similar schemes will greatly benefit the people of Jharkhand. These schemes will bring a huge change in the lives of the tribal community here ."



Cabinet Approves PM-RKVY and Krishonnati Yojana for Sustainable Agriculture :-

The Union Cabinet has authorized the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY), which promotes sustainable agriculture, and the Krishonnati Yojana (KY), which aims to attain food security and agricultural self-reliance. The PM-RKVY and Krishonnati Yojana would be executed at a total cost of about one lakh crore rupees. This includes around 57 thousand crore rupees for PM-RKVY and 44 thousand 246 crore for the Krishonnati Yojana. The proposal of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare was approved for rationalisation of all centrally sponsored schemes operating under this ministry into these two umbrella schemes.



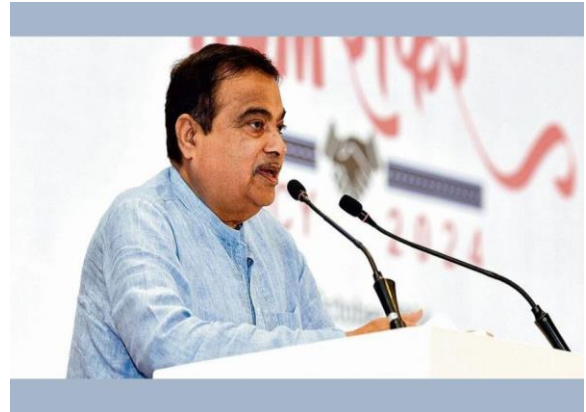
To make India self-reliant, Cabinet approves Rs 10,000-crore 'Oilseeds Mission' :-

The government has authorized the National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds, which will cost Rs 10,103 crore and aim to make India independent in cooking oils. India imports more than half of its yearly edible oil consumption. "With an aim to make India self reliant in oilseed production in next 7 years, Cabinet approves National Mission on Edible Oils- Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) for 2024-25 to 2030-31 with outlay of Rs 10,103 crore," the government said on social media platform X. The mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes in 2022-23 to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31, the government said.



Bangladesh Forms Nine-Member Constitution Reform Commission :-

Bangladesh's interim administration has announced the establishment of a nine-member commission to analyze and assess the country's constitution and provide recommendations for amendments. The Constitution Reform Commission, led by famed Bangladeshi-American academic Ali Riaz, plans to present its report to the government within 90 days, according to the state-run BSS news agency. The commission includes student representative Mahfuj Alam, who is also the special assistant to the Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, the report said.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Launches 'Humsafar Policy' to Improve National Highway Travel and Boost Wayside Amenities :-

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, unveiled the 'Humsafar Policy' in New Delhi to improve the convenience of national highway travel and hasten the building of wayside amenities. Addressing the audience, Mr. Gadkari stated that this program will benefit local marginalized communities. He also stated that this method will allow customers to travel more smoothly, safely, and comfortably. Mr. Gadkari highlighted that this policy will be environmentally friendly, which has been prepared with ecology and cleanliness in perspective.



Telangana Appoints Commission for Scheduled Castes Sub-Classification :-

The Telangana Government has nominated Justice Shameem Akhter, a former Telangana High Court Judge, to lead the one-man committee established by the committee of Inquiry to investigate sub-classification within Scheduled Caste reserved categories and give recommendations to the government. It may be noted

that the Cabinet sub-committee, led by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, recently proposed that the government create a one-man Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (Central Act-60 of 1952) to investigate all elements of SC sub-categorisation.



“Scam se Bacho” Government and Meta Team Up to Fight Online Scams :-

Sh. Sanjay Jaju, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, presented the keynote talk at the launch of the "Scam se Bacho" National User Awareness Campaign in New Delhi. This Meta initiative, launched in collaboration with key ministries including the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), seeks at tackling the increasing threat of scams and cyber frauds, aligning with the government's commitment to addressing rising cases of online scams and improving cyber safety.



Tamil Nadu Finalises Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Coastline :-

With four coastal regions considered as 'very high' risk of oil spills, the Tamil Nadu government has developed a contingency plan to avert such calamities. The final plan, drawn up in January 2024, a month after an oil spill in Ennore, Thiruvallur district, outlines the processes and guidelines for restoring an oil-contaminated habitat or shoreline to its original state while minimizing negative effects on natural resources and the environment. It is intended for responding to marine oil spills of any type that occur within 12 nautical miles (24 km) off the State's coastline.



Government to Extend UDAN Scheme for 10 More Years :-

The government is extending the regional aviation connectivity project UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) for another ten years, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu announced. UDAN has resulted in the establishment and expansion of regional airlines, the creation of jobs, and a contribution to tourism, according to the Minister during an event in the national capital commemorating the scheme's eight-year anniversary. 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.

15: Science & Technology



BharatGen: India's First Government-Funded Multimodal AI Initiative :-

India recently unveiled BharatGen, an endeavor to make generative AI available to citizens in various Indian languages, with Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh claiming it is the world's first state-funded project of its sort. The program, spearheaded by IIT Bombay as part of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), aims to develop generative AI systems capable of producing high-quality text and multimodal content in many Indian languages. The initiative was launched by Principal Scientific Advisor A K Sood, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Abhay Karandikar, Department of Telecommunications Secretary Neeraj Mittal among others.



Ahmedabad Police Unveils AI-Enhanced Command and Control Centre :-

To improve citizen security in Gujarat, the Ahmedabad Police Department has created a cutting-edge Command and Control Centre. This building will increase public

safety and considerably boost police capabilities. The center's distinctive feature is that each officer will have three monitors, allowing them to watch three areas at the same time and increasing operational efficiency. With this new technology, the police will be able to monitor social media to quickly identify suspects.



WHO Approves First Mpx Test for Emergency Use :-

In a significant step toward improving global availability of Mpx testing, the World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the first Mpx in vitro diagnostic within its Emergency Use Listing procedure. Currently, 35 laboratories in India have facilities to test suspected cases of Mpx. In the middle of August 2024, the WHO declared the Mpx outbreak in numerous African countries a public health emergency of worldwide concern. 30 cases of Mpx have been documented in India since the WHO's pronouncement. The latest WHO statement added that limited testing capacity and delays in confirming Mpx cases persist in Africa, contributing to the continued spread of the virus.



India's Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex) Approved :-

Lupex, a collaborative venture between ISRO and JAXA, is part of India's overall lunar plan to ultimately land an astronaut on the Moon and safely return them home again. Following Chandrayaan-3, India is set to continue forward with its lunar aspirations, as the National Space Commission has approved the fifth lunar mission, the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex). The unique aspect of this mission is its length, as it could last up to 100 days on the moon's surface, which is more than five times longer than Chandrayaan-3's mission, according to ISRO.



World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Telescope Unveiled in Ladakh :-

The world's highest imaging Cherenkov telescope, the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) observatory, was established in Hanle, the Union Territory of Ladakh, at an elevation of over 4,300 meters. The MACE observatory was formally opened here by Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), according to a representative for the organization. Built indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with support from the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and other Indian industry partners, the MACE is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia, he said.



India's Vaccine Regulatory System Declared 'Functional' by WHO :-

The drug regulator CDSCO and India's National regulation Authority have passed the World Health Organization's benchmarks for a functional vaccination regulation framework. From September 16 to 20, a team of foreign specialists from several nations, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, assessed India's vaccine regulating system, according to a health ministry statement. Safety, efficacy, and quality were the three basic parameters of assessment of vaccines, it said. India retains maturity level 3 with highest marks in several functions.



Wayanad Gets Advanced X-Band Radar :-

Following the tragic landslides, the Doppler Weather Radar approved for north Kerala would be put in Wayanad, hence improving the State's weather observational network. An X-band radar with a 100-kilometer observation range will be erected in Wayanad, and a C-band radar with a 250-kilometer observation range will be installed in Mangalore. Already, the south and central Kerala had been brought under radar

surveillance, and the State had been demanding permanent weather radar in north Kerala for long.



Europa Clipper Embarks on Journey to Jupiter's Icy Moon :-

For decades, Jupiter's cold moon has been regarded as one of the most promising locations for searching for interstellar life in the solar system. Europa, thought to contain a subsurface ocean and a possibly habitable climate, has long piqued our interest as a cosmic backyard target. NASA launched a mission to Europa called Europa Clipper. The largest spacecraft the agency has ever built for a planetary science mission, the probe lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida atop a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.



India's First Self-Powered Indoor Air Quality Monitor Launched at Thiruvananthapuram Airport:-

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (Independent Charge), unveiled Pavana Chitra, India's first airport-based self-powered interior air quality monitoring equipment, at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. The off-grid air quality monitor is fueled by homegrown indoor solar cells created by CSIR-NIIST and made from locally sourced materials. The Union Minister stated that India is currently preparing for the next industrial revolution,

and measures such as the Bio E3 strategy will contribute in this effort. It is time for India to rise globally with primary emphasis given to biotechnology, space, agriculture sectors.



Karnataka Launches AI Tool Shiksha Copilot for Teachers :-

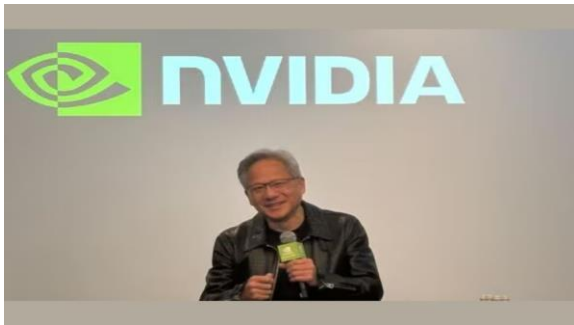
The Karnataka government has launched Shiksha Copilot, an AI-powered digital aide for teachers. Madhu Bangarappa, Minister of School Education and Literacy, who launched the tool, stated that the project's primary goal is to enhance learning outcomes and promote teachers to create comprehensive, personalized teaching resources and learning experiences based on local curriculum, language, and context, The Hindu reported. The initiative is a collaboration between the Sikshana Foundation and Microsoft Research India.



New Snake Species in Himalayas Named After Leonardo DiCaprio :-

Scientists have identified a fresh snake species high in the Himalayan mountains and called it 'Anguiculus dicaprio' after Hollywood actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio, according to HC Vanlalruata. The results, which were published in the peer-reviewed journal 'Scientific Reports', emphasize the region's abundant biodiversity. The species is small, growing up

to 22 inches, with distinct features such as a steeply domed snout and a faint grey collar around its neck, said HT Lalremsanga from Mizoram University, one of the researchers involved, in the project.



Reliance and Nvidia Partner to Build AI Infrastructure in India :-

Reliance Industries and Nvidia have announced a cooperation to construct large-scale AI infrastructure in India, potentially accelerating the country's artificial intelligence capabilities. The statement was made during a fireside talk among Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang at the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai. The semiconductor giant will supply AI processors for Reliance's new data center and work with Infosys, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, and Ola to boost AI adoption across the country. Here are the 6 Indian companies that will use Nvidia's AI chips.

16: Sports



All-Rounder Ravindra Jadeja Joins Elite Club In Test Cricket History :-

Ravindra Jadeja, the world's top Test all-rounder, has joined former Indian captain Kapil Dev and famous spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as the third Indian cricketer in history to score 3000 runs and take 300 wickets in Tests. The 35-year-old Jadeja accomplished the milestone by eliminating Khaled Ahmed in the first innings of India's ongoing second Test against Bangladesh at Green Park, Kanpur. Khaled was the last Bangladeshi batter to be out in the first inning. He was caught and bowled by Jadeja. Kapil was the first Indian cricketer to do the double of 3000 runs and 300 wickets in Tests, and Ashwin joined him in the elite list in December 2022.



Virat Kohli Becomes Fastest To Score 27,000 Runs In International Cricket :-

On Day 4 of the second Test against Bangladesh in Kanpur, India's veteran batsman Virat Kohli made history as the fastest player to reach 27,000 international runs. On a beautiful day in Kanpur, he beat 'Master Blaster' Sachin Tendulkar's record by racing to the elusive achievement with elegance. Kohli accomplished the record in 594 innings, 29 fewer than the batting great. During his illustrious career, Sachin slammed 27,000 international runs in 623 innings. Sri Lanka's decorated wicketkeeper batter Kumar Sangakkara achieved the feat in 648 innings.



India To Host Historic First-Ever Kho Kho World Cup In 2025 :-

The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI), in collaboration with the International Kho Kho Federation, has announced that India would host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025. The tournament will bring together 24 countries from six continents, with 16 men's and 16 women's teams competing to honor the spirit of Kho Kho and create worldwide cooperation. Kho Kho originated in India, and the World Cup will emphasize the sport's rich cultural legacy and competitive spirit. Ahead of the World Cup, the KKFI plans to take the sport to 200 elite schools across 10 cities to promote it.



Carlos Alcaraz Beats Jannik Sinner To Clinched His First China Open :-

Carlos Alcaraz came back from a set down to defeat world number one Jannik Sinner in a thrilling match and earn his maiden China Open title. The four-time Grand Slam champion from Spain won a thrilling final 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) for his fourth ATP title of the year and 16th overall. Alcaraz, who is likely to return to number two in the world behind Sinner, fell behind 3-0 in the final-set tie break before rallying to win in three hours and twenty-one minutes. The dramatic triumph ended

Sinner's run of 14 victories in a row and saw him deposed as the Beijing champion after an almighty fight.



Praveen Jayawickrama Receives 1 Year Ban for ICC Anti-Corruption Breach :-

Sri Lanka spinner Praveen Jayawickrama has been suspended from every type of cricket for an entire year, with the last six months suspended, after violating the sport's anti-corruption rule, according to the International Cricket Council (ICC). In August, the International Cricket Council charged Jayawickrama with failing to notify a match-fixing scheme and hindering an inquiry. The governing body stated that the 26-year-old was solicited to fix international matches and was instructed to contact another player to manipulate matches in the Lanka Premier League's 2021 season. The ICC said Jayawickrama had admitted to being in breach of the anti-corruption code.



Indian Men's Team Triumphs in Rapid Fire Pistol :-

Mukesh Nelavalli, Raajwardan Patil, and Harsimar Singh Rattha trio won the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol team competition, giving India their eleventh gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Championship in Peru. This victory also gave Mukesh his fourth gold medal of the championship, comprising a personal gold in the 25m pistol event. India

remained at the top of the medal tally with a total of 16 medals which included one silver and four bronze. China is in second place with three gold and one silver.



Mumbai Clinches 15th Irani Cup Title After 27-Year Wait

Mumbai, led by Ajinkya Rahane, ended a 27-year drought when they defeated the Rest of India (RoI) at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow to win the coveted Irani Cup championship. The victory, gained on a first-innings advantage, was Mumbai's 15th Irani Cup victory, which is the most by any Ranji Trophy side. This triumph is especially significant because the team had not won the championship since the 1997-98 season, although reaching eight final appearances in the preceding years. Rahane's men asserted their dominance from the very first day, putting up a colossal 537 in their first innings. The innings was headlined by Sarfaraz Khan's brilliant unbeaten knock of 222, his fourth double hundred in first-class cricket.



Nitish Kumar Unveils Logo, Mascot for Upcoming Women's Asian Champions Trophy :-

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar introduced the logo and mascot for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2024, which is scheduled to take place in Rajgir from November 11 to 20. The mascot, 'Gudiya', is based on the state bird of Bihar, the Sparrow. The Women's Asian

Champions Trophy-2024 is a collaboration between Hockey India and the Bihar government and is going to be hosted in the newly constructed Rajgir Hockey Stadium. The state cabinet recently sanctioned Rs 10 crore to Hockey India for the purpose. Six countries, including India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan, are participating in the championship.



Advani Triumphs at Singapore Open Billiards:-

Pankaj Advani, an ace Indian cueist, won the prestigious Songhe Singapore Open title by defeating local favourite Jaden Ong 5-1 in Singapore. Advani advanced to the final after defeating former IBSF world snooker champion Dechawat Poomjaeng of Thailand 4-3 in a dramatic quarterfinal at the Lagoon Billiards Room. While the final score of 5-1 appears overwhelming, the first two frames ended up being won by the Indian, who came back from a deficit to defeat the Singaporean on both occasions, taking a 2-0 lead. Advani will defend his world billiards title in Doha in November.



Andres Iniesta Announces Retirement from Football :-

Andres Iniesta, the great of Spain and Barcelona, has announced his retirement after an outstanding 22-year career. The 40-year-old just recently performed for UAE Pro League team Emirates, but opted not to renew his contract until 2025. Iniesta completed 674 matches for Barcelona in all competitions, the fourth-most in the

club's history, before departing to join Vissel Kobe in 2018. The former Spain midfielder initially joined the club aged 12, making his senior debut in 2002, and going on to enjoy a trophy-laden career with the Spanish giants, including winning nine LaLiga titles and four Champions Leagues.



Vivaan Secures Silver, Naruka Takes Bronze at Shooting World Cup :-

Vivaan Kapoor won the silver medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF World Cup Final, while compatriot Anant Jeet Singh Naruka took bronze in the men's skeet tournament. With these achievements, India's medal tally at the tournament has reached four. Kapoor got 44 points in the final, trailing only China's Ying Qi, who won gold. The bronze medal went to Turkey's Tolga N Tuncer, who scored 35 points. Kapoor had advanced to the six-man finals after scoring 120 out of 125 in the qualification round.



Virat Kohli becomes fourth Indian to cross 9,000 runs in Test cricket :-

During the third day of the opening Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru, batting ace Virat Kohli became the fourth Indian to score 9000 runs in Test cricket, reaching another milestone in a glittering career. Kohli joins an

esteemed company that includes Sachin Tendulkar (15921), Rahul Dravid (13265), and Sunil Gavaskar (10122). However, he is the slowest of them to accomplish this milestone, taking 197 innings. The 35-year-old Kohli reached the mark after crossing his half-century in India's second-innings. Batting at No. 3, Kohli fell for a nine-ball duck in the first innings as India were all out for 46.



Arjun Erigaisi Wins WR Chess Masters, Nears 2800 Elo Rating :-

Grand Master Arjun Erigaisi defeated France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in armageddon to win the 2024 WR Chess Masters Cup, taking home the €20,000 first prize and 27.84 FIDE Circuit points. Despite the victory, Erigaisi was unable to break the 2800 level since his French opponent forced two successive draws in the classical games. Erigaisi knew he needed to win classical chess on the last day to reach 2800 for the first time in his career. Erigaisi, who is world no. 4 with a live rating of 2796.1, beat compatriot Vidit Gujrathi and R. Praggnanandhaa on the way to winning the title.



Bala Devi Becomes First Indian Woman to Score 50 International Goals :-

Bala Devi, known as the "goal machine" of Indian women's football, made history as the first Indian woman to score her 50th international goal against Pakistan during the 2024 SAFF Women's Championship in Nepal. Bala is known not only for her achievements, but also for making history. In 2020, she became the first Indian female footballer to sign a professional contract with a European team. She joined Rangers WFC, the women's team of the Scottish club Rangers FC, marking a significant milestone in Indian football.



New Zealand Wins ICC Women's T20 World Cup:-

Sophie Devine, in her last assignment as captain of the New Zealand women's team, led the Kiwis to their first T20 World Cup title, defeating South Africa in Dubai. New Zealand opened their World Cup campaign with a crushing victory over India in their first encounter, defeating one of the favourites to go to the knockout stages. It was a massive 58-run victory, as the White Ferns piled on 160 runs in the first innings, before restricting Harmanpreet Kaur's team and bowling them out for 102.



Railways Triumph Over Indian Oil to Clinch Women's Hockey Title :-

Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) defeated Indian Oil 3-1 in the final of the Senior Women Inter-

Departmental National Hockey Championship in New Delhi, taking revenge their loss in last year's summit game. The match, hosted at the Major Dhyanand National Stadium, featured some of India's best hockey players and served as an exciting finale to the tournament. In a closely-fought contest, Indian Oil broke the deadlock in the 18th minute with a stunning goal from Deepika. The two teams remained neck-and-neck until the fourth quarter when Railways' captain, Navneet Kaur, put her team ahead with a crucial goal.



Karnataka Triumphs at 24th National Para-Swimming Championship :-

The 24th National Para-Swimming Championship finished on a happy note, with Karnataka winning the overall championship title with an astounding 392 points. In a tightly fought event, Maharashtra finished second with 378 points, while Rajasthan came in third with 248. The tournament attracted 518 swimmers, with 360 men and 158 women competing in various classifications. Remarkably, 231 of the participants were first-time competitors, reflecting the expanding reach of para-swimming across the nation.



Deepika Kumari Wins Silver at 2024 Archery World Cup Final in Mexico :-

Deepika Kumari made up for missing out on the podium at the Paris Olympics by capturing her sixth silver medal at the World Cup Final in Tlaxcala, Mexico. Deepika's sixth medal came in her ninth final appearance, and her first since becoming a mother in 2022. However, gold eluded her as the former World No. 1 archer finished second five times in 2011, 2012, 2013, 15, and 24. Deepika, who qualified by virtue of her World Cup rankings this season, started her campaign in the quarterfinal by beating China's Yang Xiaolei by 6-0 (27-23, 29-22, 29-27).



Zimbabwe Sets Record For Highest T20I Total :-

Zimbabwe shattered the T20I world record by scoring 344 runs in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Africa Qualifier versus Gambia. This exceeded Nepal's earlier record of 314 established versus Mongolia at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games. Captain Sikandar Raza led the charge with a scorching unbroken knock of 133 off 43 balls, including 15 sixes and seven fours. Raza became the first Zimbabwean to hit a T20I century, reaching the milestone in just 33 balls, tying with Namibia's Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton for the second-fastest century in T20I history. However, it fell six balls short of Sahil Chauhan's record 27-ball century for Estonia.



Sharapova, Bryan Brothers Inducted into 2025 Tennis Hall of Fame :-

Maria Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam singles champion, and American twins Bob and Mike Bryan, who created the most successful doubles team in history, have been named to the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2025, organizers said. They will be officially inducted on August 23 at the Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island. Sharapova, one of only 10 women to achieve a career Grand Slam in singles, 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.



Australian wicketkeeper-Batter Matthew Wade Retires from International Cricket :-

Matthew Wade, an Australian wicketkeeper-batsman, has announced his retirement from international cricket after a 13-year career spanning 225 games for Australia. The 36-year-old retires from international cricket after representing Australia in three T20 World Cups, most notably as vice-captain in the country's first 20-over title win in Dubai in 2021. In Tests, Wade made 36 appearances, amassing 1,613 runs, including four centuries and five fifties, averaging 29.87, with a career-best of 117 in the fifth Ashes Test against England at The Oval in 2019.



Chirag Chikkara becomes only third Indian to win gold at U23 World Wrestling Championships :-

Chirag Chikkara became only the third Indian to win the Under-23 world championship, and India won nine medals in the age group event at Tirana, Albania, including gold and silver. Chikkara, who was competing in the men's freestyle 57kg event, defeated Kyrgyz

opponent Abdymalik Karachov in the final seconds of the bout with a score of 4-3. He is the second Indian male to win gold at the U23 Championships, after Aman Sehrawat, who won bronze at the Paris Olympics. In 2018, Ravi Kumar Dahiya also took home a silver medal from the U23 World Championships.

17: State



Defence ministry agrees to share land to resolve traffic mess in tech corridor :-

The defence ministry has agreed to transfer over approximately 12 acres of land to assist long-pending construction on widening Bellandur Road, providing much-needed respite to the tech corridor of east Bengaluru, which is notorious for its severe traffic congestion. The defence ministry's action will help to resolve the perennial traffic problem and provide seamless access to the eastern regions of Bengaluru from the central business district (CBD) areas. Besides, the defence ministry has also agreed in principle to hand over another 10 acres to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for road widening across Bengaluru.



Maharashtra Govt declares desi cows 'Rajyamata-Gomata' :-

The Maharashtra government has designated the state's indigenous cow breeds as 'RajyaMata-Gomata' in preparation for the upcoming Assembly election. The decision was made because to concerns about their diminishing numbers, it stated. The Cabinet also approved a plan to establish a subsidy scheme for the breeding of indigenous cattle. The government announced a policy that will provide goshalas with ₹50 per cow every day. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the scheme will ensure preservation of indigenous breeds.



Women Entrepreneurship Platform In Telangana Launched By NITI Aayog :-

In collaboration with WE Hub and the Telangana government, NITI Aayog has formed its first state chapter of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP). With over 30,000 registered female entrepreneurs and associations, the WEP has over 400 mentors from various industry areas. Sita Pallocholla, Chief Executive Officer of WE Hub, has been designated Mission Director of the

WEP Telangana chapter. WE Hub will serve as the focal agency for all WEP initiatives in the state. The WEP will offer customised support like digital skilling, access to financial services, mentorship, and market linkages.



Projects worth Rs 83,700 Crore Has Been Unveiled By PM in Jharkhand :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the groundwork, inaugurated, and launched several projects worth more than Rs 83,300 crore at Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. With his earlier visit to Jamshedpur on September 15, PM Modi has now visited Jharkhand twice in the last 17 days. Modi also inaugurated and laid the groundwork for several projects under the PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), totaling approximately Rs 1,360 crore. These include the construction of more than 1,380 km of roads, 120 anganwadi centres, 250 multi-purpose centres, and 10 school hostels.



Nagaland Gears Up for 25th Hornbill Festival Celebration :-

The Nagaland Department of Tourism is preparing to celebrate the Hornbill Festival's silver jubilee, which will take place at the Heritage Village in Kisama from December 1 to 10. "It's going to be a grand festival this

year," stated Nagaland Tourism Commissioner and Secretary, Dr. G. Hukugha Sema. Dr Sema said, "The tribal bodies are the core and backbone of the Hornbill Festival, and with their cooperation and collaboration, the state has successfully hosted twenty-four Hornbill Festivals so far." He noted that the twenty-fourth festival was a resounding success.



PM Modi Flags Off Mumbai's First Underground Metro :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Mumbai Metro Line 3, Mumbai's first entirely underground metro line. The 12.69-kilometer Mumbai Metro Line 3 linking Aarey JVLR and Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) will be partially opened. The Prime Minister has also released MetroConnect3, a smartphone app meant to improve the travel experience with latest features. A coffee table book showcasing the journey of Mumbai's underground metro was also unveiled by the Prime Minister. The book contains a collection of stunning visuals that chronicle the metro's development.



Himachal Pradesh Tourism Get A Major Boost As ADB Approves \$162 Million Loan :-

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) notified the approval of a \$162 million loan to support tourism development initiatives in Himachal Pradesh. Vivek Vishal, ADB's Senior Project Officer, noted that the program will boost the state's tourist potential by improving and protecting cultural and heritage assets, as well as building new facilities to promote the tourism sector. The Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh is designed to promote heritage and cultural centers in the Mandi and Hamirpur districts.



CM Yogi Adityanath unveils logo of Maha Kumbh-2025 in Prayagraj:-

Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, introduced the new multi-coloured logo for Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj. The design includes a temple, a seer, an urn, the Akshayvat tree, and a figure of Lord Hanuman, all of which reflect the convergence of nature and humanity in Sanatan civilization. It also represents the ongoing flow of self-awareness and public welfare, acting as an inspiring symbol for Mahakumbh 2025. Kumbh Mela, recognized by UNESCO as an 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity,' is regarded as the world's largest peaceful gathering of pilgrims.



Haryana, Kashmir election results :-

The northern Indian state of Haryana and Indian-administered Kashmir sprung shocks as votes were

tabulated in assembly elections. Most exit polls expected a hung assembly in Kashmir, but a coalition of the primary challenger Congress and the National Conference Party (NCP) is on track to win a landslide in the 90-member house and create a government. In Haryana, which also has 90 seats, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has upended pollsters' projections of a Congress landslide. The BJP-led government appears on course to return for a rare third consecutive term in Haryana.



38th National Games to be Held in Uttarakhand :-

The 38th National Games will be held in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14 next year. The Indian Olympic Association's general assembly meeting on the 25th of this month will release the comprehensive schedule for the National Games. Apart from the National Games, Uttarakhand will host the Winter National Games. Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, met with Dr. P.T. Usha, President of the Indian Olympic Association, in New Delhi recently. The Chief Minister assured that Uttarakhand is fully prepared to host the 38th National Games, emphasizing that the event will be organized on a grand scale.



129 Wetlands to Be Revived in Assam to Alleviate Flood Risks :-

In order to improve flood resistance and increase fish output, the Assam government has begun a massive initiative to rehabilitate 129 beels (wetlands) spanning 3,800 hectares. These wetlands are critical to the Assam environment and fishery because they regulate floods, recharge groundwater, and prevent erosion. Years of siltation, low water levels, and inadequate fish auto-stocking have substantially diminished the productivity of the beels. To address this, the project focuses on dredging, desilting, and constructing water-retaining structures, aiming to improve water storage capacity and create optimal conditions for fish breeding.



Kerala Assembly Passes Resolution Against Waqf Amendment Bill :-

The Kerala Legislative Assembly overwhelmingly passed a motion demanding the central government to drop the contentious 2024 Waqf Amendment Bill. V. Abdurahiman, Kerala Minister for Minority Welfare, Sports, Waqf, and Pilgrimage, delivered a resolution urging the Central Government to withdraw the 2024 Waqf (Amendment) Bill, claiming its violation of the Constitution's essential principles. The motion to withdraw the 2024 Waqf (Amendment) Bill stated that the bill aimed at amending the Waqf Act of 1995 (Central Act No. 43 of 1995), has been presented in Parliament.



Maharishi Valmiki's Name for All ST Schools, Raichur University: CM Siddaramaiah :-

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced that all Scheduled Tribe (ST) residential schools and Raichur University will be named after Maharishi Valmiki. He made the remark after inaugurating the Department of Backward Classes Welfare's Valmiki Jayanti ceremony in Bengaluru. "All Scheduled Tribe residential schools and University of Raichur will be named after Maharishi Valmiki. it is my wish that the name and life of Valmiki, who reached the pinnacle of achievement through perseverance, should be immortalized," Siddaramaiah said.



Sanskrit to Become Mandatory in 416 Uttarakhand Madrasas :-

The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has produced a formal proposal for making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrasas throughout the state. To carry out this shift, the board plans to signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state's Sanskrit department. In addition to Sanskrit, computer courses are being considered to enrich the academic curriculum for madrasa pupils. The board introduced

the NCERT syllabus in madrassas, resulting in over 95 percent success for students this year.



Haryana CM Saini Fulfills First Poll Promise: Free Dialysis for Kidney Patients :-

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini fulfilled one of his pre-election promises when he declared that all government hospitals in Haryana would provide free dialysis to chronic kidney patients. The decision was made at the Cabinet's first meeting, led by Saini. "We have fulfilled our first poll promise. All government hospitals in Haryana will now offer free dialysis services to chronic kidney patients. The first file that I signed (after assuming charge as chief minister) was regarding this decision. We had made this promise. The cost of dialysis is nearly Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 per month. Now, the Haryana government will bear the expenses," Saini said.



Assam CM launches Mission Basundhara 3.0 :-

At a ceremony held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma introduced Mission Basundhara 3.0, which aims to grant land rights to indigenous people. He went on to say that the state government was shocked by the extraordinary volume of applications it received from various beneficiaries as soon as it started this mission. The Chief

Minister said that the state government disposed of eight lakh applications in nine months under Mission Basundhara 1.0.



Odisha Govt Increases Casual Leave for Women Employees :-

The Odisha government declared that women employees will now receive a further 12 days of casual leave (CL) every year, in addition to the 15 days they presently receive, according to an official note published by the CMO. The present administration implemented Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida's announcement on Independence Day that women employees would be entitled to one day of paid menstruation leave per month. The number of additional CLs for women was 10 since March this year as announced by the previous BJD government "keeping in mind the family responsibilities and various problems of women".



Bihar CM Unveils Rs 7,160 Cr for Panchayat Development :-

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar dedicated and laid the groundwork for several projects totaling Rs 7,160 crore. The CM laid the groundwork for 2,615 panchayat government structures in various blocks across the state, as well as a panchayat resource centre in Sonapur, Saran district. Kumar also inaugurated 13 district panchayat

resource centres, 65 panchayat government structures, the e-gram kachhari court management system, and various district council websites during a celebration held at the CM's official house. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, the government has been emphasising on the construction of panchayat government buildings.



India's First Writer's Village Opens in Dehradun :-

Former President Ram Nath Kovind, Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd), and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami jointly opened the country's first 'Writer's Village' in Dehradun. The 'Writer's Village', located in Thano Village, some 24 kilometers from Dehradun, is the vision of former Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, who is also a prominent writer. He asserts that this town will provide writers with the tranquil and creative setting they need to create their works. Former President Kovind described the village as an innovative initiative towards resolving the practical difficulties faced by writers, poets, litterateurs and other creative workers and praised Nishank for this.

18: Summits & Conferences



Indian Army Conducted "Army Sports Conclave" :-

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, has emphasized the importance of a collaborative multi-agency effort to promote sports throughout the country. He mentioned this while speaking at the Army Sports Conclave, which was conducted by the Indian Army in New Delhi. The summit thoroughly discussed plans for maximizing India's sporting potential, with a focus on future Olympics. It stressed the importance of improving technical standards in order to achieve excellence. The conclave also stressed the importance of drawing up collaborative strategies with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Indian Army, Sports Authority of India, Sports Federation

of India and other key stakeholders to enhance India's global sporting aspirations.



Italy Hosts G7 Call To Address Middle East Crisis :-

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hosted a call of Group of Seven (G7) leaders later on October 2 to discuss the Middle East crisis, according to her office. Meloni expressed "deep concern" to her cabinet over recent developments, particularly Iran's missile attack on Israel and escalating instability in Lebanon, according to her office. The G-7 is an intergovernmental organization made up of the world's largest developed economies: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US, the United Kingdom, and Canada.



The 19th Francophonie Summit : France :-

On October 4-5, 2024, France will be hosting more than 100 heads of state and government, as well as high-ranking officials, for the 19th Francophonie Summit. The summit will be held between Paris and Villers-Cotterêts, where King François I declared French the official language of the country in 1539. It will address a variety of important worldwide issues that affect many non-French-speaking countries, including India. Founded in 1970, the International Organization of La Francophonie is an institution organising relations between countries that use the French language.



External affairs minister S Jaishankar to visit Pakistan for SCO meeting :-

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Islamabad on October 15 and 16 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Government (HoG) meeting, the first such visit in over a decade, according to the government. The Ministry of External Affairs stated that Mr. Jaishankar's travel was "primarily" for the SCO grouping's conference, given India's emphasis on "regional cooperation mechanisms." No bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the meet have been decided thus far, it added.



Army commanders to hold top security conference along China border in Sikkim :-

All senior commanders of the Indian Army will be gathering in Sikkim for an important conference. This summit, set for October 10-11, will be the first time top Army officials have met along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. According to sources, significant individuals such as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the conference. The discussions will center on critical security challenges, particularly the present situation along the LAC, with a special emphasis on the sensitive regions of Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, where Indian and Chinese forces have frequently engaged in standoffs and face-offs.



PM Modi to visit Laos for India-Asean summit :-

PM Narendra Modi will travel to Laos for the India-Asean Summit on October 10-11 to honor the tenth anniversary of India's Act East Policy, which emphasizes India's support for 'Freedom of Navigation in the South China Sea region' amid China-Philippines territorial conflicts that could escalate into a larger conflict. At the summit, the Prime Minister will reiterate India's strong support for Asean centrality and unity, as well as the Asean Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. The Asean-India summit will

review progress of India-Asean relations through Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and chart the future direction of cooperation, an official said.



Mindfulness India Summit scheduled for Oct. 17-18:-

The third annual Mindfulness India Summit will be place on October 17 and 18 in Mumbai. The conference aims to provide leaders and professionals with critical solutions for creating healthier, more sympathetic work cultures. The Mindful Science Centre is organizing the summit, which will be conducted by global mindfulness specialist Manish Behl. The topics will include mindfulness, emotional intelligence, and neuroscience. Supported by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and with The Hindu as media partner, the summit will bring together over 30 international experts in these fields.



President Murmu's Historic African Visit :-

President Droupadi Murmu will visit Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi from October 13 to 19, marking the first visit by an Indian head of state to all three African countries. President Murmu's state visit reflects India's deep desire to fortify its partnerships with African countries, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The visit follows a year after the African Union became a permanent member of the G20 under India's presidency. "This visit should be seen in the context of Africa as a

continent and how India wishes to engage, and is looking at having a stronger partnership with Africa. It's a reflection of India-Africa growing partnership," said Dammu Ravi, secretary (economic relations), MEA.



44th And 45th ASEAN Summits Held In Vientiane, Laos:-

Vientiane, Laos hosted the 44th and 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits, as well as other associated summits. This year's ASEAN summits are themed 'ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience,' with an emphasis on creating an even more incorporated, linked, and strong ASEAN community to respond to several pressing challenges and seize possibilities to benefit ASEAN citizens. The three-day event featured related summits, including the 27th ASEAN-China Summit, the 27th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (ASEAN-China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea), and the 19th East Asia Summit.



India Digital Agri Conference 2024 :-

The India Digital Agri Conference 2024 was held in New Delhi to investigate the revolutionary possibilities of digital agriculture. Speaking at the event, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Secretary Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi emphasized the importance of the digital mission in

harnessing technology and data-driven solutions to modernize Indian agriculture. The Agriculture Ministry stated that the conference aimed to promote knowledge exchange, highlight cutting-edge developments, and boost cross-sector collaboration. It also said that by bringing together policymakers, industry experts, entrepreneurs, academicians, researchers and farmers the conference paved the way to shape the future of agriculture in the digital era.

**Modi to visit Russia to attend 16th BRICS Summit:-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia from October 22 to 23 at the request of Russian President Vladimir Putin to take part in the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced. During his visit, the Prime Minister is anticipated to hold bilateral discussions with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and other invited leaders. The theme

for this year's summit is "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security," which will provide a crucial platform for leaders to discuss significant global issues.

**Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2024 Culminates at New Delhi :-**

The second edition of the Indian Army's flagship foreign seminar, the Chanakya Defence Dialogue, concluded in Delhi. This two-day conference brought together policymakers, strategic thinkers, academics, defense personnel, veterans, scientists, and subject matter experts from India and overseas to discuss India's strategic directions and developmental priorities. Prominent speakers from India, the United States, Russia, Israel, and Sri Lanka offered a global perspective on how security influences India's developmental trajectory toward Viksit Bharat in 2047.



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SECTION 2

PRACTICE QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS



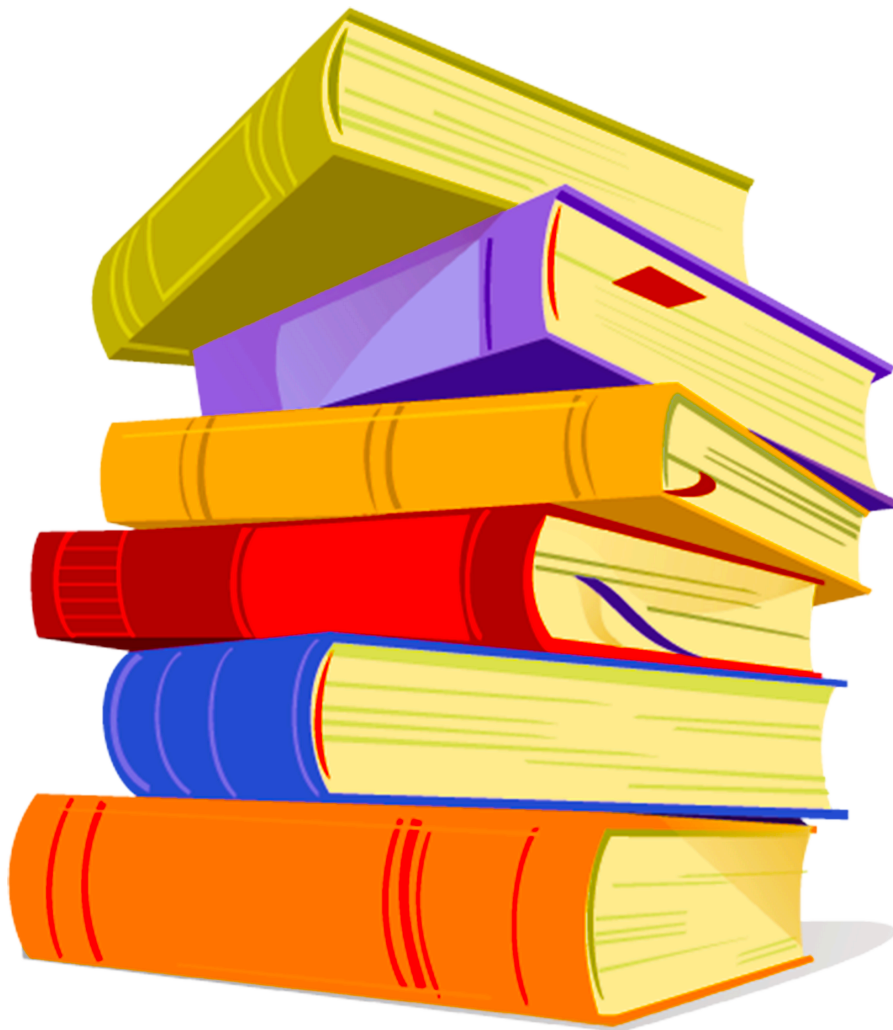
BY RAMAN ACADEMY



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SECTION 3

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



BY RAMAN ACADEMY

Economics

How will Sebi's new rules affect traders and brokers?



Why in the News?

In an effort to safeguard investors and prevent speculative trading, SEBI has implemented a six-step methodology that targets futures and options (F&O) trading in particular by limiting retail participation and lowering volumes on expiry days.

What are the Future and Options (F&O)?

- Contracts to purchase or sell an asset (such as stocks, indices, or commodities) at a fixed price on a future date are known as futures.
- Options grant the right, but not the responsibility, to purchase or sell an asset before a specific date at a predetermined price.

SEBI's Six-Step F&O Framework (Effective November 2024 – April 2025):

In response to concerns about rising **speculative trading**, SEBI has outlined six key measures aimed at reducing **retail interest** in F&O trading:

1. Upfront collection of options premiums
2. Intraday monitoring of position limits
3. Removing calendar spread benefits on expiry day
4. Increasing the contract size for index derivatives

5. Rationalizing weekly index derivatives to one benchmark per exchange
6. Enhancing margin requirements on options expiry days

Key Changes for Retail Investors:

- **Options Premiums Must Now Be Paid Up Front:** Retail investors are no longer able to employ large leverage in options trading since they must pay the entire premium up front.
- **Increased Contract Size:** By making it more expensive to enter, the minimum contract size for index derivatives has been raised to ₹15 lakhs, which discourages speculative retail involvement.
- **Justification for Weekly Expirations:** By limiting weekly expiries to a single benchmark index per exchange, speculative trading opportunities and intraday volatility are reduced.
- **Benefits of Calendar Spreads Are Eliminated:** By prohibiting calendar spreads on expiration days, aggressive trading tactics are discouraged.

Impact on Brokers and Revenue:

- **Decline in Trading Volumes:** Because there are fewer retail participants and greater hurdles to participation, brokers who depend on F&O trading will experience lower volumes.
- **Revenue Drop in Options Trading:** As retail involvement in options declines, companies such as Zerodha may experience a 30–50% drop in revenue.
- **Change to Equity Trading:** Brokers may modify their products as a result of retail investors shifting to equity trading.

- Brokers will be less affected if they have a balanced cash and derivatives mix, while brokers that specialise in F&O will need to change their approach.

CERC steps in to tackle sudden Surges in Power Demand



Why in the News?

India's power regulator, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), has appointed a Single Member Bench to assess the challenges of a sudden surge in power demand.

Projected Power Demand for October 2024

- India is expected to use 230 gigawatts (GW) of electricity at its peak in October 2024.
- The demand is anticipated to increase to 232.2 GW after accounting for losses in the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS).
- An extra 12.60 GW of generation resources are needed to accommodate this demand.

Concerns over Power System Operation:

- Without sufficient generating sources, the sharp increase in demand for electricity could endanger the functioning of the power grid.
- Operational planning is the responsibility of the State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs) and Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) in order to handle this influx,

particularly because of seasonal fluctuations.

About Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC):

	Details
Establishment	It was constituted on July 24, 1998, under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, and later brought under the Electricity Act, 2003.
Type	Statutory body with quasi-judicial status under Section 76 of the Electricity Act, 2003.
Ministry	Functions under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
Primary Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates tariffs of power generation companies (owned/controlled by the Government of India). Regulates interstate transmission tariffs. Issues licenses for interstate transmission and trading.
Key Role in Tariff Evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced a Two-Part Tariff in 1992. Introduced Availability Based Tariff (ABT) in 2000 to improve grid stability.
Advisory Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy. Promotes competition, efficiency, and investment in the electricity sector.
Licensing	Issues licenses for electricity transmission and interstate trading.

Grid Operation Standards	Enforces standards under the Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC) to improve grid stability and power quality.
Dispute Resolution	Adjudicates disputes involving power generation companies and transmission licensees.
Collaboration	Signed a MoU with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 2009 for enhancing power market regulation and grid reliability.
First Chairman	Mr. S.L. Rao (1998–2001).

'Humsafar Policy' for Wayside Amenities along the National Highways



Why in the News?

The "Humsafar Policy," which was introduced in New Delhi by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, aims to facilitate travel on national highways and encourage the growth of wayside amenities.

About the 'Humsafar Policy'

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways started the Humsafar Policy as a measure to improve the experience and

convenience of people travelling on National Highways (NHs).

- It focusses on creating wayside amenities alongside highways to offer a variety of amenities to drivers, guaranteeing enjoyable, safe, and easy travel.
- By including environmentally beneficial measures like waste recycling, solar energy, and water conservation, the strategy also highlights environmental sustainability.

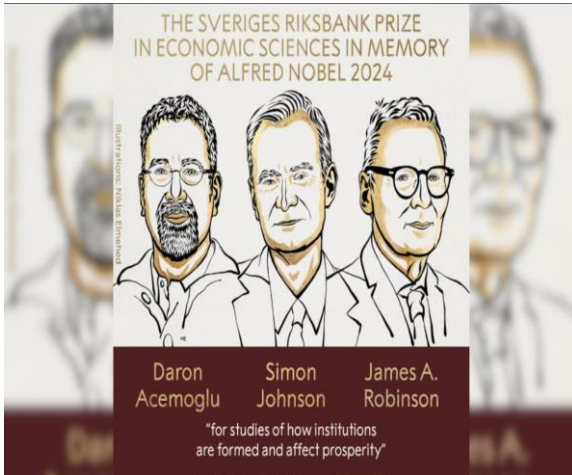
Features of the Humsafar Policy

- Food courts, gas stations, EV charging stations, parking, restrooms, ATMs, and pharmacies are examples of wayside amenities.
- Standardised Facilities: Guarantees commuters clean, well-maintained services.
- Service Provider Visibility: Listed on the "Rajmarg Yatra" app, sign space is available, and high-rated providers are exempt from renewal fees.
- Monitoring & Inspection: Consistent third-party inspections to ensure service quality, with warnings for sites with low ratings.
- Green Focus: Promotes recycling of garbage, water conservation, and solar energy.

Significance

- Better User Experience: Enhances travel with high-quality facilities.
- Economic Impact: Creates jobs and supports local communities.
- Standardization: Ensures consistent quality and accountability.
- Technological Integration: The 'Rajmarg Yatra' app gives real-time facility info and allows feedback from users.

Nobel Prize in Economics, 2024



Why in the News?

The For their studies on the reasons why some countries are more wealthy than others, Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson were granted the 2024 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics.

What is the Nobel Economics Prize?

- Formally known as the 1968 Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- It was not included in Alfred Nobel's original list of Nobel Prizes in 1895.
- established by the Swedish central bank as a tribute to Alfred Nobel.
- Despite not being an original Nobel Prize, it is given out on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's passing, along with the other Nobel Prizes.
- consists of a gold medal, diploma, and a \$1 million award for the winners.

This Year's Nobel for Economics:

- The study conducted by the 2024 Nobel laureates concentrated on how societal structures affect a nation's economic success.

- The laureates made a distinction between extractive institutions—where resources are plundered and power is concentrated for the advantage of a select few—and inclusive institutions—which support democracy, the rule of law, and the preservation of property rights.
- Their research shows that although extractive institutions impede growth by discouraging investment and innovation, inclusive institutions promote long-term economic progress by offering stability and incentives.
- By building either extractive or inclusive institutions, the researchers also investigated how European colonisation affected contemporary economic inequities. Decisions were influenced by colonisation mortality risks, among other variables.

Significance of the study

- The study emphasises how important societal institutions are in determining a nation's level of prosperity.
- It makes a distinction between extractive institutions that impede growth and inclusive institutions that promote it.
- It illustrates how colonial history influenced contemporary economic inequality.
- In order to foster long-term prosperity, the research provides policy ideas for creating inclusive institutions.
- It has worldwide ramifications for fostering sustainable development and lowering inequality.

HAL becomes 14th Maharatna Company in India



Why in the News?

The Centre has upgraded the status of PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) as Maharatna Company (from earlier Navratna Status).

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Key Facts

- Originally called Hindustan Aircraft Limited, HAL was established in Bangalore in 1940. In 1964, it merged with Aeronautics India Limited to become HAL.
- The Ministry of Defence is the owner of this state-owned business.
- Bengaluru, Karnataka, is home to the headquarters.
- Runs 20 manufacturing and research and development facilities across India, including in Bangalore, Nashik, Koraput, and Lucknow.
- focusses on the design, development, production, and upkeep of engines, avionics, aircraft, helicopters, and other aerospace equipment.
- Manufactures fighter aircraft such as Jaguar, Hawk, Sukhoi Su-30MKI, and Tejas LCA.
- Produces a variety of helicopters, including as the Rudra, Cheetah, Chetak, Dhruv ALH, and LCH.
- Works together on aircraft manufacture and technology transfer with Boeing, Airbus, Rosoboronexport, and Safran.

- 2018 saw its listing on the BSE and NSE, opening it to public investment.
- Increased exports, sending parts for aeroplanes and helicopters to nations including Ecuador, Mauritius, and Vietnam.
- Tejas Mk2, AMCA, and IMRH are recent initiatives that have improved India's domestic defence capabilities.

About Maharatna Companies

	Details
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition granted to select Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in India. • Provides greater financial and operational autonomy compared to Navratna and Miniratna PSUs.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Turnover: Over ₹25,000 crore in the last three years. • Net Worth: More than ₹15,000 crore over the last three years. • Net Profit: Minimum of ₹5,000 crore for three consecutive years. • Must have significant global operations or international presence.
Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can invest up to ₹5,000 crore or 15% of their net worth in a single project without government approval. • Authorized to make equity investments for strategic resources or collaborations in India and abroad.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to foster more flexibility in operations and encourage expansion, especially in international markets. • Helps companies to become global players.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) • Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) • Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances the ability of PSUs to compete globally. • Allows quicker decision-making and reduces bureaucratic hurdles. • Promotes growth and competitiveness in the international arena.

Benefits of Maharatna Status for HAL

- HAL no longer needs government approval to invest up to ₹5,000 crore (up from ₹1000 cr) or 15% of its net worth (whichever is applicable) in a single project.
- HAL is free to make strategic investments, mergers, and acquisitions both domestically and abroad because it is a Maharatna firm.

Z-Morh Tunnel Project



Why in the News?

Some militants attacked workers building the Z-Morh tunnel on the Srinagar-Sonamarg highway, killing seven people.

What is the Z-Morh Tunnel?

- The Sonamarg health resort and Kangan town in the Ganderbal district of central

Kashmir are connected by the 6.4-kilometer Z-Morh tunnel, which is situated close to Gagangir hamlet.

- It is a component of the bigger Zojila tunnel project, which intends to connect Srinagar and Ladakh via road all year round.
- The Srinagar-Sonamarg-Leh highway passes through it.
- It is being built at an elevation of more than 8,500 feet.
- The Z-shaped road segment where it is being constructed is the source of its name.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) first came up with the idea for the project in 2012.
- Although the formal inauguration has been postponed, a soft opening of the tunnel took place in February 2024.

Significance of the Z-Morh Tunnel

- The tunnel guarantees year-round access to the well-liked tourist destination by providing all-weather road connectivity to the Sonamarg health resort.
- Because of the military presence along the border with China and Pakistan, it is crucial for preserving all-weather communication to Ladakh, a strategically significant area for India.
- For the Indian Army, the tunnel is strategically significant since it reduces the need for air transportation for the movement of troops and supplies by offering rapid and secure access to advanced positions in Ladakh.
- Additionally, it will lower the cost of air maintenance for advanced areas, extending the life of Indian Air Force aircraft.

- By making Sonamarg more accessible, the tunnel will promote regional tourism and economic growth.

Bihar gets its first Dry Port in Bihta



Why in the News?

- To increase the export of commodities made in Bihar, the state opened its first dry port in the town of Bihta, which is close to Patna.
- Leather shoes were shipped to Russia as the Bihta ICD's first export shipment.

What is it?

- An inland container depot (ICD), sometimes referred to as a dry port, is a logistics centre situated outside of an airport or seaport.
- It facilitates the management of imports and exports by offering facilities for cargo handling, storage, and transportation of commodities.
- In 2018, Varanasi became India's first dry port.
- Through important gateway ports, the dry port serves as a link between the inland areas and global shipping lanes.

About Bihta ICD

- Bihta, a town close to Patna, the capital of Bihar, is home to the Bihta Inland Container

Depot (ICD), also referred to as the Bihta dry port.

- A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) governs its operations.
- The Department of Revenue, a division of the Union Ministry of Finance, has authorised and fully commissioned it.
- In partnership with the Bihar state industry department, Pristine Magadh Infrastructure Private Limited is in charge of its management.
- The Bihta ICD is well connected by railways to gateway ports across India, including:
 - Kolkata and Haldia in West Bengal.
 - Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
 - Nhava Sheva in Maharashtra.
 - Mundra in Gujarat.
- It supports transportation of goods to and from eastern India, benefitting not just Bihar but also neighboring states like Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.

How it can help the state?

- Increases Exports: The dry port's effective cargo handling and transportation would help Bihar's main exports, which include fruits, vegetables, clothing, leather goods and maize.
- Lowers Costs: The dry port can help firms in Bihar cut down on transportation expenses by handling customs procedures locally and combining cargo.
- Encourages Investment: The state's growing leather and apparel sectors, in addition to the new infrastructure, will draw in more capital and foster economic expansion.
- Enhances Connectivity: By connecting Bihar to significant seaports in Kolkata, Haldia, and

Visakhapatnam via large railway networks, the dry port increases the effectiveness of export logistics.

- Supports Neighbouring States: By boosting regional trade in eastern India, the dry port will also help neighbouring states like Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.

Environment & Diversity

International Energy Efficiency Hub



Why in the News?

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a 'Letter of Intent' that will enable India to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub (Hub).

About the International Energy Efficiency Hub

- India was already a member of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), which was replaced by the Hub in 2020.
- The Hub is an international platform that encourages cooperation and energy efficiency between the corporate sector, governments, and international organisations.
- 16 nations (including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the United Kingdom) are members as of July 2024.
- For India's involvement in the Hub, the statutory Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

has been chosen as the implementing agency.

Significance for India

- As a member, India will get access to chances for cooperation with other nations.
- India can exchange knowledge and pick up tips from global energy efficiency best practices.
- Through the promotion of energy-efficient practices and technologies, the nation will also support international efforts to combat climate change.
- India's participation will:
 - Accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.
 - Improve energy security by adopting more efficient energy practices.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

	Details
Establishment	Established in March 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001
Objective	To promote energy efficiency and conservation, reduce energy intensity, and enhance energy security
Governing Body	Functions under the Ministry of Power, Government of India
Key Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops energy efficiency policies and strategies • Implements energy conservation programs • Coordinates with various sectors

	like industry, transport, and municipalities on energy efficiency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes R&D in energy conservation technologies
Key Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards and Labeling Program (Star rating system for appliances) Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme (for energy-intensive industries) Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) (for commercial buildings) National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP)
Important Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Energy Conservation Awards Demand Side Management (DSM) Street Lighting National Program (SLNP) (LED streetlight replacement)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce energy intensity in India Improve energy efficiency in key sectors like agriculture, industry, buildings, and appliances Contribute to sustainable development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
International Cooperation	Collaborates with UNDP, World Bank, and ADB on energy efficiency projects globally
Legislative Framework	Operates under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant reduction in carbon emissions Supports India's climate

	commitments under the Paris Agreement
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EnviStats India 2024



Government of India
Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation

Why in the News?

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the "EnviStats India 2024: Environment Accounts" Report.

What is the EnviStats India 2024 Report?

- The MoSPI has published the EnviStats India 2024 Report for the seventh consecutive year.
- The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Framework serves as the basis for the compilation of environmental-economic accounting.
- Insights into the nation's natural resources, ecosystems, and environmental sustainability initiatives are provided by this framework, which offers a global standard for combining environmental data with economic statistics.

Key Highlights:

	Details
Protected Areas (SDG 13 & SDG 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72% increase in the number of Protected Areas (2000-2023) 16% increase in the area of Protected Areas, reflecting

	biodiversity conservation efforts.
Mangrove Cover (SDG 13 & SDG 15)	– 8% increase in mangrove cover (2013-2021), highlighting positive growth in coastal ecosystem protection.
Ocean Accounts (SDG 14: Life below Water)	– Introduced for the first time, covering the extent and condition of ocean ecosystems.
Energy Use & Physical Asset Accounts (SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy & SDG 13: Climate Action)	– Includes Physical Asset Accounts and Physical Supply and Use Tables for Energy, aligned with SEEA-Energy Framework, and data from ministries like Coal and Petroleum.
Soil Nutrient Index (SDG 2: Zero Hunger)	– Updated data on Soil Nutrient Index based on the Soil Health Card 2023-24, reflecting soil health and agricultural sustainability.
Biodiversity & Species Richness (SDG 15: Life on Land)	– Data on faunal and floral diversity, including endangered species like Leopards and Snow leopards, connecting to biodiversity conservation.

Policy Recommendations

The EnviStats India 2024 Report suggests several policy directions based on its findings:

- Biodiversity Protection: Increase the protection of important ecosystems and support community-led conservation.
- Ocean Ecosystem Management: To manage marine resources sustainably and reduce pollution, use Ocean Accounts.

- Soil Health: Promote more productive farming methods and improved soil management by utilising Soil Health Cards.
- Integrated Planning: Use data-driven planning to prioritise genetic conservation, habitat restoration, and species conservation.

Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary



Why in the News?

- Four of the five important highways that cross the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have been approved by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).
- Among these is a path to Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), the highest airport in India and the northernmost military installation in Ladakh.

About Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary:

	Details
Location	Ladakh, India, situated in the eastern part of the Karakoram Range.
Area	5,000 sq km (approximately), making it one of the largest high-altitude protected areas in India.
Altitude Range	Ranges from about 4,200m to over 7,500m at the peak of <i>Saltoro Kangri</i> .

Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characterized by a cold desert climate, with harsh winters, low temperatures, and limited vegetation. The region experiences snowfall during winter and temperatures can drop below -20°C (-4°F). Summer temperatures are also low, typically ranging between 5°C to 20°C (41°F to 68°F).
Biodiversity	Home to species like the snow leopard, Tibetan antelope (<i>chiru</i>), Tibetan wild ass (<i>kiang</i>), ibex, and blue sheep (<i>Bharal</i>). The sanctuary also supports migratory bird species during certain times of the year.

Flora	Sparse vegetation, with cold desert flora, including hardy grasses, shrubs, and medicinal plants.
Rivers	Shyok and Nubra Rivers flow through the Ladakh region, providing crucial water sources for the sanctuary.
Significance	Part of the larger trans-Himalayan ecosystem, offering a habitat for some of the rarest and most endangered species in the world.
Conservation Challenges	Harsh climatic conditions, limited accessibility, and poaching threats to species like the chiru, whose undercoat is highly prized.
Tourism and Access	Restricted due to its proximity to the international border with China. Special permits are required for researchers and travelers.

Governance

Tribes in news: Chenchu Tribe



Why in the News?

- Due to the termination of a unique MGNREGS project, the Chenchu tribe, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) in Andhra Pradesh, is experiencing poverty, unemployment, and deteriorating living conditions.

- In order to meet their unique needs, the government launched the MGNREGS Chenchu Special Project in 2009, which offered 180 days of employment.

About Chenchu Tribe

	Details
Location	Primarily found in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha
Habitat	Sparse and deciduous Nallamala forest, part of the Eastern Ghats
Language	Chenchu language, belonging to the Dravidian language family
Traditional Livelihood	Hunter-gatherers, relying on forest produce like honey, roots, tubers, soapberries, and gum for sustenance

Role in Tiger Conservation	Involved as tiger protection watchers in the Nagarjuna-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR)
Forest Rights	Granted land rights under the Forest Rights Act (2006), allowing subsistence farming and forest dwelling
Challenges	Facing displacement, low literacy rate (40.6%), and rehabilitation issues due to relocation from their forest homes
Cultural Practices	Worship <i>Malamma Vana Devatha</i> (goddess of honey); brew liquor from acacia bark, mahua flower, and jaggery
Society	Community-oriented with close-knit family bonds, practicing traditional subsistence living and deeply connected to forest ecosystems
Population	64,227 (2011 Census), spread across five districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
Government Support	Special rights granted under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (FRA)
Major Threats	Displacement due to tiger conservation efforts, lack of modern skills, poverty, and low literacy rates

Draft National Sports Governance Bill, 2024



Why in the News?

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has released the Draft National Sports Governance Bill, 2024 for public comments and suggestions.

Draft National Sports Governance Bill, 2024: Key Features

	Details
Sports Regulatory Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central regulatory authority overseeing National Sports Federations (NSFs).• Responsible for granting recognition to NSFs, ensuring governance, financial, and ethical standards are followed.• Flexible and autonomous in regulating sports governance without a fixed formula for NSF recognition.
Governance Structure for Sports Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applies to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), and NSFs.• Limits Executive Committees (ECs) to 15 members.• Leadership positions open to citizens with usual terms and conditions.• Encourages NSFs to hire full-time salaried management, led by a CEO.
Ethical and Governance Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory Ethics Commissions and Dispute Resolution Commissions at the NOC, NPC, and NSF levels.• Aligns with international standards to help India host global events like the Olympics.
Athletes Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required in NOC, NPC, and all NSFs.• Provides athletes a platform to raise concerns and participate in

	<p>decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government to provide additional funding.
Athlete Representation in Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10% of voting members in the General Body of NOC, NPC, and NSFs must be sportspersons of outstanding merit (SOMs). • At least 2 SOM representatives (one male, one female) must serve on the Executive Committee.
Safe Sports Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces a Safe Sports Policy to protect athletes, especially minors and women, from harassment and abuse. • Strict adherence to the POSH Act.
National Sports Promotion Organisations (NSPOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for recognizing and regulating NSPOs to support sports governance, athlete development, and sports promotion.
Appellate Sports Tribunal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handles sports-related disputes, reducing the burden on civil courts. • Provides faster, cheaper, and efficient dispute resolution.
Ad-hoc Normalisation Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sports Regulatory Board can form these committees in cases of non-compliance or suspension of sports federations.
Global Anti-Doping and Ethical Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizes anti-doping measures and compliance with international standards, positioning India as a clean host for global events.

Public Accountability and Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOC, NPC, and NSFs subject to the RTI Act with exclusions for performance and medical data, ensuring transparency in sports governance.
Inclusivity and Gender Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 30% of the members of Executive Committees and other governing bodies must be female, promoting gender equality in sports.
Sports Election Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOA, PCI, and NSFs must engage electoral officers from the Sports Election Panel to ensure free and fair elections.
Use of National Name and Insignia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only recognized sports bodies will be allowed to use the Indian Flag or national names. • Violations can result in fines up to Rs 10 lakhs or imprisonment for up to one year.

Significance of the Bill:

- The National Sports Governance Bill, 2024, is important because it seeks to improve sports governance's accountability, openness, and inclusivity while protecting athletes' welfare.
- It creates ethical norms and legal frameworks to bring India's sports ecosystem into line with international standards, promoting a more effective, equitable, and athlete-focused sports environment.

History

Dadasaheb Phalke Award



Why in the News?

Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty will be conferred with the 2022 Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Mithun Chakraborty to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- Throughout his career, Mithun Chakraborty has portrayed a variety of characters, including a tribal in the 1976 film "Mrigayaa," an action hero, and a dancing star. As a result, he has emerged as one of the most versatile performers in Indian cinema.
- He became a global celebrity thanks to his role in the 1982 film "Disco Dancer," which was a huge hit in Asia, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and other places after Raj Kapoor.
- As evidence of his broad influence, he has contributed to over 350 films in several Indian languages, including Tamil, Punjabi, Bengali, Odia, Bhojpuri, and Hindi.
- Mithun's exceptional performances in films such as "Mrigayaa" (1976), "Tahader Katha" (1992), and "Swami Vivekananda" (1998) have earned him three National Film Awards.

- In 2023, he received India's third-highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan, in appreciation of his artistic accomplishments.
- Mithun has been actively involved in enhancing the welfare of film industry workers for thirty years as the chairperson of the Film Studios Setting & Allied Mazdoor Union (FSSAMU).

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Details

Organized by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Presented by the President of India.
First Presented	1969
Purpose	To honor individuals (filmmakers, actors, singers etc.) for their "great and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema"
Named After	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dadasaheb (Dhundiraj Govind) Phalke, "Father of Indian Cinema". He directed and produced India's first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra, in 1913. This landmark film is considered the starting point of the Indian cinema.
Notable Recipients	Devika Rani (1969), Prithviraj Kapoor (1971), Satyajit Ray (1985), Raj Kapoor (1987), Lata Mangeshkar (1989), Asha

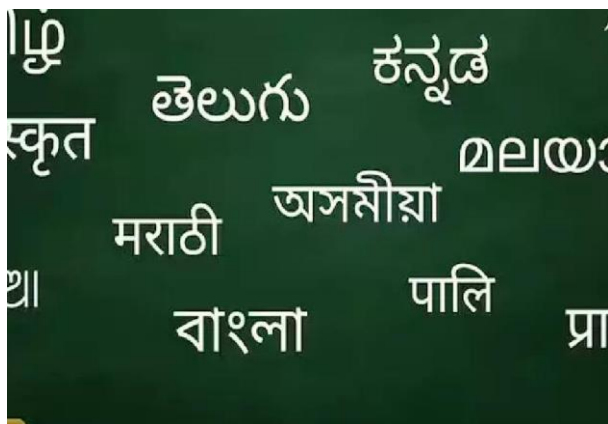
Bhosle (2000), Yash Chopra (2001), Rajinikanth (2019), Amitabh Bachchan (2018), Waheeda Rehman (2021).

- ₹1,000,000 (US\$12,000) cash prize;
- Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl.

Awarded to individuals for their “great and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema”.

A committee consisting of eminent personalities from the Indian film industry.

Cabinet confers Classical Language Status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages



Why in the News?

The Union Cabinet has approved conferring the status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.

Classical Languages in India:

Details

To recognize and preserve Bharat’s profound cultural heritage embodied in these languages and their literary traditions.

Objective

Criteria for Classical Language Status

2004 (when Tamil was declared a Classical Language):

1. High Antiquity over a thousand years.
2. A body of ancient literature valued by generations.
3. Original literary tradition, not borrowed.

2005 (when Sanskrit was declared a Classical Language):

1. High Antiquity over 1500-2000 years.
2. Ancient literature valued by generations.
3. Original literary tradition, not borrowed.
4. Distinct from modern forms, with possible discontinuity.

2024 (as recommended by the Linguistic Experts Committee):

1. High Antiquity over 1500-2000 years.
2. Ancient literature valued by generations.
3. Includes knowledge texts, prose, inscriptions.
4. Distinct from current forms or may show discontinuity.

Previously Conferred Status

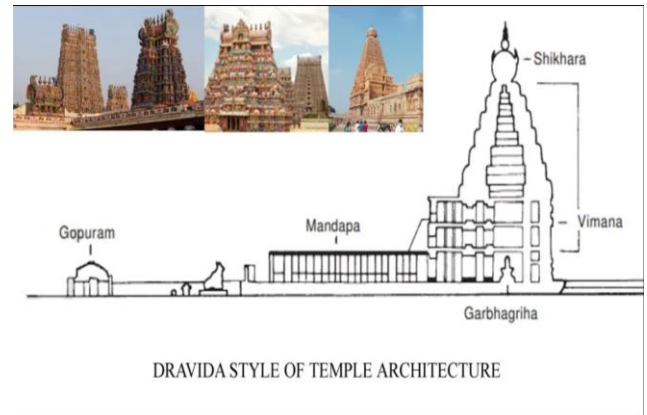
Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu (2008), Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013), Odia (2014)

Implementation Strategy

- Establishment of Central Universities for Sanskrit (2020)
- Promotion of Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia

Impact on Employment	through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (Mysuru)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and International awards for Classical Languages Employment in academia, research, and archiving Jobs in preservation, digitization, translation, and publishing of ancient texts
States Involved	<p>Maharashtra (Marathi), Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (Pali, Prakrit), West Bengal (Bengali), Assam (Assamese)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists 22 official languages, governed by Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Constitution. Includes Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu 1950: Initially included 14 languages 1967: Sindhi added (21st Constitutional Amendment) 1992: Konkani, Manipuri (Meitei), Nepali added (71st Additions to the Constitutional Amendment) 2003: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santali added (92nd Constitutional Amendment) 2011: "Oriya" replaced with "Odia" (96th Constitutional Amendment)
The Eighth Schedule	
Chronological Additions to the Eighth Schedule	

Dravidian Style of Architecture



Why in the News?

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), has recently finished **copying inscriptions** at three temples in Thirukurungudi, located in Tirunelveli district.

About the 3 temples mentioned:

Nambi Rayar Temple (Thirukoshtiyur Temple)

- Situated in Tamil Nadu's Thirukoshtiyur, close to Sivaganga, this temple is devoted to Lord Vishnu.
- Among the 108 Divya Desams (holy Vishnu temples) is this one.
- It is well-known for being connected to Ramanuja, one of the most significant Vaishnavite saints, who studied the holy mantra "Ashtakshara" here.
- The temple is constructed in the Dravidian architecture and features a five-tiered rajagopuram (temple tower).

Thirumalai Nambi Temple (Thirumaliruncholai Temple)

- Located in Thirumaliruncholai, sometimes called Azhagar Kovil, close to Madurai, Tamil Nadu, it is a temple devoted to Lord Vishnu.
- One of the 108 Divya Desams is this temple as well.

- The scholar and saint Thirumalai Nambi was a priest at this temple and was closely related to it.
- The temple features elaborate carvings and sculptures in typical Dravidian style, and it is situated in a steep area.

Anilswarar Temple

- It is a Shaivite temple in Tamil Nadu's Anilivandhan Kottai, close to Kanchipuram.
- In contrast to the bigger, more famous temples, this one has a smaller gopuram (temple tower) and traditional architecture.

About Dravidian Style of Architecture

Details

Flourished 8th century to the 13-14th century AD

Enclosure Temples are enclosed within a compound wall, unlike Nagara temples.

- Gopuram (Entrance Gateway): The front wall has an elaborate gateway tower called Gopuram, which serves as the main entrance to the temple complex.
- Vimana (Main Tower): Vimana or temple tower has a stepped pyramid-like structure that rises geometrically, unlike the curving shikhara in North Indian temples.
- Temple Tank: It is common to have a large water reservoir or temple tank enclosed within the temple complex.
- Square (Kuta or Caturasra)
- Rectangular (Shala or Ayatasra)
- Elliptical (Gaja-prishta or Vrittayata)
- Circular (Vritta)

Notable Features

Shapes of Temples

Notable Temples

- Octagonal (Ashtasra)

The Pallavas, early builders of Dravidian temples, started with rock-cut temples and later shifted to structural temples.

- Mahabalipuram: Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla) initiated construction, and Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha) built the Shore Temple.
- The Shore Temple houses three shrines for Shiva and Vishnu.

The Rajarajeswara or Brahadeeshwarar Temple at Thanjavur, built by Rajaraja Chola in 1009 CE, is the largest and tallest of Indian temples. It features large Gopurams with elaborate sculptures.

Temples were not only religious centers but also key administrative hubs, Significancecontrolling large areas of land and resources, especially during the 8th-12th centuries.

Who was Rani Durgavati?



Why in the News?

Madhya Pradesh CM chaired a meeting in honour of the 16th century tribal queen Rani Durgavati on her 500th birth anniversary.

Rani Durgavati (1524-1564)

- In the Chandela dynasty of Mahoba (modern-day Uttar Pradesh), Rani Durgavati was born in 1524.
- She wed Dalpat Shah, the son of the Garha-Katanga kingdom's Gond king Sangram Shah.
- She controlled the country as regent for her young son, Bir Narayan, upon the death of her husband in 1550.
- **Her role against the Mughals:**
 - Rani Durgavati moved her capital to Chauragarh for strategic reasons, growing her empire and ruling with prosperity.
 - Emperor Akbar's Mughal general Asaf Khan invaded her realm in 1564.
 - In a strategic battle at Narhi, she valiantly led her forces and first overcame the Mughals.
 - She became a symbol of bravery and defiance by giving her life to escape arrest.

Her contributions

- Rani Durgavati is known for her martyrdom, administrative prowess, and bravery.
- She completed public works projects, such as building the Ranital reservoir close to Jabalpur.
- revered as a representation of individual autonomy, particularly in indigenous tribes.
- As a patriotic monarch who opposed Mughal expansion, she is revered in Indian history and her memory is celebrated through a variety of political and cultural events.

Literature Nobel, 2024



Why in the News?

The 2024 Nobel Prize has been awarded to South Korean writer Han Kang for her *“intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.”*

Who is Han Kang?

- South Korean author Han Kang was born in Gwangju, South Korea, in 1970.
- She is renowned for her experimental and poetic work that addresses issues of violence, loss, historical trauma, and the frailty of human existence.
- She began writing poetry before becoming well-known for her books that tackled the ramifications of social and political systems as well as complicated individual emotions.

Her Literary Works:

- **The Vegetarian (2007):** This book, which was awarded the 2016 Man Booker International Prize, tells the story of a lady who chooses to give up meat and encounters strong opposition from her family. The narrative examines themes of violence, independence, and domination. 2015 saw

the English translation of her breakthrough book.

- **Human Acts (2016):** This book describes how the South Korean military massacred students who were demonstrating, against the backdrop of the Gwangju Uprising in 1980. Han Kang uses a style that is both experimental and imaginative to give voice to the victims of history.
- **Dedicated to a sister who died soon after birth, The White Book (2017)** is an elegy. Using white objects to represent memory and loss, the book is a meditation on mourning.
- **Greek Lessons (2023):** Originally published in Korean in 2011, this book narrates the tale of a woman who loses her speech and her teacher who is going blind. Intimacy, grief, and the relationship between language and identity are all explored in the book.
- The planned novel **We Do Not Part (2025, forthcoming)** centres on two ladies who must confront a covert 1940s Korean atrocity. It investigates the process of turning suffering into art.

Citation for Nobel Prize 2024

- Her capacity to use a lyrical and radical imagination to craft global narratives is highlighted in the Swedish Academy's official biobibliography.
- In addition to confronting historical injustices, aggression, and patriarchy, Han Kang is commended for exploring the relationships between the living and the dead as well as between the body and the soul.
- According to the school, she has emerged as a trailblazer in modern language,

demonstrating through her potent and avant-garde style how literature may speak the truth.

Recent Nobel Prizes in Literature:

- 2023: Jon Fosse (Norway) for his innovative minimalistic plays and prose, focusing on the human condition.
- 2022: Annie Ernaux (France) for her courageous exploration of personal and collective memory.
- 2021: Abdulrazak Gurnah (Tanzania) for his compassionate depictions of colonialism and migration.
- 2020: Louise Glück (USA) for her deeply personal poetry that resonates universally.

Rabindranath Tagore: Won the Nobel Prize in 1913 European laureate in Literature, recognized for his s

International Abhidhamma Divas



Why in the News?

PM has participated in the celebration of International Abhidhamma Divas and recognition of Pali as a classical language.

What is Abhidhamma?

- More in-depth than the Sutta Pitaka, it provides a methodical and critical investigation of mind and matter.
- The Abhidhamma offers a framework for comprehending reality by examining mental states, consciousness, and psychological processes.
- It is known for its **technical and specialized vocabulary** in Pali, such as:
 - *Chitta* (consciousness)
 - *Chetasika* (mental factors)
 - *Rupa* (materiality)
 - *Nibbana* (final liberation).
- Pannhana, one of the seven treatises of the Abhidhamma Pitaka, is renowned for its examination of causal linkages.
- According to tradition, Buddha taught the Abhidhamma to the gods in Tavatimsa heaven before passing the knowledge along to his pupil Sariputta.

About International Abhidhamma Divas

- To honour Buddha's journey from Tavatimsa-devaloka, a celestial realm, to Sankassiya (Sankisa Basantapur, Uttar Pradesh), Ashwin Purnima (Full Moon) is observed.
- In fact, it is the end of Varsavasa or Vasa, a three-month rain retreat in which monks stay in one place for prayer and meditation.
- Dhamma talks, seminars, and displays that bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and contemporary spiritual practices are all part of the festival.
- The Ministry of Culture, in partnership with the International Buddhist Confederation

(IBC), is hosting the event at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

Teachings of Abhidhamma

- The Abhidhamma provides a detailed framework for understanding the mind, matter, and existence.
- It addresses complex concepts like birth, death, and mental phenomena in a precise and abstract manner.
- Abhidhamma is known for its analytical approach:
 - It categorizes mental states and emotions.
 - It explains causal relationships that determine mental and material phenomena.
- The teachings cover topics like:
 - Moral and mental states
 - Aggregates (components of existence)
 - Causal links
 - Path to enlightenment.

Historical Background and Significance

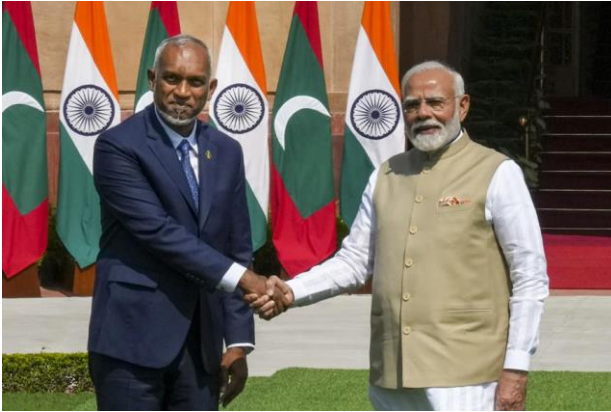
The day that Lord Buddha came to earth after preaching the Abhidhamma in the Tavatimsa realm is celebrated as Abhidhamma Divas.

The Ashokan Elephant Pillar in Sankassiya marks the descent, emphasising its historical significance.

The festival of Pavarana, a time for monks to meditate on one another, and the conclusion of the Rainy Retreat (Vassa), a period of monastic solitude, fall on the same day.

International Relations

India signs \$750-mn currency swap deal with forex-starved Maldives



Why in the News?

The RBI has announced a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27.

India's Financial Support to Maldives

Through the US Dollar/Euro Swap Window, India will give the Maldives \$400 million in financial assistance.

In addition, the INR Swap Window will make ₹30 billion (about \$357 million) available.

The expiration date of the Currency Swap Agreement is June 18, 2027.

About SAARC Currency Swap Framework:

Details

Objective To provide short-term liquidity support to SAARC member countries during financial crises or instability.

Administered by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Launch Year 2012

Countries Involved All SAARC members: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Facility

Swap arrangement in *US Dollar, Euro, or Indian Rupee*.

Interest Rate

Based on the currency borrowed, includes a margin over international benchmark rates.

Purpose

To address the **balance of payment crises** and provide **financial stability**.

Recent Users Sri Lanka, Maldives

Maldives' Debt Situation

The Maldives' debt is currently estimated to be 110% of GDP, and the likelihood of its sukuk (Islamic bond) default is rising.

The world's first Islamic bond default would occur if payments were not made.

The Maldives' external debt is expected to reach \$557 million by 2025 and surpass \$1 billion by 2026, according to Fitch Ratings.

By the end of August, the nation's foreign reserves had dropped to \$437 million, hardly enough to pay imports for a month and a half.

To assist prevent this, India gave the Maldives a \$50 million lifeline.

As of last year, the Export-Import Bank of China owed over \$530 million, and the Export-Import Bank of India owed close to \$400 million.

Significance of India's Assistance

Debt Relief: The Maldives' economy would be stabilised and debt default avoided with India's financial assistance, which includes a \$50 million lifeline.

Geopolitical Influence: By doing this, India can bolster its strategic position in the Indian Ocean and oppose China's influence in the Maldives.

Diplomatic Reset: By helping the Maldives with debt restructuring and international collaborations, India's assistance improves diplomatic ties.

India's Statement at the 21st ASEAN-India Summit



Why in the News?

In alignment with the theme of this year's ASEAN Summit—"Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience"—PM Modi laid out the following ten key suggestions for strengthening cooperation.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

An integrated ASEAN community, regional peace, and economic progress are the goals of ASEAN, which was established in 1967 with the Bangkok Declaration.

Launched in 2008, the ASEAN Charter aimed to create a unified free-trade area and formalised ASEAN's legal status.

The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration was adopted in 2012 after the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2009.

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam are all ASEAN members. Although East Timor (Timor-Leste) submitted an application for

membership in 2011, it has not yet been accepted.

The goal of ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, and South Korea) is to increase the level of regional integration between East Asian and Southeast Asian nations.

The East Asia Summit (EAS), which consists of ASEAN Plus Three plus India, Australia, and New Zealand, improves regional collaboration and strategic communication.

Ten suggestions by PM Modi for ASEAN Connectivity and Resilience:

No. Suggestion Details

- 1 ASEAN-India Year of Tourism (2025) Declare 2025 as ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, with India committing USD 5 million to promote tourism between India and ASEAN.
- 2 Celebrating a Decade of India's Act East Policy Organize events connecting artists, youth, entrepreneurs, and think tanks, including a Music Festival, Youth Summit, Hackathon, etc.
- 3 Women Scientists' Conclave Hold an annual Women Scientists' Conclave under the India-ASEAN Science and Technology Fund to promote collaboration and innovation.
- 4 Double the Masters Scholarships for ASEAN students for ASEAN at Nalanda University and launch a new scholarship program for ASEAN students in agriculture.
- 5 Review of ASEAN-India Trade Agreement Complete the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement by 2025 to enhance

- 6

Disaster Resilience

economic ties and build a secure, resilient supply chain.
Allocate USD 5 million from the ASEAN-India Fund for disaster resilience, with collaboration between India’s NDMA and ASEAN’s Humanitarian Assistance Centre.
- 7

Health Resilience

Institutionalize the ASEAN-India Health Ministers Meeting and invite two experts from each ASEAN country to India’s National Cancer Grid Vishvam Conference.
- 8

Digital and Cyber Resilience

Establish a cyber-policy dialogue between India and ASEAN to strengthen digital and cyber resilience.
- 9

Promoting a Green Future

Organize workshops on green hydrogen involving experts from India and ASEAN to promote sustainable energy solutions.
- 10

Climate Resilience

Promote the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” (Plant for Mother) campaign to encourage tree planting and strengthen climate resilience.

What is the UNIFIL?



Why in the News?

Following Israeli forces' firing on UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon, India has voiced worries about their safety.
600 Indian soldiers are among the peacekeepers; they are part of the United Nations peacekeeping effort and are positioned along the 120-kilometer Blue Line on the border between Israel and Lebanon.

What is UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon)?

Details	
Established	March 1978, following Israel’s invasion of Lebanon
UN Resolutions	Established under UNSC Resolutions 425 and 426
Primary Objectives	Confirm Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon
	Restore international peace and security
	Assist the Government of Lebanon in regaining control over southern Lebanon
Area of Operation	Southern Lebanon, near the border with Israel (Blue Line)
Personnel	Over 10,000 peacekeepers from 50 countries (both civilian and military personnel)
Mission	Prevent hostilities and maintain peace along the 121-km Blue Line
	Ensure that no weapons or fighters are present in the region
	Report violations to the UN Security Council

Rules of Engagement	Peacekeepers are armed but are only allowed to use force when their safety or civilian safety is at risk
Headquarters	Naqoura, southern Lebanon
Peacekeeper Status	Not soldiers but impartial peacekeepers, present with the consent of the host country, Lebanon

Significance of UNIFIL

- UNIFIL keeps an eye on the Blue Line and works to keep tensions between Israel and Lebanon from rising.
- Civilian Protection: It helps with humanitarian relief activities in areas of conflict and protects civilians.
- Support for Lebanon: Alongside the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL assists the Lebanese government in expanding its authority in the south.

Nile nations agree on Water-Sharing without Egypt’s nod



Why in the News?

A regional partnership of 10 countries announced that an agreement on the *equitable use of Nile River water* resources has come into effect, despite Egypt’s opposition.

About Nile River:

	Details
Length	Approximately 6,650 km (4,130 miles), making it the longest river in the world.
Tributaries	White Nile (originating from Lake Victoria in Uganda) and Blue Nile (originating from Lake Tana in Ethiopia).
Countries Traversed	11 countries: Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Egypt.
Source	White Nile from Lake Victoria, Blue Nile from Lake Tana.
Mouth	Mediterranean Sea, forming the Nile Delta in Egypt.
Major Cities	Includes Cairo, Khartoum, and Alexandria.
Key Dams	Aswan High Dam (Egypt), controls flooding, generates hydroelectric power, and forms Lake Nasser. Built in 1970 across the Nile in Aswan, Egypt; helps in irrigation, flood control, and hydroelectric power generation but also disrupts silt flow.
Economic Importance	Provides over 90% of water for Egypt and Sudan; vital for agriculture, fishing, industry, and energy production.
Disputes	Between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan over water rights, particularly due to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).
Historical Treaties	1929 and 1959 Nile Water Agreements allocated water

mostly to Egypt and Sudan; upstream countries seek revision. Nile Basin Initiative (NBI): Established in 1999, it is a partnership among Nile Basin countries aimed at promoting cooperation, development, and sustainable management of the Nile’s resources.

UAE to review India’s concerns on surge in Silver, Platinum Alloy imports



Why in the News?

India has raised concerns over the increase in imports of silver products, platinum alloy, and dry dates from the UAE under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Issues Raised by India:

Concerned that the India-UAE CEPA permits limitless imports of gold, silver, platinum, and diamonds with no tariffs, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has demanded an immediate review of the deal. According to GTRI, a large number of these imports should not be eligible for discounts since they do not adhere to the Rules of Origin.

In 2023–2024, India imported \$10.7 billion worth of gold and silver from the United Arab Emirates, a 210% increase. Under the deal, India permits customs tax exemptions of 1% on 160 metric tonnes of gold and 7% on silver. In order to grant concessional duties to domestic jewellery manufacturers, including those not registered under UAE domestic norms, India also asked that the Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre in Dubai be designated as a Designated Zone. In order to streamline the certification procedure and increase the export of animal products, India also asked the UAE to recognise the i-CAS (India Conformity Assessment Scheme) Halal scheme. Following consultation with internal stakeholders, including federal tax officials, the UAE indicated that it would be open to evaluate this request.

India-UAE Trade Relations:

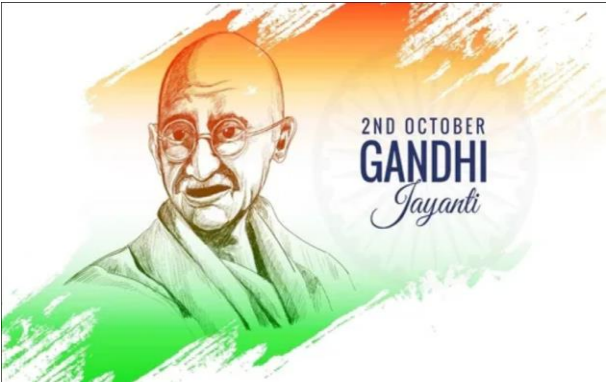
	Details
Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The UAE is India’s 3rd largest trading partner with \$83.65 billion in bilateral trade in 2023-24.• Trade between India and UAE grew from \$180 million in the 1970s to \$85 billion in 2022-23.
Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signed in February 2022, making India the first country to sign such an agreement with the UAE.• CEPA has slashed tariffs on 80% of goods and offers zero duty access to 90% of Indian exports to the UAE.

Non-Oil Trade Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The target of reaching \$100 billion in non-oil trade by 2030 is seen as achievable given current growth trends.
Investment from UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UAE’s investments in India are around \$20-21 billion, with \$15.5 billion as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).• The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has invested in projects like the NIIF Master Fund and renewable energy initiatives.
India’s Exports to UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UAE is India’s 2nd largest export destination after the US, with

	<p>exports worth \$31.61 billion in 2022-23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key exports include petroleum products, gems, food items, textiles, and engineering goods.
India’s Imports from UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UAE is a critical partner for India’s energy security.• India imports petroleum, gems, minerals, and chemicals from UAE.• UAE is India’s 4th largest crude oil supplier and 2nd largest for LNG and LPG.

Polity

Special Gram Sabhas on Gandhi Jayanti



Why in the News?

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has organized special Gram Sabhas across 750 Gram Panchayats on 2nd October 2024, marking Gandhi Jayanti.

Vision to Achieve Gram Swaraj Through People’s Participation

Mahatma Gandhi’s idea of Gramme Swaraj—a self-sufficient village fuelled by citizen participation in decision-making—will be embodied by these unique Gramme Sabhas.

It places a focus on community-led governance, in which women, youth, and elders work together to create Gramme Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP).

Lal Bahadur Shastri’s Legacy

Lal Bahadur Shastri, India’s second prime minister, was born on the same day as the event.

Shastri promoted community growth, independence, and simplicity.

With his catchphrase, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," Shastri highlighted the resilience of India’s farmers and rural economy, making his vision a crucial part of this grassroots movement.

About Gram Sabha

	Details
Role and Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centerpiece of the Panchayati Raj system

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for village development and local governance
Constitutional Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined under Article 243(b) of the Indian Constitution Primary body in the Panchayati Raj system A permanent body
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals above 18 years of age Must be residing in the village Listed in the electoral rolls
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet 2 to 4 times annually as per State Panchayat Raj Acts Common meeting dates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Republic Day (26th Jan) Labour Day (1st May) Independence Day (15th Aug) Gandhi Jayanti (2nd Oct) Panchayats may choose other dates for meetings
Organizing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized by the Panchayat Secretary (Gram Sevak) Done with approval of the Sarpanch
Conditions for Convening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% of members or 50 people (whichever is greater) can request a meeting A written request must be submitted 5 days prior to the meeting
Decision-Making Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All decisions of the Panchayat require the approval and validation of the Gram Sabha
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss local governance and development issues Make need-based plans for the village



Why in the News?

At the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India unveiled a brand-new "lady justice" statue.

The new monument, which replaces the old one, is dressed in a saree, carries the Indian Constitution in one hand and scales in the other, and has its eyes open to represent the idea that justice views everyone equally.

About the Lady Justice Statue:

	Details
History	<p>Introduced during colonial rule, becoming a common feature in Indian courthouses.</p> <p>Depicted in the Calcutta High Court (1872) and the Bombay High Court, with variations in blindfold status.</p>
Modern Depiction	In 2024, a new 6-foot statue was unveiled by the Supreme Court of India, created by <i>Vinod Goswami</i> .
Symbolism	Absence of the blindfold signifies that "law is not blind," promoting the idea of equality in justice.
Origins	Traces back to Greek mythology with Themis and Roman mythology with <i>Justitia</i> , traditionally depicted with a blindfold, scales, and a sword.

New 'Lady Justice' Statue

Notable Changes	<p>Emphasises equality in justice by symbolising that "the law is not blind."</p> <p>wearing a saree, which is a symbol of Indian customs and traditions.</p> <p>holds a copy of the Indian Constitution, which stands for justice and rights, in place of a sword.</p> <p>keeps holding scales, highlighting the need of maintaining</p>	<p>equilibrium when assessing arguments and supporting data.</p> <p>liberates itself from colonial influences and conforms to modern Indian ideals.</p> <p>represents a constitutionally based, inclusive, and conscious justice system.</p> <p>Its placement in the Supreme Court's Judges' Library emphasises its importance in Indian jurisprudence.</p>
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Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Scientists Unveil the First-Ever Complete Map of an Adult Fruit Fly's Brain



Why in the News?

Researchers have successfully mapped the entire brain of an adult fruit fly, marking the first time researchers have created such a detailed map of an adult animal's brain.

How Was the Fruit Fly Brain Mapped?

In 2013, the mapping of the brains of fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) started.

An mature fruit fly's brain was solidified by scientists immersing it in a chemical bath.

In order to map the complete brain, this method created 21 million images from 7,050 different parts of the brain.

Over ten years after the effort began, the first high-resolution image of the brain was produced.

Key findings

Researchers found 139,000 neurones (brain nerve cells) with almost 50 million connections.

They created the greatest inventory of cell kinds in any brain by classifying the cells into 8,453 different types.

The study shed light on how various cell types work as well as how colour and motion are perceived by the fruit fly's eyes.

The discovery of a collection of "hub neurones" could aid in accelerating the flow of information.

Significance of the Work

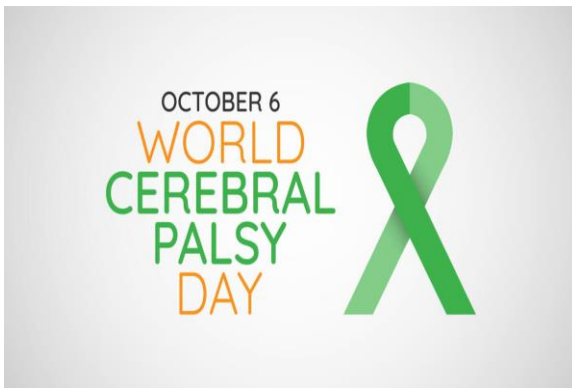
Fruit flies and humans share a similar neuronal communication mechanism, despite the complexity of the human brain.

A useful model system for neuroscience is fruit flies. Many of the issues that our brains solve are also resolved by theirs.

It might aid in the comprehension and management of mental health issues including depression and Parkinson's disease.

It is hoped that scientists will ultimately be able to map the entire human brain after mapping the brain of a fruit fly.

World Cerebral Palsy Day



Why in the News?

On October 6, World Cerebral Palsy Day was observed with the hashtag #UniquelyCP.

By highlighting the fact that people with cerebral palsy are not defined by their handicap, it celebrates their individuality.

About Cerebral Palsy:

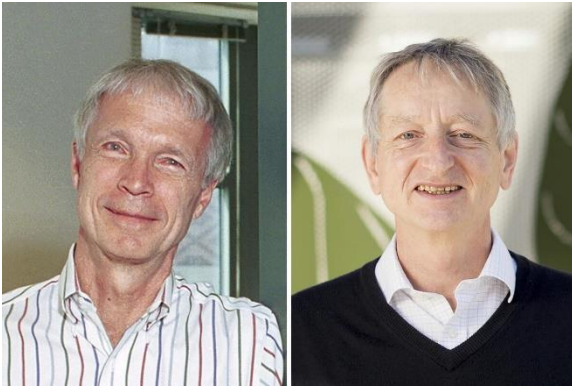
	Details
Condition	A group of neurological disorders affecting movement, muscle tone, and posture.
Cause	Abnormal brain development, usually before birth; can also occur due to injury during birth or early childhood.
Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Spastic CP: Stiff muscles, difficulty with movement (most common, 70-80% of cases). – Dyskinetic CP: Uncontrolled

	<p>movements affecting limbs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ataxic CP: Poor balance and coordination. – Mixed CP: Combination of symptoms from different types.
Symptoms	Motor skill difficulties (crawling, walking); Muscle stiffness or looseness; Poor coordination and balance; Speech or swallowing difficulties; Seizures in some cases.
Diagnosis	Physical examination, MRI scans, developmental monitoring (usually diagnosed within first 2 years).
Risk Factors	Premature birth; Low birth weight; Multiple births; Maternal infections; Lack of oxygen during birth.
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Physical, occupational, and speech therapies. – Medications to reduce muscle stiffness. – Surgery in severe cases.
Life Expectancy	Normal life expectancy in many cases, depending on severity and associated complications.
Prevention	Some causes are preventable with proper maternal care, but many are not.
Policy Support	<p><i>Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme:</i></p> <p>Coverage: Up to ₹1,00,000/- for treatments, surgeries, and therapies for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Eligibility: Covers individuals with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities.</p>

Annual Renewal: Requires yearly renewal with different fees for BPL and APL categories.

Easy Application: Enrollment and claims processed online via Registered Organizations (ROs).

Machine Learning pioneers win Physics Nobel



Why in the News?

John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, 2024 for their pioneering work that laid the foundation for machine learning and artificial neural network.

What is Artificial Neural Network?

Systems modelled after the structure of the brain are called artificial neural networks.

Similar to synapses in the brain, nodes in these networks stand in for the neurones in the brain and impact one another through connections.

Training has the power to strengthen or weaken these linkages.

As the network learns, for example, connections between nodes with high values may get stronger.

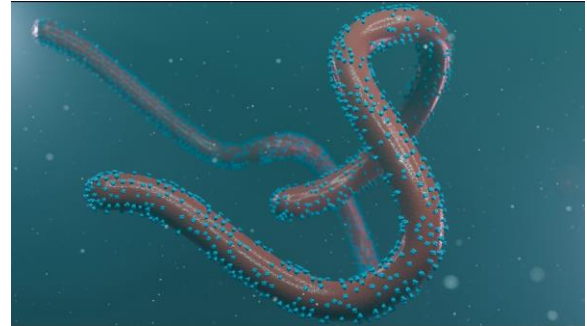
Hopfield and Hinton have been involved in significant artificial neural network research since the 1980s.

Significance of their contribution

Hinton's contributions to neural networks, including the Boltzmann machine, fuelled machine learning's rapid expansion.

His techniques are still widely used in contemporary AI, providing tools like pattern recognition and image classification.

What is the Marburg Virus?



Why in the News?

Rwanda has reported a Marburg virus outbreak with several confirmed cases and deaths, making it a country of concern for public health.

About the Marburg Virus

The extremely lethal Marburg virus is the cause of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD), commonly referred to as Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever.

It is a member of the filovirus family, which includes Ebola.

Depending on the viral strain and case management, the case fatality rate for MVD might vary from 24% to 88%.

The virus was initially discovered in 1967 when epidemics occurred simultaneously in Frankfurt and Marburg, Germany.

How does it spread?

In caverns or mines, Rousettus bats, especially the Egyptian fruit bat, are the main source of the Marburg virus's first animal-to-human transmission.

Once a person is infected, it can spread from human to human through:

Direct contact with an infected person's blood and body fluids, including their faeces, breast milk, semen, urine, saliva, sweat, and vomit.

indirect contact with items or surfaces that have been contaminated by these fluids, such as clothing or bedding.

When appropriate infection control procedures are not followed, medical personnel are frequently at danger from patient contact, particularly during outbreaks.

Unlike the flu or the common cold, the virus does not travel through the air.

Symptoms and Treatment

Usually, symptoms appear two to twenty-one days following viral exposure.

High temperature, intense headache, chills, muscle aches, severe watery diarrhoea, cramping and discomfort in the abdomen, nausea, and vomiting are some of the early symptoms.

More severe symptoms, such as internal and external bleeding, such as blood in the vomit and faeces, may appear as the disease worsens.

Eight to nine days after the onset of symptoms, patients frequently pass away, mostly from multiple organ failure and substantial blood loss.

There aren't any licensed vaccines or antiviral medications for MVD at the moment. Supportive care, however, can increase survival rates.

Supportive treatment includes:

Rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids to maintain fluid and electrolyte balance.

Treatment of specific symptoms like fever, pain, and diarrhoea.

Blood transfusions and oxygen therapy may be required for severe cases.

WHO declares that India has eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem in 2024



Why in the News?

India has successfully eradicated trachoma as a public health issue, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

India is become the third nation in Southeast Asia to reach this significant milestone.

Trachoma is categorised as a neglected tropical disease (NTD) by the WHO.

According to WHO estimates, over 150 million individuals worldwide suffer from trachoma, and 6 million of them are blind or at risk for serious vision impairments.

Trachoma is frequently prevalent in impoverished areas where people live in substandard conditions..

What is Trachoma?

A bacterial illness that affects the eyes is called trachoma.

Chlamydia trachomatis is the organism that causes it.

It can spread by coming into contact with an infected person's eyes, eyelids, or secretions from their throat or nose.

Trachoma can cause irreparable eyesight if left untreated.

Trachoma in India: A Historical Perspective

Trachoma was one of the main causes of blindness in India in the 1950s and 1960s.

India started the National Trachoma Control Program in 1963 to address this.

These initiatives were later incorporated into the National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB) in India.

Five percent of the nation was blinded by trachoma in 1971.

The rate has now decreased to less than 1% as a result of numerous interventions carried out under the National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCBVI).

What are the key measures taken to eliminate Trachoma?

India implemented the WHO SAFE strategy across the country. This strategy includes:

- Surgery
- Antibiotics
- Facial hygiene
- Environmental cleanliness

Although by 2017, India was declared free from infective Trachoma, it continued surveillance of Trachoma cases from 2019 to 2024.

What is Wayanad's new X-band Radar?



Why in the News?

After the floods and landslides in Wayanad in July 2024, the *Union Ministry of Earth Sciences* approved the installation of an “X-band radar” in the district.

What is an X-Band Radar?

Radars operating in the 8–12 GHz frequency region of the electromagnetic spectrum with wavelengths ranging from 2–4 cm are known as X-band radars.

Because of its shorter wavelengths, which enable greater quality images, this radar is especially helpful for detecting smaller particles like raindrops, fog, and other fine materials.

Key Features of X-Band Radar:

High Resolution: It is perfect for tracking weather phenomena like precipitation and particle movements since the shorter wavelength produces more detailed images.

Restricted Range: Because higher frequency signals are attenuated (weakened) more quickly as they pass through the atmosphere, their range is comparatively lower than that of other types, such as S-band radars.

Applications: In weather forecasting, X-band radars are used for short-range weather monitoring, such as predicting rainfall intensity and landslides. They are also used in air traffic control and military applications.

What is a Doppler Radar?

Doppler radars are a particular kind of radar that is mostly used in meteorology to gauge the speed and motion of storms and clouds.

It operates on the Doppler effect theory, which describes how waves' frequencies alter as their source shifts in relation to the observer.

It's applications:

Velocity Measurement: Doppler radar measures these frequency variations to ascertain the direction and speed of an object (such a rain cloud).

Weather Monitoring: Doppler radar is useful for tracking the amount of rainfall, identifying wind patterns, and forecasting when storms or tornadoes may emerge.

India's Radar Network

Radars were first used in weather applications by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in the 1950s.

In 1970, New Delhi saw the installation of the first X-band storm detection radar that was created domestically.

Ten antiquated X-band radars were swapped out for digital X-band radars by the IMD in 1996.

X-band radars for storm detection and wind detection are part of India's radar network. For long-range detection, the nation also makes use of S-band radars (2-4 GHz). In 1970, Visakhapatnam saw the installation of the first S-band cyclone detection radar.

Recent Developments:

The Ministry of Earth Sciences declared in September 2024 that 56 more Doppler radars would be installed in India over the ensuing years.

The Union Cabinet authorised the ₹2,000-crore "Mission Mausam" on September 11, 2024, with the goal of upgrading meteorological infrastructure, including installing up to 60 radars by 2026.

A C-band radar (4-8 GHz) with a 250 km observing range will also be installed in Mangaluru as part of the Wayanad radar project.

About the NISAR

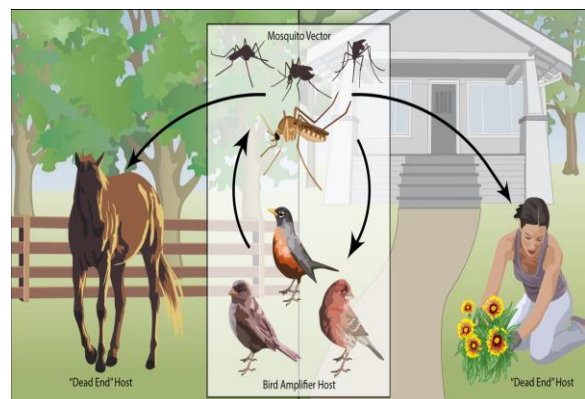
NASA and ISRO are working together to construct a combined satellite mission called NISAR, or NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.

NISAR will study changes in natural processes by using radar imagery to produce a high-resolution map of the earth's landmasses.

NASA's L-band radar (1.25 GHz, 24 cm) and ISRO's S-band radar (3.2 GHz, 9.3 cm) make up its payload.

With a \$1.5 billion overall cost, mostly from NASA, NISAR is scheduled to launch on an ISRO GSLV Mk II rocket in 2025.

West Nile Virus



Why in News?

Ukraine is currently dealing with a serious outbreak of West Nile virus (WNV), with health officials raising alarms as the death toll rises.

About West Nile Virus

	Details
Virus Type	Member of the flavivirus genus, family Flaviviridae
First Isolated	1937 in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda
Geographical Distribution	Commonly found in Africa, Europe, Middle East, North America, and West Asia
Transmission	Primarily transmitted through infected mosquito bites; mosquitoes become infected by feeding on infected birds. Can also spread through infected animal tissues.
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic: ~80% of infected individuals show no symptoms West Nile Fever: ~20% develop symptoms like fever, headache, fatigue, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and occasional skin rash.
Peak Infection Period	Typically spikes between June and September (summer to autumn)
Reported Outbreaks	19 countries have reported outbreaks, including Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye, and Kosovo.
Treatment	No vaccine available; supportive treatments provided for neuroinvasive WNV patients

Moonlight Programme



Why in the News?

The European Space Agency (ESA) launched its Moonlight Lunar Communications and Navigation Services (LCNS) Programme.

About Moonlight Programme

	Details
Agency	European Space Agency (ESA)
Purpose	To establish a communications and navigation infrastructure around the Moon to support future lunar missions by space agencies and private companies.
Planned Missions	Supports over 400 moon missions planned over the next 20 years.
Satellite Constellation	Deployment of 5 lunar satellites to provide communication and navigation services.
Data Transfer Range	Enables data transfer between Earth and the Moon over a distance of 400,000 km.
First Satellite	Lunar Pathfinder, a communications relay satellite built by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd, is set to launch in 2026.

Operational Timeline	Initial services expected to begin by 2028, with full operational capability by 2030.
Primary Focus Area	Coverage around the Moon's South Pole, an area of high interest due to favorable lighting conditions and potential water ice presence in permanently shadowed craters.
Global Collaboration	Collaboration with NASA and JAXA (Japanese Space Agency) as part of LunaNet for standardizing lunar mission communications and navigation.

Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enables over 400 lunar missions – Supports NASA's Artemis programme – Provides continuous all-weather connectivity for lunar missions – Focuses on the South Pole for ice deposits – Reduces costs by sharing infrastructure – Technological advancements for Mars missions (MARCONI)
Strategic Advantage	Enhances ESA's role in global lunar exploration and contributes to the future of commercial lunar activities.

Security Issues

Exercise KAZIND-2024



Why in the News?

The 8th edition of Exercise KAZIND-2024 has commenced in Uttarakhand.

About Exercise KAZIND-2024

Every year, Kazakhstan and India participate in a combined military drill known as Exercise KAZIND.

Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK was its original name in 2016, and following the second edition, it was renamed Exercise KAZIND.

The exercise is a bi-service exercise that includes Army contingents from both nations as well as Air Force forces since 2023.

Focus Areas:

Under the United Nations mission, it focusses on counterterrorism operations in unconventional settings.

Raid, Search and Destroy Operations, Small Team Insertion and Extraction, and Counter Unmanned Aerial System Operations are among the tactical exercises that are practiced.

Significance:

The goal of the exercise is to improve coordination, abilities, and resilience for combined military operations in urban and semi-urban settings.

It enables both nations to develop their military connections, improve

mutual cooperation, and exchange best practices.

Second edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama



Why in the News?

The second edition of *Navika Sagar Parikrama*, a global circumnavigation by sailboat was flagged off by Navy Chief at INS Mandovi in Goa.

About Navika Sagar Parikrama:

	Details
Expedition	Navika Sagar Parikrama, a maritime expedition by the Indian Navy, aimed at circumnavigating the globe in a sailboat crewed by <i>women officers</i> . Symbolizes women’s empowerment and Indian maritime traditions.
Objective	Promotes women’s empowerment, gender equality, oceanic research, and Indian maritime traditions.
First Edition	Began on September 10, 2017, with an all-women crew of six officers aboard INSV Tarini. Completed on May 21, 2018.
Second Edition	Launched on October 2, 2024, with two women officers, Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant

	Commander Roopa A., setting sail from INS Mandovi, Goa.
Agencies Involved	Indian Navy: Leading the initiative. National Institute of Oceanography (NIO): Marine research on microplastics and ferrous content. Wildlife Institute of India (WII): Research on large sea mammals. Sagar Defence: Providing drones for documentation. Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL): Supplying meals. Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF) and Piramal Foundation: Supporting logistics and research.
Route	Divided into five legs with four stopovers: 1. Goa to Fremantle, Australia 2. Fremantle to Lyttleton, New Zealand 3. Lyttleton to Port Stanley, Falkland Islands 4. Port Stanley to Cape Town, South Africa 5. Cape Town to Goa, India

China’s ‘Anaconda Strategy’



Why in the News?

Taiwanese authorities recently stated that the *People's Liberation Army (PLA)* is using an '*anaconda strategy*' to put pressure on Taiwan.

China's Military Maneuvers around Taiwan

China has been steadily increasing its military activities around Taiwan, both by air and sea:

From 36 in January to 193 in September, there has been a notable increase in air intrusions into the Taiwan Strait.

The number of Chinese vessels circling Taiwan has also increased, rising from 142 in early 2024 to 282 by August.

These actions appear to be intended to gradually weaken Taiwan's air and naval forces while applying continuous pressure.

What is the Anaconda Strategy?

The "anaconda strategy" combines cyberwarfare, psychological pressure, and military operations.

Without resorting to a full-scale invasion, the objective is to erode Taiwan's defences and subdue the island.

China's strategy is constant pressure.

It aims to exhaust Taiwan and compel it to make mistakes that could serve as an excuse for imposing a blockade.

Its ultimate objective seems to be to keep Taiwan's forces on the defensive by making the island nation vulnerable without using direct assault.

Other Unconventional Strategies used by China:

Chinese officials employ a combative and assertive diplomatic approach known as "Wolf Warrior Diplomacy," which is marked by strong rhetoric and nationalistic views and is frequently utilised to defend China's

interests and fight off international criticism.

Gray-Zone Tactics: A collection of clandestine tactics that lie between war and peace, such as propaganda, cyberattacks, and small-scale territorial gains, that are intended to further a country's objectives without starting a full-scale war.

Salami Slicing is a tactic that involves taking gradual, tiny steps to accomplish a bigger objective without evoking a strong response. It is frequently employed to gradually acquire power or advantage while averting direct conflict.

What is THAAD?



Why in the News?

The US has announced that it will send its advanced THAAD (*Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense*) missile system to Israel, along with US troops to operate it.

What is THAAD?

Lockheed Martin Corporation created the cutting-edge missile defence system known as THAAD in the 1990s.

During their terminal phase of flight, it is intended to intercept and eliminate threats from ballistic missiles that are short-range (up to 1,000 km), medium-range (1,000–

3,000 km), and intermediate-range (3,000–5,000 km).

Key Features of THAAD:

Uses “hit-to-kill” technology to destroy missiles.

Can defend a larger area than the older Patriot Air and Missile Defense System.

Provides a rapidly deployable capability both inside and outside the atmosphere.

India’s AD-1 missile interceptor under the Phase 2 Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system, is similar to the THAAD missile system used by the US.

Ballistic missiles with a range of more than 2,000 kilometres, including ICBMs, can be intercepted by AD-1 and AD-2 interceptor missiles.

Based on Israel's Green Pine radar, Swordfish LRTR boasts an improved 1,500-kilometer detection range for improved missile tracking.

The technology creates a complete missile defence shield by intercepting both exo- and endo-atmospheric radiation.

It can control several missile threats at once, guaranteeing protection from intricate attack situations.

For missile testing over the ocean, a floating test range is being created that will allow for tests at greater altitudes and ranges of up to 1,500 kilometres.

With its cutting-edge radars, INS Dhruv keeps an eye on missile tests and aids in surveillance while conducting defence operations.

Significance of Sending THAAD to Israel

The decision to send THAAD to Israel is significant for several reasons:

It is a component of larger US military changes in the area to aid Israel's defence and shield Americans from Iranian and Iranian-aligned militia attacks.

Increased US engagement in the conflict is indicated by the deployment.

India-US conclude \$3.5bn deal for 31 MQ-9B Armed UAVs



Why in the News?

India and the US concluded a \$3.5 bn deal for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B armed High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).

About MQ-9B HALE UAV

Sky Guardian and Sea Guardian are the two variants of the MQ-9B drone, which is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper."

It is constructed by General Atomics.

This drone is helpful for monitoring the Himalayan border regions because it can fly more than 40,000 feet.

It is ideal for extended surveillance missions because it can remain in the air for up to 40 hours.

Advanced features of the MQ-9B include encrypted communications, a mechanism to avoid objects, secure GPS, and automated takeoff and landing.

Deployment:

The Indian Navy plans to deploy the MQ-9B drones at four locations, including Porbandar in Gujarat and INS Rajaji near Chennai.

Due to the need for lengthy runways, the other two services will continue to work together at Air Force locations in Sarsawa and Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Details of the Procurement:

India intends to acquire 16 Sky Guardians (eight for the Indian Army and Air Force) and 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy.

General Atomics will contribute to offset commitments by establishing a Global Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India as part of the agreement.

Significance of the deal

Compared to manned aircraft, the SeaGuardian model can let the Navy patrol huge areas more affordably.

These drones will assist the Army and Air Force in keeping an eye on border movements, particularly with China.

At 20% less per hour, it can provide 80% of the capabilities of a manned aircraft.

