



RAMAN ACADEMY
"inspiring excellence"

NOVEMBER 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



World Vegan Day : 01 November :-

Every year on November 1, the World Vegan Day is commemorated to encourage a lifestyle free of animal exploitation. The day aims to raise awareness about veganism's benefits to human health, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. World Vegan Day marks the 51st anniversary of Louise Wallis' foundation of The Vegan Society in the United Kingdom. In 1944, Donald Watson coined the term "vegan" and launched the organisation. On November 1, 1994, the anniversary was declared World Vegan Day by Louise Wallis.



Karnataka Formation Day : 01 November :-

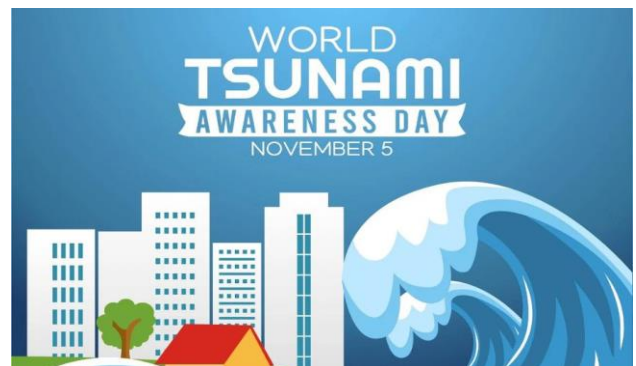
Karnataka Foundation Day, also known as Karnataka Rajyotsava, is observed every November 1st. On this day in 1956, all Kannada-speaking regions of South India combined to establish the state of Karnataka. After taking into account the need for linguistic-based states across the country, the Indian government passed the States Reorganisation Act in 1956. As a result of this act, on November 1, 1956, the Kannada-speaking regions of the Bombay Presidency, the Madras Presidency, the

princely state of Hyderabad and the old state of Mysore were merged to form a new state.



Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 Promotes Integrity in Public Service :-

Vigilance Awareness Week 2024, observed nationwide from October 28 to November 3, focuses on building a "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity." This year's theme emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in public service to combat corruption and foster good governance. The Central Vigilance Commissioner, Praveen Kumar Srivastava, along with Vigilance Commissioner A.S. Rajeev, is leading initiatives to raise awareness across government departments and organizations. The week includes seminars, workshops, and campaigns aimed at strengthening public trust and creating a corruption-free environment.



World Tsunami Awareness Day : 05 November :-

The Japanese named the tsunami with two characters: tsu, which means "harbour," and nami, which means "wave." The phrase originated in Japan about a

millennium ago. Every November 5th, World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed to promote awareness of the devastating effects of tsunamis as well as the need of preparedness and early warning systems. The establishment of the foundation dates back to 2015, when it was founded by Resolution 70/23 of the United Nations General Assembly. World Tsunami Awareness Day 2024 theme is "Empowering the next generation with the lessons of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami."



International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict : 06 November

While Kofi Annan was in office as UN Secretary-General, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 6th as World Day for preventing environmental exploitation during war and armed conflict. The day's goals are to raise awareness about the issue and ensure that the ecosystem and environment are always preserved. According to the UN, maintaining environmental protection is an integral part of strategies for preventing conflict, maintaining peace, and fostering peace because no lasting peace is possible if the natural resources supporting and sustaining livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed.



Infant Protection Day : 07 November :-

Infant Protection Day is an international event that raises awareness about the health and safety of newborns and young children. Throughout the twentieth century, the United States backed efforts to reduce infant mortality, improve sanitation, and provide safe drinking water. Several European countries collaborated to educate and raise awareness of Child Care Services. As newborns are always at risk of contracting diseases early, the European countries joined by America celebrated Infant Protection Day annually on November 7. The day is observed with global initiatives for child protection and welfare.



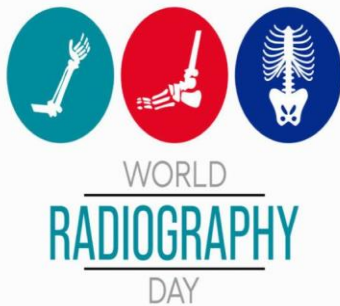
National Cancer Awareness Day (India) : 07 November

National Cancer Awareness Day is observed on November 7 every year in India to raise awareness about the signs, severity, and treatment of various types of cancer. In September 2014, Dr Harsh Vardhan, India's Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, declared National Cancer Awareness Day. More than half of cancer cases are identified in advanced stages, which can have a significant impact on survival rates. However, early detection can help in full recovery. One in 10 Indians would develop cancer in their lifetime and one in 15 will die of it, said the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) World Cancer Report released by the World Health Organization (WHO).



CV Raman Birth Anniversary : 07 November :-

CV Raman, the renowned physicist, was born in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, on November 7, 1888. His full name is Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman. The professor was given the Nobel Prize for his study into light scattering and the discovery of the Raman effect. In 1928, he submitted an article on musical instrument theory to the 8th volume of the Handbuch der Physik. He published his work on the "Molecular Diffraction of Light" in 1922 which led to his ultimate discovery of the radiation effect on February 28, 1928, and earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. He became the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize.



World Radiography Day : 08 November :-

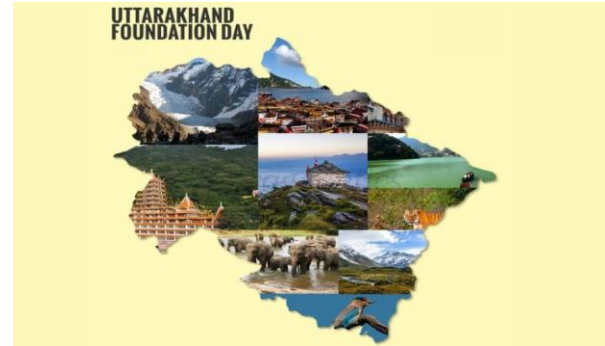
Every year on November 8, we commemorate World Radiography Day. The important day honors a historical discovery that transformed the world of healthcare and medicine. On November 8, 1895, Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, a German mechanical engineer and physicist, formulated and distinguished electromagnetic radiation in the wavelength range known as X-rays or Röntgen rays. World Radiography Day 2024 theme is "Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen."



National Legal Services Day (India) : 09 November :-

On November 9, individuals across the country will observe National Legal Services Day. This day is

extremely important because it emphasizes the value of legal aid and proper access to justice for all citizens, particularly those who are disadvantaged or disenfranchised. National Legal Services Day, established in 1995 by the Supreme Court of India, commemorates the country's dedication to ensuring that justice is a right for all individuals, regardless of financial background, caste, community, or status.



Uttarakhand Foundation Day : 09 November :-

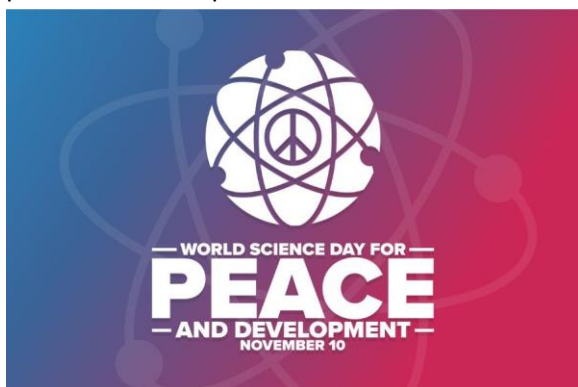
Uttarakhand was founded on November 9, 2000, by combining various districts from the Northwestern section of Uttar Pradesh and a portion of the Himalayan Mountain range. In 2007, the state's name was officially changed from Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand has abundant natural resources, including as glaciers, rivers, lush forests, and snow-capped high peaks. The four most sacred and revered Hindu temples of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamotri also known as Char-dams are situated in Uttarakhand and so, are known as the 'Land of the Gods'.



World Freedom Day : 09 November :-

On November 9, people all across the world will commemorate World Freedom Day. This day is dedicated to recognizing the values of freedom, democracy, and the perseverance of those who have

fought for emancipation and basic human rights. World Freedom Day also remembers the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, which symbolized the end of oppressive regimes, particularly in Eastern Europe, and the triumph of freedom over division and authoritarian rule. Celebrated worldwide, this day emphasizes the importance of a society where people can express their choices, make decisions, and live without fear of persecution or repression.



World Science Day for Peace and Development : 10 November :-

World Science Day for Peace and Development is marked on November 10 to emphasize the significance and relevance of science in our daily lives. This day strives to highlight the critical role that science plays in promoting peace, furthering development, and addressing global issues. The event was a beneficial outcome of the 1999 World Conference on Science in Budapest. It was considered as an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment to attaining the goals proclaimed in the Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge every year. For 2024, the theme for the day is "Youth at the Forefront".



World Public Transport Day : 10 November :-

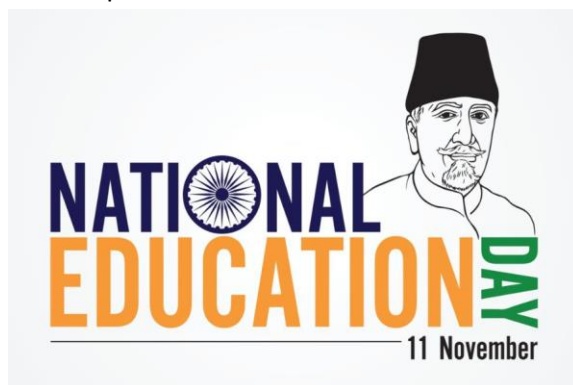
The World Public Transport Day is observed on November 10 to encourage the usage of sustainable

public transportation. The purpose of this day is to emphasize the importance of accessible, efficient, and sustainable transportation infrastructures. This particular day highlights the significance of transportation on our daily lives, the environment, and the global economy. To combat air pollution, more and more cities throughout the world are attempting to create sustainable public transportation networks. This year's theme is 'Connecting Communities, Reducing Emissions'.



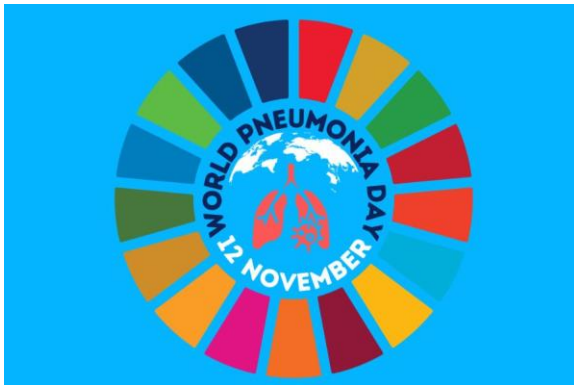
World Immunization Day : 10 November :-

World Immunization Day, marked annually on November 10, aims to increase awareness about vaccines' critical role in preventing infectious diseases and maintaining public health. Immunization is one of the most effective and cost-effective interventions for disease control and eradication, saving millions of lives throughout the world annually. World Immunization Day is especially important in India because of the country's unique problems in reaching remote areas. Further, children, in particular, remain at significant risk because they are either unimmunized or partially immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases.



National Education Day : 11 November :-

National Education Day is marked every year in India and acts as a platform for advocating for education's transformational impact and the ongoing efforts required to make quality education available to everyone. This day commemorates the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India. Additionally, Maulana Azad was posthumously given the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 1992 for his vital service. The Government of India declared November 11th National Education Day in September 2008.



World Pneumonia Day : 12 November :-

World Pneumonia Day, marked annually on November 12, is dedicated to increasing awareness about pneumonia, a fatal but preventable and treatable respiratory illness. World Pneumonia Day was established in 2009 by the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia, a group of public health organizations dedicated to raising awareness about the severity of pneumonia and the fact that it kills over 800,000 children each year. The theme for World Pneumonia Day in 2024 is "Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track."



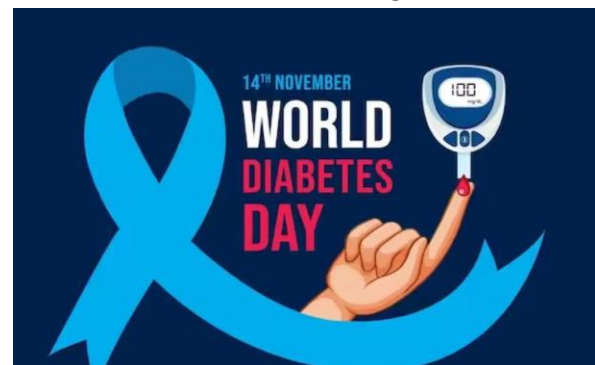
World Kindness Day : 13 November :-

Every year on November 13th, World Kindness Day is observed to encourage and recognize acts of kindness. World Kindness Day originated in 1997, when the World Kindness Movement had its first session in Tokyo, Japan, to bring together similar associations from throughout the world. It is a day of celebration in many countries, including Australia, Canada, Nigeria, and the United Arab Emirates. It was only after 1998 that the day was laid out as a yearly event. The World Kindness Movement started in the UK in 2010, and by 2019 it had increased to 27 countries, including France (2015), the USA (2018), Australia (2012), and the UK (2010).



Children's Day (India) : 14 November :-

Children's Day, also known as 'Bal Diwas', is observed annually on November 14 in India. The day is observed to honor and recognize children as the future of the country. This date also commemorates the birth anniversary of the nation's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, known for his love of children, believed that children were the nation's ultimate asset. Jawaharlal Nehru was born on 14 November 1889 in Allahabad, India. It is because of his love for children that Jawaharlal Nehru is also commonly known as 'Chacha Nehru' among kids.



World Diabetes Day : 14 November :-

Every year on November 14, World Diabetes Day (WDD) is commemorated to raise global awareness of diabetes, a chronic disease that affects millions of people throughout the world. The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) established World Diabetes Day in 1991 in response to growing concern about diabetes as a severe health issue around the world. November 14 was chosen as the date because it commemorates the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, one of the scientists who discovered insulin in 1921, alongside Charles Best. This year's theme is "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps".



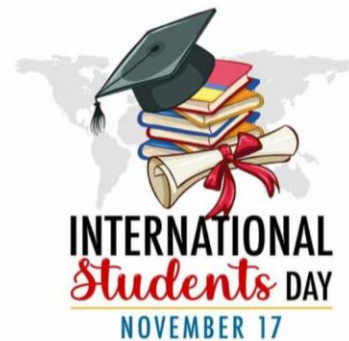
Jharkhand Foundation Day : 15 November :-

November 15 is Jharkhand Foundation Day. On November 15, 2000, the Chhotanagpur area was separated from the southern half of Bihar, resulting in the formation of another state known as Jharkhand. By doing so, it became India's 28th state. It is the homeland of the tribals, who have long desired an own state. After independence, the inhabitants of Jharkhand, notably the tribal peoples, received few socioeconomic benefits. According to legend, in the 13th century, Raja Jai Singh Deo of Odisha had declared himself the ruler of Jharkhand.



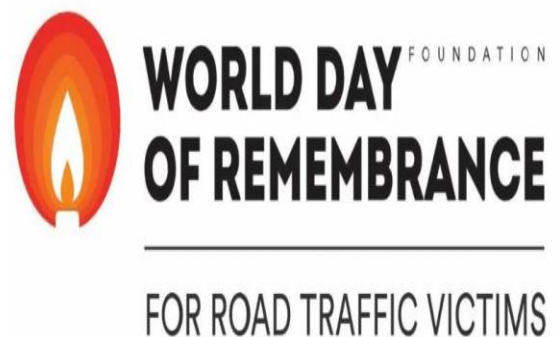
National Epilepsy Day (India) : 17 November :-

National Epilepsy Day is observed every year on November 17 in India to create awareness about the brain ailment and dispel stereotypes about it. Dr. Nirmal Surya founded the Epilepsy Foundation of India, which initially commemorated the day. The goal of this day was to support needy people who cannot afford epilepsy treatment, as well as to dispel myths about the disease and raise knowledge about its symptoms and care. About 70 percent of people with epilepsy are able to successfully manage epilepsy seizures with medication and certain types of surgery.



International Student's Day : 17 November :-

International Students' Day is marked annually on November 17 to highlight the importance of education for all students. International Students Day was established on November 17 to commemorate the anniversary of the Nazi raid on a Prague university in 1939. The Nazis seized almost 1,000 students and shut down the university, killing and torturing many of them. The purpose of the day is to remember these students and to spread awareness of the difficulties faced by international students.



World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2024 : 17 November :-

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is commemorated annually on the third Sunday in November. This year, it will be observed on November 17th. It is a global event commemorating the millions of lives lost or badly impacted by traffic accidents. In 2004, the UN Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) discussed establishing a global day to promote road safety, and the World Day of Remembrance was proposed. On October 26, 2005, the UN General Assembly adopted the World Day of Remembrance as an official recognition for road traffic victims and their families. The theme for this year's World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is 'Remember. Support. Act'.



National Naturopathy Day (India) : 18 November :-

Every year on November 18th, India celebrates National Naturopathy Day to promote good mental and physical health through drug-free therapies. The Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India, launched National Naturopathy Day on November 18th, 2018. Naturopathy is the oldest healthcare method that integrates modern scientific knowledge with traditional and natural treatment. Relying on nature's healing powers, naturopathy stimulates the human body's ability to heal itself. The theme for this year's Naturopathy day celebration is "Naturopathy for Healthy Aging and Longevity".



World Toilet Day : 19 November :-

World Toilet Day, observed yearly on November 19, is an official United Nations celebration aimed at boosting global awareness and action to address the pressing sanitation challenge. This day, observed since 2013, focuses on the need of secure and readily available toilet facilities as part of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensuring water and sanitation for all by 2030. This year's theme is 'Toilets - A Place for Peace' which emphasizes that billions of people face heightened threats to sanitation due to conflict, climate change, natural disasters, and systemic neglect.



International Men's Day : 19 November :-

International Men's Day, held on November 19, strives to increase awareness about men's health while also honoring their socioeconomic, cultural, and political achievements. According to the International Men's Day website, Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh, a history instructor at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, began celebrating the day in 1999. Uma Challa, a men's rights activist in India, has been instrumental in popularizing the occasion. A mother of two, Ms. Challa founded several organizations and introduced the

celebration of International Men's Day in India in 2007. The theme for 2024 is "Positive Male Role Models".



World Children's Day : 20 November :-

World Children's Day, also known as Universal Children's Day, is observed annually on November 20. World Children's Day was first founded in 1954 as Universal Children's Day, and it is now celebrated annually on November 20. On this date in 1959, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It also marks the date on which the United Nations General Assembly ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Therefore, since 1990, World Children's Day marks the anniversary of the date when the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights. The 2024 theme for World Children's Day is "Listen to the Future".



World COPD Day 2024 : 20 November :-

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a severe condition that restricts airflow from the lungs, making it difficult to carry out daily tasks. Every third Wednesday in November, World COPD Day is honored. This year's COPD Awareness Day will take place on November 20. The first World COPD event took place in

2002. According to some statistics, approximately 20 to 25% of smokers will acquire COPD. Even in times of COVID, COPD also remains a leading cause of death across the world. The World COPD Day 2024 theme is "Know Your Lung Function".



World Fisheries Day 2024: Highlighting Sustainable Practices :-

World Fisheries Day, celebrated on November 21, brought global attention to the importance of sustainable fishing practices in preserving marine ecosystems and securing food supplies. Events across the world focused on issues like overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction, with particular emphasis on sustainable aquaculture. In India, the day was marked by the launch of new policies to support fisherfolk, including subsidies for eco-friendly fishing gear and incentives for adopting modern techniques. Experts highlighted the critical role of fisheries in ensuring biodiversity and providing livelihoods to millions.



Lachit Diwas : 24 November :-

On November 24, people all around the country will commemorate Lachit Diwas, a day of great significance that celebrates the legacy of Lachit Borphukan, the renowned Ahom general of Assam. Lachit Borphukan,

known for his bravery, leadership, and patriotism, played a vital role in the historic Battle of Saraighat in 1671, which was a source of tremendous pride and inspiration for all Indians. Lachit Diwas commemorates his extraordinary contributions in defending Assam from the advancing Mughal forces under Aurangzeb.



Shaheedi Diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji : 24 November

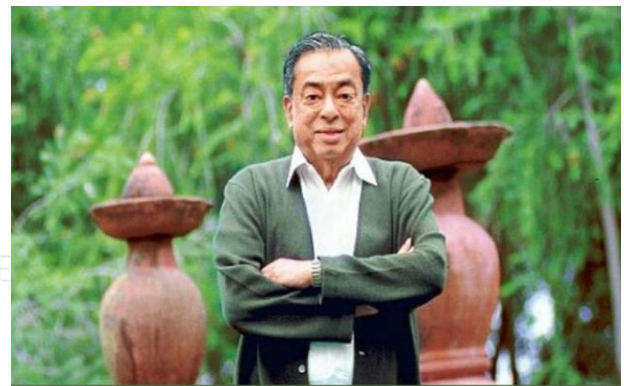
On November 24, people across the country will commemorate Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's Shaheedi Diwas, a day of great significance. This day honors the ninth Sikh Guru, who served as a symbol of courage, faith, and humanity. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji willingly devoted his life to protect people's rights to follow their religion without fear. By defending Sikhs, Hindus, and others facing religious persecution, he became a symbol of anti-tyranny sentiment. In 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's martyrdom at Chandni Chowk in Delhi marked a profound act of defiance, inspiring countless individuals to stand for justice and equality.



International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women : 25 November :-

Every year, November 25 is marked as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. On

December 20, 1993, the General Assembly passed the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, setting the way for the global eradication of violence against women and girls. Furthermore, on February 7, 2000, November 25 was declared the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This step also became an invitation for governments, international organizations as well as NGOs to join together and organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the issue every year on this date.



National Milk Day : 26 November :-

National Milk Day, held on November 26th, commemorates the birth of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the innovator behind India's White Revolution. The day recognizes the importance of milk in human nutrition and encourages awareness of its health benefits. Dr. Kurien has helped to establish the groundwork for democratic enterprises at the grassroots. He felt that by putting technology and expert management in the hands of farmers, the standard of living for millions of our poorest citizens could be raised. He helped India to emerge as the largest milk producer in the world.



Constitution Day of India : 26 November :-

Every year on November 26, India commemorates Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, to commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. The Government of India declared November 26 as Constitution Day in 2015 to promote "constitutional values among residents". The day was designated in the year of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary, while he served as head of the Constitution Drafting Committee. Earlier, this day was celebrated as Law Day.



World Sustainable Transport Day : 26 November :-

In 2023, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed November 26 as World Sustainable Transport Day, a significant step toward promoting sustainable and ecologically friendly transportation. This resolution emphasizes the importance of transportation in connectivity, trade, economic growth, and employment, while also recognizing its considerable contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. The pursuit of sustainable transport is not only an environmental imperative but a key strategy for achieving broader sustainable development goals.



Red Planet Day : 28 November :-

On November 28, Red Planet Day commemorates the 1964 NASA launch of Mariner 4, the first spacecraft that touched down on Mars. After nearly eight months of travel, the spacecraft conducted a flyby of the red planet on July 14, 1965. Red world Day is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our neighbouring world. The first person to view Mars through a telescope was Galileo Galilei. The planet's name, which is connected to its red appearance, derives from the Roman deity.



International Day of Solidarity with Palestine People : 29 November :-

Every year on November 29, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People commemorates the anniversary of the Partition Plan, also known as Resolution 181 (II), which sought to establish an Arab State and a Jewish State. In 1977, the General Assembly established November 29 as International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II)), United Nations mentioned.



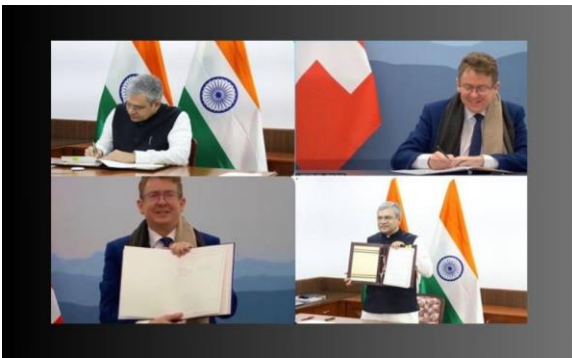
International Jaguar Day : 29 November :-

International Jaguar Day is observed yearly on November 29 to promote awareness about the significance of

jaguar conservation. Jaguars are the Americas' largest wild cats, and they play a vital role in the ecology. The origins of International Jaguar Day may be traced back to the mid-twentieth century, when the jaguar population was rapidly declining owing to habitat degradation and widespread poaching. In 2018, International Jaguar Day

was conceived by Panthera, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

2: Agreements



Indian Railways Renews MoU with Switzerland for Advanced Infrastructure Modernization :-

The Railways has reaffirmed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Swiss Confederation's Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy, and Communications (DETEC) to strengthen technical collaboration between the two countries, according to an official release. Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, stated that it will provide a comprehensive framework for collaboration with the Indian Railways in a variety of areas, including technology sharing, track maintenance, management, and construction, according to a statement issued by the ministry.



India signs agreement to establish BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru :-

Jaideep Mazumder, Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Indramani Pandey, Secretary General of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), have signed an agreement to build the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bangalore, Karnataka. Earlier, on September 28, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar underlined India's commitment to deepening ties with BIMSTEC at a meeting of foreign ministers. He said that this commitment aligns with India's Neighbourhood First Policy, Vision SAGAR, and Act East Policy.



RRP Electronics signs MoU with AMB, Taiwan for supply of memory modules :-

RRP Electronics Ltd., a semiconductor company, said that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AMB, Taiwan, to collaborate on memory modules such as SPI Nand, Microsd, Emmc, and Ssd, with an initial manufacturing budget of \$25 million. The technology, which has increased capacities starting at 2GB, includes entire package structure details, substrate designs, test program creation, and supporting tool design, according

to the business. Rajendra Chodankar, Chairman, RRP Electronics Ltd said, "This association which will be deployed immediately at our OSAT facility will have these parts being supplied to Samsung and many leading corporates."



FICCI, GDIA sign MoU to bolster India's video gaming industry :-

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Game Developers Association of India (GDIA) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Indian Game Developers Conference (IGDC) in 2024. The partnership's goal is to accelerate growth, foster innovation, and improve talent development in India's rapidly expanding video game industry. This MoU represents a significant milestone in creating a robust video gaming ecosystem in India, setting the stage for the industry's next wave of growth and international recognition.



NASA Partners with Microsoft to Simplify Access to Earth Science Data :-

Microsoft and NASA have cooperated to create Earth Copilot, a sophisticated AI-powered tool that simplifies access to NASA's massive Earth scientific data. Earth

Copilot, which uses Microsoft's Azure cloud platform and natural language processing, enables users to engage with over 100 petabytes of satellite imagery and geospatial data through plain language queries. This innovative platform eliminates technical barriers, making it easier for scientists, educators, policymakers, and the public to analyse and interpret complex data.



Tata Power Secures \$4.25 Billion Deal with ADB :-

Tata Power signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for \$4.25 billion in funding. This agreement focuses on advancing clean energy initiatives, including solar and wind power projects. The collaboration underscores India's commitment to renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions, contributing to global climate change mitigation efforts. Tata Power aims to leverage this funding to expand its sustainable energy portfolio and drive economic growth.



UK and India to Relaunch FTA Talks in Early 2025: Strengthening Bilateral Ties :-

The Free Trade Agreement negotiations with India, which are projected to dramatically expand the estimated GBP 42 billion bilateral economic partnership each year, will resume early in the new year, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has told the UK Parliament in

London. It came during his statement updating the House of Commons on his G20 Summit visit to Brazil, when he said he had a "good discussion" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other international leaders. The meeting earlier this week had led to both countries agreeing to resume the election-stalled Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks.



Health Ministry inks MoU to provide funding, technical support to IMS at BHU :-

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and the Ministry of Education to offer additional financing and technical support to BHU's Institute of Medical Sciences. Health Minister JP Nadda and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended the signing ceremony here, according to a Health Ministry statement. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) facilitates the provision of grants-in-aid to IMS, similar to the funding model for the new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) being set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).



Next round of India-Asean trade agreement review talks in February :-

The next round of talks for the review meeting of the India-Asean free trade agreement in goods will take place in February next year, according to an official statement issued on November 23, 2024. The fourth round of negotiations ended this month in New Delhi. The Commerce Ministry stated that reviewing AITIGA (Asean India Trade in Goods Agreement) will be a step forward in improving long-term trade with the ASEAN area. Asean as a group is one of the major trade partners of India with about 11% share in India's global trade.



Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Agro Food Trade Centre sign MoU to solve challenges faced by farmers :-

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh and Agro Food Trade Centre, Madurai, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to address the many issues that farmers confront. The MOU was signed at the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh's sixth State Conference, which was held at the Agro Food Trade Centre. The Agro Food Trade Centre launched an electronic platform called 'eSHED' to help farmers offer their agricultural products directly to processors at a fair market price. Elaborating on the MoU, the members said that this will help the farmers and the processors understand each other's needs and the limitations.



Switch Mobility signs MoU with Vertelo to accelerate EV adoption in India :-

Switch Mobility Automotive Ltd. has signed a strategic memorandum of agreement with Vertelo to roll out 1,000 electric vehicles across India over the next three to five years. The alliance aims to solve crucial concerns such as climate change, air pollution, and urban congestion by incorporating Switch Mobility's advanced electric light commercial vehicles, or eLCVs, and electric buses into Vertelo's leasing platform. Vertelo will lease and fund Switch's advanced electric buses and eLCVs, the Ashok Leyland subsidiary said in a statement.

UP signs MoU to promote homestays around tourist spots :-

The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department and Bayweaver Nests in Lucknow have formed an agreement to promote homestays near tourist hotspots based on worldwide success stories. The partnership's goal is to gather

significant information in order to improve the infrastructure and facilities surrounding these homestay spots. Its goal is to provide travelers with a memorable experience that allows them to connect with the region's culture and way of life. This announcement was made by Uttar Pradesh's tourism and culture minister, Jaiveer Singh.



3: Appointments



Sumathi Dharmawardena Named New ICC Anti-Corruption Unit Chair :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Sumathi Dharmawardena of Sri Lanka as the new Independent Chairman of its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). Dharmawardena succeeded Sir Ronnie Flanagan, who left the role after 14 years in command. Dharmawardena previously worked as the Additional Solicitor General in Sri Lanka's Attorney General's Department, representing the government and the Ministry of Sport on a variety of legal matters. He also has had stints with Interpol and the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, investigating sports corruption matters and overseeing prosecutions under the Prevention of Offences relating to the Sports Act.



Rajesh Kumar Singh Appointed Defence Secretary :-

Rajesh Kumar Singh has officially assumed the prestigious role of Defence Secretary at South Block in New Delhi. His appointment marks a significant milestone in his public service career, underscoring his vast experience and commitment to national defense. Singh's prior roles within government have prepared him to handle the complexities of this crucial position. His

responsibilities will include overseeing national security policy, military strategy, and international defense partnerships. This appointment comes at a time when India is enhancing its defense infrastructure and bolstering security measures, and Singh's expertise is expected to contribute significantly to these initiatives.



Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes Appointed as Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum :-

Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes, the outgoing Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), headquartered in Hyderabad, will take up the job of Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum later this month. According to an ICRISAT press statement, Dr. Hughes' broad experience, which includes innovative work in sustainable agriculture, qualifies her to lead the WAF towards its purpose. As the Secretary General of WAF, Dr. Hughes will focus on strengthening alliances and advancing innovative solutions in agriculture, ensuring that the WAF is well-positioned to address the evolving needs of the sector globally.



Microsoft Hires Meta's Former Engineering Head Jay Parikh :-

Microsoft has appointed Jay Parikh, Meta's former global head of engineering, to its senior leadership team. Parikh will report to the company's CEO, Satya Nadella. Parikh spent 11 years as the worldwide chief of engineering at Facebook (now Meta), which is run by Mark Zuckerberg. He started at Facebook in 2009 and worked on technical infrastructure and data center initiatives before leaving in 2021. Parikh oversaw several other technical projects, including Meta's efforts in subsea cables and its ill-fated Aquila drone project intended to beam wireless internet down to rural places in the US.



Praveena Rai Appointed as CEO and MD of MCX :-

Praveena Rai has been appointed Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of MCX for a five-year tenure, the company announced. She succeeds P S Reddy, who ended his five-year term in May 2024. Rai formerly served as CEO of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), where she oversaw marketing, business development, product management, and operations strategy. A seasoned banking professional, Rai previously held the position of Regional Head of Payments for Asia Pacific at HSBC.



Itaru Otani Appointed as Chairman of India Yamaha Motor :-

India Yamaha Motor announced the appointment of Itaru Otani as its new Chairman. Otani has almost three decades of experience with Yamaha Motor Company, serving in significant leadership positions in worldwide regions such as Australia, Brazil, and Japan, according to a company release. Prior to this position, he was Chief General Manager, overseeing Land Mobility Business Operations located in Japan, the company said. "The aspirations of Indian consumers are evolving rapidly, and we see incredible opportunities to bring in products that blend Yamaha's global expertise with the unique needs and desires of Indian riders," Otani said.



India, France Appointed President and Co-President of ISA For 2024-26 :-

India and France have been voted as President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a period of two years that will extend until 2026. In a recent change of ISA leadership, Ashish Khanna is expected to take over Dr. Ajay Mathur as ISA Director General, beginning in 2025. Khanna thanked the Indian government and the ISA assembly for nominating him, saying that the world is set for a huge solar energy push, while climate finance issues require further discussion. He also expressed his commitment to fostering partnerships of equality among nations to drive energy access and transition.



Harsha Vardhan Agarwal to Take Over as FICCI President from Nov 21 :-

Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Emami Limited, has been elected President of the FICCI for 2024-25, according to the industry group. Agarwal now serves as FICCI's Senior Vice President. He will replace Mahindra & Mahindra's Group CEO and Managing Director Anish Shah as the organization's next president after the end of the 97th Annual General Meeting of FICCI on November 21. "Agarwal is a second-generation leader of the USD 3.1 billion diversified business conglomerate Emami Group," FICCI said.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna Sworn in as 51st Chief Justice of India :-

On Monday (November 11, 2024), President Draupadi Murmu gave the Chief Justice of India (CJI) oath to Supreme Court Justice Sanjiv Khanna. Recently, Justice Khanna made a point while hearing petitions contesting the insertion of 'secularism' and 'socialism' in the Preamble via the 42nd Amendment. He had observed that secularism was always a part of the Constitution and an ingredient of its Basic Structure. In the past five years as Supreme Court judge, Justice Khanna's experience on the Bench has varied.



Sonu Sood Appointed as Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand :-

Thailand Tourism has named Sonu Sood, a prominent actor and philanthropist, as its Brand Ambassador and Advisor. Recognized widely for his humanitarian activities, particularly during the pandemic, his new post elevates his status as a global goodwill ambassador. The Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand has officially bestowed upon him the title of "Honorary Tourism Advisor," entrusting him with the responsibility of offering guidance and strategic advice on marketing and public relations to promote Thailand as a tourist destination in India.



NEHDC Announces Mara Kocho as Incoming Managing Director :-

Mara Kocho is poised to become the next Managing Director (MD) of North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHDC), a PSU under the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER). He was recommended for the position by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel. As MD of NEHDC, Kocho will be the Chief Executive of the corporation and will be accountable to its board of directors and government / shareholders. Presently, he is serving as Chief Engineer (Elect.) in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).



Arvinder Singh Sahney is new chairman of Indian Oil :-

Arvinder Singh Sahney has been named Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation from November 13. Prior to his appointment, he was the petrochemical vertical head of the national oil marketing company. Mr. Sahney has more than three decades of experience in the refinery and petrochemical industries. He succeeds director (marketing) V.Satish Kumar, who served as Chairman after S.M. Vaidya's tenure ended. A chemical engineer, the 54-year old Sahney has extensive experience from working at five of Indian Oil's nine refineries.



AAP's Mahesh Kumar Khichi Elected As Delhi's New Mayor :-

Mahesh Kumar Khichi, an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate, was chosen as Delhi's new mayor and has stated that keeping the national capital clean will be his top priority. Khichi, an AAP councillor from Karol Bagh's Dev Nagar ward, defeated BJP candidate Kishan Lal (Shakurpur ward) by a margin of three votes. Khichi received 133 votes out of a total of 265 ballots, while Lal received 130, with two votes deemed invalid. Earlier, BJP councillor and former East Delhi mayor Satya Sharma was reappointed as the presiding officer by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.



Government Appoints K Sanjay Murthy as Next CAG :-

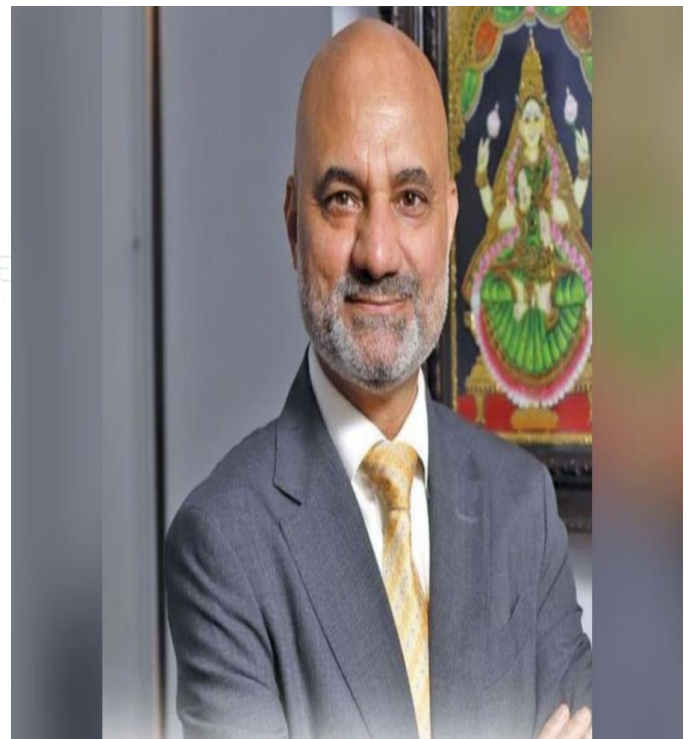
The government announced that K Sanjay Murthy will be the next Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Murthy, a 1989 batch IAS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, is going to replace Girish Chandra Murmu. He is now the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education. He was a close aide to PM Modi, having worked in the Gujarat government's home department while Modi was the chief minister. Girish Chandra Murmu assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on August 8, 2020. He will complete his term on November 20.

**FSIB Recommends Binod Kumar as MD & CEO of Indian Bank :-**

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) proposed Binod Kumar for the position of Managing Director of Chennai-based Indian Bank. Kumar, who currently serves as Executive Director of Punjab National Bank, will succeed S L Jain when he retires next month. Earlier in April, the bureau selected Asheesh Pandey for the role, but the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expressed doubts about his selection. Therefore, the bureau held a fresh interview to choose a new person in place of Pandey.

G. Balasubramanian Appointed as High Commissioner to Maldives :-

G Balasubramanian, a 1998 Indian Foreign Service officer, has been named the next High Commissioner of India to the Maldives. Balasubramanian, who is now serving as India's High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is likely to begin his new job shortly. Munu Mahawar currently serves as India's High Commissioner to the Maldives. He assumed charge of the post of High Commissioner of India to Maldives on November 10, 2021. Notably, a Post-Graduate in Public Administration, G. Balasubramanian, joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1998.

**India Appoints Dinesh Bhatia as Brazil Ambassador :-**

Dinesh Bhatia, an Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1992 batch, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to Brazil, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Bhatia is presently serving as India's Ambassador to Argentina, a position he started on August 21, 2019. He formerly served as India's Consul General in Toronto and Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Liberia. Additionally, he has held various positions in Indian missions abroad, including in Madrid, Kathmandu, and Kuwait. He has also worked in different divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

4: Awards



Wagh Bakri Tea Group Honored with Prestigious Generational Legacy Award :-

Hurun India presented the renowned "Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy" to the Wagh Bakri Tea Group. This award, given at the first Hurun India Family Business Awards, celebrates Wagh Bakri Tea Group's considerable contributions to the Indian economy and long-standing presence in the tea business. The group continues to solidify its presence in India as a rapidly expanding national brand, while also establishing itself as a preferred international tea brand, with its products available in more than 60 countries.



AIFF Clinches AFC President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver) :-

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) received the renowned President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver) at the AFC Annual Awards in Seoul. Since the previous AFC Annual Awards in Doha last year, when

it received the bronze award, the AIFF has been granted silver-level membership under the AFC Grassroots Charter. The AIFF has been credited for its strong commitment towards grassroots development and establishing long-term sustainable programmes, facilitating regional involvement, and strong partnerships with various stakeholders across the country, the national federation said in a statement.



Anil Pradhan Honored with Rohini Nayyar Prize:-

Anil Pradhan, co-founder of the Young Tinker Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education in impoverished communities, received the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development. Pradhan, a 28-year-old engineer and educationist from Baral village in Odisha, works with students on STEM and creativity. 'Tinker spaces' learning labs, where students innovate and create using tools and material available in the lab, are central to his work.



FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024: Harmanpreet Singh and PR Sreejesh Shine :-

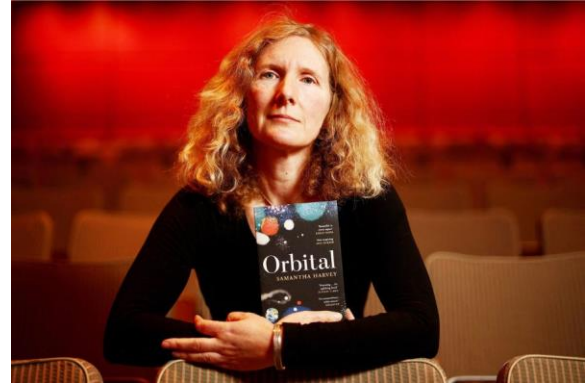
The International Hockey Federation (FIH) named Indian hockey players Harmanpreet Singh and PR Sreejesh Men's Player and Goalkeeper of the Year, respectively. The announcements were made during the 49th FIH Statutory Congress held in Oman. Harmanpreet, the Indian men's team captain, received the Player of the Year award for the third time, following wins in 2020-21 and 2021-22. He was the top scorer at the Paris 2024 Olympics, leading India to a bronze medal. Sreejesh, who retired after the Paris Olympics, received his third Goalkeeper of the Year award.



Veteran Filmmaker Phillip Noyce Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award :-

"Better Man," a semi-autobiographical film about British pop star Robbie Williams, will open the 55th International Film Festival of India, and Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce will receive the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award. The annual film extravaganza, which takes place in Goa from November 20 to November 28, will feature approximately 180 international films from 81 nations, including 15 world

debuts, three international premieres, 40 Asian premieres, and 106 Indian premieres. The theme of this year's festival is 'Young Filmmakers - The Future is Now'.



British Writer Samantha Harvey Wins Booker Prize for Fiction :-

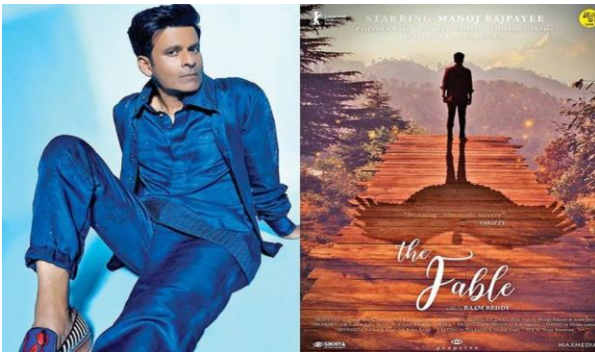
Samantha Harvey, a British writer, received the Booker Prize for fiction with her short, wonder-filled novel "Orbital," based aboard the International Space Station. Orbital, at 136 pages, is the second-shortest novel to receive the prize and the only one set in space. Harvey defeated four other shortlisted writers for the award: Rachel Kushner for Creation Lake, Anne Michaels for Held, Yael van der Wouden for The Safekeep, and Charlotte Wood for Stone Yard Devotional. Harvey, who wrote much of the novel during the COVID-19 lockdowns, recently spoke of how the book had nearly not seen the light of day.



Hyderabad Airport Earns Global Recognition for Digital Innovations :-

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has garnered international recognition for its advances in digital innovation, winning awards at the 'Airport Excellence Awards' hosted during the Saudi Airport

Exhibition 2024. GHIAL's 'Digital Twin' received an award in the Innovation and Technology and Facility Management category. Another of GHIAL's ideas, the 'Smart Shopping Trolley,' was named runner-up in the Airport Revenue Management category. The awards ceremony took place at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center (RICEC).



Manoj Bajpayee's 'The Fable' Triumphs at Leeds International Film Festival :-

The best film prize went to Manoj Bajpayee's "The Fable" at the 38th Leeds International Film Festival in the United Kingdom. "The Fable," helmed by writer-director Raam Reddy, won the Constellation Feature Film Competition, which honors the best "new, trailblazing cinema from around the world." In a statement, the competition jury said they were spellbound by Reddy's "lyrical homage to old tales passed through generations and made always prescient through the steady rhythms and the undeniable truths of life".



PM Honored with "Grand Commander of the Order of Niger" :-

During his first official visit to Nigeria, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the national accolade of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON). Nigerian President Bola Tinubu honored Prime Minister Modi at a

bilateral meeting in Abuja's Aso Rock Villa, which serves as the Nigerian Presidency's office and residence. Dominica bestowed its highest national accolade, the 'Dominica Award of Honour,' to PM Modi earlier this week in recognition of his vital help during the Covid-19 pandemic and dedication to promoting India-Dominica relations.



PM Modi Honored with Global Peace Award in Washington :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the prestigious Global Peace Award by the Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM) during its inauguration in Maryland, USA. The accolade recognizes his contributions to global peace, fostering economic stability, and promoting international collaboration. In his acceptance speech, Modi emphasized the importance of unity and shared responsibility among nations to address global challenges like climate change, conflict resolution, and economic disparities. The event highlighted India's growing stature in global diplomacy.



Health Ministry's 'One Health' Pavilion Wins Special Appreciation Medal at IITF 2024 :-

At the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) hosted at Bharat Mandapam, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Health Pavilion, themed 'One Health', got the Special Appreciation Medal. This award recognizes the Pavilion's unique design and compelling presentation of India's healthcare achievements and initiatives. This

year's pavilion centered on the 'One Health' approach, which emphasizes the connection of human, animal, plant, and ecological health. The Pavilion featured 39 dynamic and informative stalls, showcasing the Ministry's major milestones in healthcare.

5: Banking



Tata Power Renewable Energy, IndusInd Bank partner to provide finance for solar projects

Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd has teamed with IndusInd Bank to provide solar financing solutions to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). This cooperation will offer MSEs collateral-free solar finance in the range of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 2 crore, according to a statement from Tata Power Renewable Energy. These loans, subject to bank credit approval, demand a 20% margin and have attractive interest rates, with durations of up to 7 years, according to the company. Various public and private sector lenders are tied up with solar players to provide finance options for commercial and residential solar projects.



Jio Financial Services Launches SmartGold for Convenient Digital Gold Investments :-

Mukesh Ambani's Jio Finance has launched a new "SmartGold" scheme to tap on India's expanding appetite for digital investment alternatives. This product allows clients to buy digital gold for just as Rs 10, enabling gold investment available to a larger range of people who do not have large sums of money. As per the company's filing on the NSE, "Customers can now invest in digital gold anytime, anywhere, starting as low as Rs. 10." Through the Jio Finance app, users can seamlessly purchase and invest in digital gold. The platform provides real-time gold rates, enabling users to monitor price trends and make transactions conveniently.



SEBI Proposes Reforms to Enhance Flexibility and Protection for REITs and InvITs :-

Sebi, the market regulator, has recommended allowing Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Small and Medium REITs (SM REITs), and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) to hedge their risk with interest rate futures. Furthermore, Sebi has proposed allowing fixed deposits to be treated as equivalent to cash when estimating leverage for REITs and InvITs, clarifying credit rating

requirements for REIT and InvIT borrowings, and establishing a timeline for filling board vacancies and expanding the asset base for REITs and SM REITs. The regulator has also proposed to permit REITs to invest in liquid mutual funds.



Finance Minister Launches Union Bank's Nari Shakti Branches to Empower Women Entrepreneurs :-

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated five Nari Shakti branches of Union Bank of India in Bengaluru. Speaking at the launch, she urged the bank to create technology-driven, cluster-based schemes that are specifically designed to support women, with the goal of empowering female entrepreneurs and increasing financial inclusion for women across the country. Furthermore, she encouraged women entrepreneurs to make use of these schemes and contribute to job creation. The Nari Shakti operates with a focus on extending credit to women entrepreneurs.



ICICI Bank revises credit card charges :-

The ICICI Bank has announced increased credit card charges, which will take effect on Friday, November 15, 2024. The bank has altered the fees for late payments, fuel payments, and utility payments. According to the

new guidelines, the bank would charge 1% of the transaction value for fuel transactions that surpass Rs 50,000. Now, the bank will not charge if the payment is made directly to a school, college, or any international payment using a credit card. But if the payment is made by any unofficial or third-party gateway, the bank will charge.



State Bank of India Raises \$500 Million via Five-Year Bonds :-

State Bank of India (SBI) has completed the issue of \$500 million in senior unsecured fixed-rate notes expiring in five years with a yield of 5.125% payable semi-annually. The bonds, issued under Regulation-S, will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange and the India International Exchange in GIFT City, with settlement slated for November 25, according to the lender's regulatory filing. The issuance, executed through SBI's London branch, will help the lender to support funding requirements for its international branches and operations.



HDFC Bank Rolls Out 'Green Loans' to Promote Sustainability :-

In a move aimed at fostering eco-conscious business practices, HDFC Bank launched a "Green Loans" initiative specifically tailored for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This scheme offers preferential interest rates to businesses undertaking projects related to renewable energy, waste management, and resource conservation.

By aligning financial incentives with sustainable development goals, the bank seeks to encourage enterprises to adopt environmentally responsible practices. Industry experts see this as a landmark step in integrating sustainability into India's financial ecosystem



PNB Joins PCAF, Strengthens Climate Action Commitments :-

Punjab National Bank (PNB), the nation's second-biggest public sector bank, has joined the globally recognized Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF). This initiative demonstrates PNB's commitment to transparency and proactive climate action by implementing globally benchmarked standards for measuring and disclosing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its lending and investment activities. In the financial year 2023-24, PNB disclosed its financed emissions in the Business Responsibility and

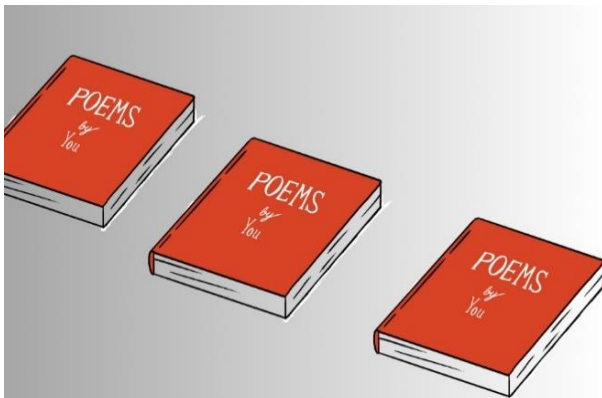
Sustainability Report (BRSR) using the PCAF Standard, a globally accepted methodology.



HDFC Bank Launches Pragati Savings Account for Semi-Urban, Rural India :-

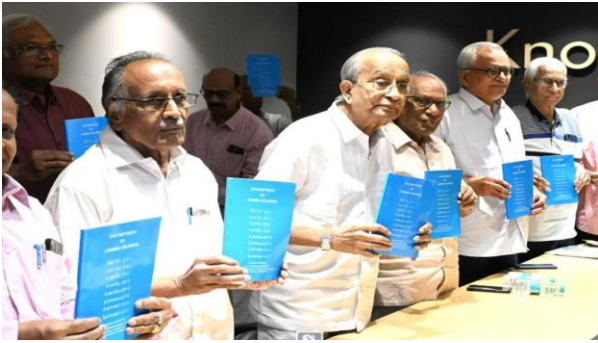
HDFC Bank, India's biggest private sector bank, has announced the launch of the Pragati Savings Account, which is specifically designed to satisfy the banking needs of rural and semi-urban residents in India. HDFC Bank's nearly 4,600 branches in semi-urban and rural areas will serve as touch points, allowing the product to reach approximately two-thirds of India's population and drive rural economic development. Further, the new offering will bring many industry-first features, such as a partnership with BigHaat, empowering over 17 million farmers.

6: Books and Author



Assam: Young poet Prosenjit Nath of Silchar released Poetry book 'Yeast of Eden' :-

In a spectacular literary debut, teenage poet Prosenjit Nath of Silchar has issued his first poetry collection, "Yeast of Eden." This potential new voice in poetry has already received substantial notice, with the book's blurb written by renowned multilingual poet K. Satchidanandan, a Sahitya Akademy awardee and president of the Kerala Sahitya Akademy. In his synopsis, he stated that Prosenjit's work in this collection demonstrates his ability to articulate poetry while also reflecting the diverse variety of themes, moods, and emotions that the poet explores.



Second Edition Of 'Inscriptions Of Andhra Pradesh' Released :-

A. Prasanna Kumar, Director of the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), released the second edition of the book *Inscriptions of Andhra Pradesh*, authored by C. Somasundara Rao, former Professor of the Department of History and Archaeology, Andhra University, at the Visakhapatnam Public Library. The first edition of the book was released in 2014 and distributed by the same library. Prof. Somasundara Rao said that Brahmi script was the basis of most south Indian languages while Nagari script, which came to be known as Deva Nagari later, was the basis of Sanskrit and other north Indian languages.



Vempalle Shareef's book 'Charala Pilli' released :-

In Vijayawada, noted poet Khadar Mohiuddin presented a Telugu short story collection book, *'Charala Pilli'*, written by Kendra Sahitya Academy Yuva Purasakar laureate Dr Vempalle Shareef. Dr. Vempalle Shareef reflected on his writing journey, stating that *'Charala Pilli'* is inspired by real-life experiences and portrays lives, characters, and events through a realistic viewpoint. The gathering was presided over by story writer Katragadda Dayanand, who spoke about the divisions in Indian society, criticizing the ruling class of stoking disputes

between different communities and raising concerns about the eroding unity in the diversity ethos as dominant religious views emerge.



President Murmu releases three books of Supreme Court :-

President Droupadi Murmu released three Supreme Court books on the court's 75-year history, Indian prisons, and legal aid. D.Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India (CJI), stated that the three publications served as times of self-reflection for both the Supreme Court and the greater legal system. The publications are titled "Justice for Nation: Reflections on 75 years of the Supreme Court of India"; "Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion"; and "Legal Aid Through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India".



Historian Ramachandra Guha Launched Book Titled "Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism" :-

In his most recent book, "Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism," historian Ramachandra Guha takes readers on a trip through India's environmental history, a legacy that few are aware with. In a chat before the book's premiere in Chennai, Mr. Guha reflects on the different personalities

covered in the book, who lived and wrote throughout a century of Indian history, and how their contributions frequently bridged the gap between environmentalism and social justice. "Each of these 'thinkers' came from a varied professional background: several were writers, a few were social activists within the Gandhian tradition, at least three were scientists, and one was a naturalist," says Guha.



Ravi Shastri Launches Book "Sandeep Patil – Beyond Boundaries" :-

A book about one of India's most flamboyant cricket stars, Sandeep Patil, co-wrote by renowned sports journalist Clayton Murzello of Mid-Day newspaper, was unveiled at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai by Patil's 1983 World Cup winning colleague Ravi Shastri. 'Sandeep Patil - Beyond Boundaries' chronicles Patil's thrilling cricketing career, both on and off the field. Present on the occasion were cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar, India captain and former chairman of India selection committee Dilip Vengsarkar, former India cricketers Sanjay Manjrekar, Balwinder Singh Sandhu and numerous other former cricketers.



French translation of Kiran Bedi's 'Fearless Governance' released :-

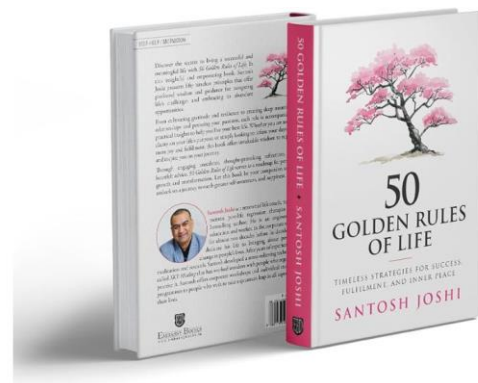
The Department of Management Studies, in collaboration with the Department of French at

Pondicherry University, hosted an event on campus to launch the French translation of former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi's book 'Fearless Governance (Une Gouvernance Sans Peur)'. Ms. Bedi participated in the ceremony and acknowledged the University's choice to utilize the book as a reference for its management students. The book, translated by S. Pannirselvame, former head, Department of French, Pondicherry University, was released two months ago in Puducherry.



Tourism Minister releases book on Andhra Pradesh at Rajamahendravaram :-

Kandula Durgesh, Minister for Culture and Tourism, released a book titled 'Andhra Pradesh Digdarshanam' published by the Centre for Andhra Pradesh Studies during the conclusion of the two-day seminar on 'Cultural Glory of Andhra Pradesh' at Adikavi Nannaya University (AKNU) in Rajamahendravaram. The 'Geological Map of Andhra Pradesh', written by AKNU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Y. Srinivasa Rao, was also published. Mr. Durgesh, Rajanagaram MLA B. Balarama Krishna and academicians spoke on the glorious culture of Andhra Pradesh.



New book titled '50 Golden Rules of Life' launched in Mumbai :-

Santosh Joshi, a life coach and therapist, introduced his fourth book, '50 Golden Rules of Life', which was published by Embassy Books, during an exciting event held at Title Waves in Bandra, Mumbai. '50 Golden Rules of Life', as the title implies, is a comprehensive guide on

navigating the difficulties of life with clarity, purpose, and joy. Joshi's own experiences and profound insight of human behavior are shared in '50 Golden Rules of Life'. This leads to the 50 principles in the book that offer guidance to readers for leading a fulfilling and content life.

7: Defence



GSL Unveils Two Indigenous Fast Patrol Vessels for Coast Guard :-

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned two Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs), 'Adamyra' and 'Akshar', manufactured by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) and featuring more than 60% indigenous content. According to a press release, "These advanced FPVs will help ICG protect offshore assets and island territories, with their primary role of protection, monitoring, control and surveillance." The vessels are part of a contract inked with GSL to build eight such FPVs for Rs 473 crore. For the first time the two vessels were launched simultaneously utilising the state-of-art Ship Lift System.



Exercise 'Garud Shakti' Begins in Indonesia :-

The 9th edition of 'Garud Shakti,' a joint military exercise between India and Indonesia, has commenced in Jakarta. This year's exercise includes 25 personnel from the Indian Army who are participating alongside Indonesian forces in an intensive two-week training program. 'Garud Shakti' focuses on enhancing tactical and strategic coordination between the two armies and aims to boost interoperability in areas such as counter-terrorism and jungle warfare. The exercise is seen as a crucial step in strengthening defense ties between India and Indonesia, contributing to regional security and mutual trust in the Indo-Pacific region.



Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR Commences in Idaho, USA :-

The 15th edition of the India-US joint Special Forces Exercise, VAJRA PRAHAR, has begun at the Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA. This annual exercise, held between the Indian and American special forces, is designed to enhance interoperability, skill-sharing, and coordination in areas such as hostage rescue, counter-terrorism, and reconnaissance. Scheduled from November 2 to November 22, VAJRA PRAHAR is a testament to the strong defense

cooperation between India and the United States, fostering a mutual commitment to maintaining global peace and security in response to emerging security threats.



Indian Navy Hosts 3rd Mahasagar Summit on Maritime Security :-

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi met virtually with the heads of navies and maritime agencies, as well as senior leadership from several Indian Ocean Region (IOR) littorals, to discuss prospects for training collaboration to address common maritime security problems. His interaction with representatives of Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania was hosted as part of the third edition of the high-level virtual interaction 'MAHASAGAR', according to a spokesperson of the Indian Navy.



President Murmu Witnesses Naval Operations Aboard INS Vikrant :-

President Droupadi Murmu sailed onboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, where she witnessed a series of advanced operational demonstrations by the Indian Navy. This was her very first visit to Indian Navy ships at sea. When President

Murmu arrived at INS Hansa, the Naval Air Station in Goa, she was greeted by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, and Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command. Embarking on INS Vikrant along with 15 frontline warships and submarines stationed off Goa's coast, the President received a detailed briefing on the Navy's strategic operations.



India Begins 'Poorvi Prahaar' Tri-Services Drill :-

Following the pullout of Indian and Chinese soldiers in eastern Ladakh, India held a large tri-services military exercise called 'Poorvi Prahaar' on November 8. The 10-day exercise will bring together elements from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, demonstrating cooperation and battle readiness. According to sources, the Army will deploy its units, artillery Guns, Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Air Force's air bases in Kolkata, Hashimara, Paanagarh, and Kalaikunda will be activated during the exercise.



Third India-Australia Joint Military Exercise Austrahind

The 3rd edition of the India-Australia joint military exercise, AUSTRAHIND, began on November 8 at the Foreign Training Node of Pune. The exercise, which runs till November 21, is part of an ongoing collaboration to

boost military ties and interoperability between the two nations' armed services. AUSTRAHIND, which began in 2022 in Rajasthan, has evolved into a yearly occasion that alternates between India and Australia. The exercise will proceed in two phases: combat conditioning and tactical training, followed by a validation phase.



India Launches First Space Defense Exercise Antariksha Abhyas – 2024 :-

The Defence Space Agency is hosting India's first space exercise, 'Antariksha Abhyas - 2024'. According to the Ministry of Defence, the 'Antariksha Abhyas' exercise will last three days. "It is being conducted by the Defence Space Agency of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff from 11 to 13 November," stated a ministry spokesperson. It went on to say that 'Exercise Antariksha Abhyas' is the first of its kind and is expected to help secure national strategic objectives in space while also integrating India's space prowess into military operations.



7th Annual India-Sri Lanka Coast Guard Meet :-

The 7th Annual High-Level Meeting (HLM) between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and marked a significant milestone in the two countries' collaborative efforts to combat transnational maritime crime and

promote regional cooperation. This yearly meeting was followed by institutionalised methods defined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the maritime agencies in May 2018. The 8th annual ICG-SLCG meeting will be hosted by the Indian Coast Guard in the year 2025.



India signs deal with Russia for advanced Pantsir variants to boost air defence :-

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) stated that it has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's Rosoboronexport (ROE) to work together on the Pantsir air defense missile and cannon systems. BDL's Chairman and Managing Director, A Madhavarao (Retd), and Kovalenko German, Deputy Director General of the Naval Department at ROE, inked the agreement during the 5th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) subgroup meeting in Goa. The Pantsir-S1 system is a mobile, short-range air defence system equipped with both missile and gun capabilities.



Sea Vigil 24 Successfully Concludes :-

The fourth edition of Sea Vigil, India's largest coastal defense exercise, concluded on November 21, 2024. Spanning the nation's 7,500-km coastline, the exercise involved multiple stakeholders, including the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and state governments. It simulated

scenarios of coastal threats, evaluated maritime security measures, and tested the synergy between various agencies.



Coast Guard Conducting 'SAREX 24' in Kochi from Nov 27-30 :-

According to a news release, the Indian Coast Guard is holding the National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercises & Workshop (SAREX-24) in Kochi from November 27 to 30 under the auspices of the NMSAR Board. The purpose of this workshop is to validate the National M-SAR construct using a "collaborative" and "all-inclusive" approach. The theme of the exercise will be "Enhancing Search and Rescue capabilities through Regional collaboration" to signify ICG's commitment and resolute to provide succor during large scale contingencies regardless of location.

8: Economy



Jio Financial and BlackRock Form Joint Ventures for Mutual Funds :-

Jio Financial Services and BlackRock Inc. have announced the formation of two joint ventures — Jio BlackRock Asset Management Private Limited and Jio BlackRock Trustee Private Limited — to break into India's mutual fund sector, after in-principle approval for both businesses. Jio Financial has invested Rs 82.9 crore for a 50% share in both entities, including Rs 82.5 crore for Jio BlackRock Asset Management and Rs 40 lakh for Jio BlackRock Trustee. In July 2023, Reliance Group's Jio Financial Services (JFS) and BlackRock announced the creation of a 50:50 joint venture — Jio BlackRock.



SBI Mutual Fund Surpasses ₹10 Lakh Crore AUM :-

SBI Mutual Fund's average AUM increased by 11% to ₹10.99 lakh crore in the September quarter, powered by NFOs and a robust market rally, making it the only fund house to surpass ₹10 lakh crore. ICICI Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund trailed at ₹8.41 lakh crore and ₹7.59 lakh crore, respectively. Thanks to the robust collection through new fund offers and steady market rally, the average asset under management of the country's largest fund house, SBI Mutual Fund, jumped 11 per cent in the September quarter to ₹10.99 lakh crore, up from ₹9.88 lakh crore in the June quarter.



Tata Power Invests Rs 550 Crore in Renewable Energy for Noida International Airport :-

Tata Power has formed a cooperation with Noida International Airport (NIA) to deliver renewable energy to the planned airport in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar District. Dr. Praveer Sinha, CEO and managing director of Tata Power, commented on the alliance, "Tata Power is proud to partner with the Noida International Airport to pioneer renewable energy integration. This collaboration will support development of net zero Airports, catering to millions of Indians, accelerating the country's path towards a greener future."



India's Industrial Output Grows 3.1% in September 2024 :-

According to figures issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's industrial output increased by 3.1% in September 2024, boosted by a resurgence in manufacturing activity. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India fell 0.1% in August. According to the report, manufacturing production jumped by 3.9% in September, while power generation grew by 0.5% and mining activity increased by 0.2%. In

the April-September period, industrial output increased by 4%, compared to revised 6.2% a year earlier.



\$8.5B Disney-Reliance Merger Completed for Indian Assets :-

Reliance Industries and Walt Disney have concluded a \$8.5 billion merger of their Indian media holdings. According to a joint press release issued by the firms, the newly established sections are entertainment, which includes Reliance's Colors TV networks and Disney's Star; digital, which includes online streaming services JioCinema and Hotstar; and sports. The resulting joint venture is controlled by Reliance Industries Limited and owned 16.34% by RIL, 46.82% by Viacom18 and 36.84% by Disney, according to the release.



India's Exports Soar 17% in October, Trade Deficit Hits \$27 Billion :-

India's merchandise exports increased at the quickest rate in 28 months in October, growing by 17.3 percent year on year (Y-o-Y) to \$39.2 billion, owing to inventory buildup in Western countries ahead of the Christmas season. However, imports reached an all-time high of \$66.34 billion in October, up 3.9 percent, extending the trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, to

\$27.1 billion from \$20.8 billion in September, according to commerce department data.



Tata Acquires Majority Stake in Pegatron's iPhone Plant in Tamil Nadu:-

According to sources quoted by Reuters, Tata Electronics is likely to purchase a majority stake in Pegatron's iPhone production unit in Tamil Nadu, significantly expanding Tata's role as an Apple supplier. The agreement states that Tata would own 60% of the facility and control daily operations, while Pegatron will own the remaining 40% and provide technical support. The move aligns with Apple's strategy to diversify its supply chain beyond China, amid growing geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China.



India's GDP Growth Projection Revised to 6.4% Amid Global Uncertainties :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-25 to 6.4%, reflecting cautious optimism amid a complex economic environment. The updated projection factors in domestic resilience, such as robust consumption and private investment, against global challenges like geopolitical tensions and inflationary pressures. RBI Governor emphasized the critical role of policy reforms in sustaining economic stability while highlighting

emerging sectors like renewable energy and digital technology as key growth drivers. Analysts predict that the economy's strong fundamentals will continue to attract foreign investments despite global headwinds.



SEBI Eliminates 1% Security Deposit Mandate for Public Issues :-

In a move to enhance the ease of doing business, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has abolished the requirement for companies to deposit 1% of their issue size as security. This decision aims to reduce financial and procedural barriers for issuers, encouraging greater participation in public offerings. It also reflects SEBI's proactive approach to fostering a favorable business environment.



RBI Doubles UPI 123Pay Limit to ₹10,000 for Feature Phones :-

In a major step toward increasing digital financial inclusion, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the UPI 123Pay transaction limit from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000. UPI 123Pay enables India's 400 million feature phone users to access digital payment services without requiring a smartphone or an internet connection. This development is expected to empower rural and underserved populations, promoting a cashless economy while fostering ease of transactions for small-scale merchants and individual users. The move aligns with the

government's broader vision of a digitally inclusive society.



India's Forex Reserves See Sharpest Weekly Fall in Record, Hit 4-Month Low :-

Last week, India's foreign exchange reserves fell to a more than four-month low, the steepest weekly drop on record, as the dollar surged following the US election results and the central bank sold from its reserves to limit the rupee's loss. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that reserves declined by \$17.8 billion in the week ending November 15, the largest since available data began in 1998, to \$657.89 billion. Forex reserves have fallen by a total of nearly \$30 billion in the last six weeks and are down by \$47 billion from the record high of \$704.89 billion hit in late September.



Zomato to Replace JSW Steel on BSE Sensex from December 23 :-

Zomato, the online food delivery behemoth, will join the benchmark BSE Sensex on December 23, replacing JSW Steel. This is part of the most recent reconstitution published by Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of BSE. Zomato's participation in the 30-stock index is a significant milestone for the company, which has

experienced a strong surge in the last year. Furthermore, the reconstitution affects other indices outside the Sensex, including the BSE 100, BSE Sensex 50, and BSE Sensex Next 50. As a part of the reshuffle in the BSE Sensex 50, key additions to the index include Zomato, Jio Financial Services and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.



India and Maldives Enhance Currency Cooperation :-

The RBI and the Maldives Monetary Authority inked an agreement here to create a framework to encourage the adoption of local currencies, the Indian Rupee and the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR), in cross-border transactions. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked by Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and Ahmed Munawar, Governor of the Maldives Monetary Authority. "The MoU encourages the use of INR and MVR in current account transactions, permissible capital account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both countries," the RBI said in a statement.



Alphabet Gets CCI Nod to acquire stake in Walmart's Flipkart :-

The Competition Commission approved Alphabet's unit, Shoreline International Holdings LLC, for obtaining a

stake in Walmart group firm Flipkart. Shoreline International Holding is a completely owned subsidiary of Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc. Flipkart is a subsidiary of Walmart Inc, which ultimately belongs to

the Walmart Group. It is primarily engaged in the business of wholesale cash and carry of goods and providing marketplace-based e-commerce platforms to facilitate trade between customers and sellers in India

9: International



Typhoon Kong-rey Unleashes Fury on Taiwan with Strong Winds :-

Heavy rains and high winds pelted Taiwan as the worst typhoon to strike the island in over three decades made landfall along its southeast coast, killing at least one person and wounding dozens more. As per the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall in Taitung county on October 31 afternoon with winds of up to 200 kilometers per hour (125 mph), comparable to a Category 3 Atlantic hurricane. At least two were killed and more than 500 storm-related injuries were reported, according to Taiwan's Central Emergency Operations Center (CEOC).



PM Modi congratulates Duma Boko on being elected Botswana president :-

On Sunday (November 3, 2024), Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Botswana's President Duma Boko on his election and expressed his desire to work closely with him to further develop bilateral ties. Duma Boko, the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) presidential candidate, took power as Botswana's sixth president last week. In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Congratulations @duma_boko on your election as the President of Botswana. Best wishes for a successful tenure." "Look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen our bilateral ties," PM Modi said.



EAM Jaishankar Inaugurates India's New Consulate in Brisbane :-

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated India's new consulate in Brisbane, Australia, saying ties between the two nations had been altered in recent years by events such as a trade agreement that has opened up countless prospects. The opening of the new consulate is a milestone in the increasingly strong bilateral relationship and an acknowledgement of the growing importance of the Australian state of Queensland, which holds an "important place in many ways in our burgeoning ties", Jaishankar said.



Donald Trump Set to Back in the White House as 47th President of USA :-

Former President Donald Trump is expected to become the 47th President of the United States after sweeping the recently ended presidential election. He received a congratulatory call from his Democratic opponent Kamala Harris after she conceded defeat. CNN stated that Harris "called President-elect Trump to congratulate him on winning the 2024 presidential election," citing a member of Harris' team. According to the report, she stressed the necessity of a peaceful transition of power and serving as president for all Americans. Trump is the first president after Grover Cleveland 132 years ago to be evicted from the White House and return to it again four years later.



Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki Erupts, Ash Column Reaches 6,500 Meters :-

Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in Indonesia has erupted again, causing additional concern among inhabitants who have already been traumatized by explosions that killed at least ten people. The country's volcanology department reported seven eruptions, the most intense of which ejected a massive column of ash 8,000 meters (5

kilometers) into the air. Authorities declared a 7-kilometer (4.3-mile) exclusion zone around the volcano in Flores. More than 10,000 people are living in temporary shelters, with authorities warning of potential flash floods and cold lava flows in the coming days.



South Africa Launches Quick Visa Processing for Indian Visitors :-

The South African government this week introduced the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS), a new tourism program aimed at increasing the number of visitors from India and China. In 2023, more than 100 million Chinese visitors traveled abroad, but just 93,000 visited South Africa. In contrast, Australia drew more than 1.4 million Chinese visitors. Indian tourists currently account for only 3.9% of all overseas visits in South Africa, with Chinese visitors accounting for 1.8%. The Department of Home Affairs said that even a 10% rise in tourism could improve economic growth by 0.6% and generate thousands of jobs.



Ramgoolam Set to become New PM of Mauritius :-

Following a historic victory in Mauritius' general election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Dr Navin Ramgoolam, who is expected to become the country's

new prime minister. PM Modi wished Ramgoolam success and said he looks forward to working with him to develop their "unique partnership" in a social media message. Dr Navin Ramgoolam, who is the son of Mauritius' first Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, has been the PM of the country between 1995 and 2000 and from 2005 to 2014.



Donald Trump Appointed Tulsi Gabbard As Director Of National Intelligence :-

Former Democratic congressman Tulsi Gabbard was chosen by US President-elect Donald Trump to be his administration's director of national intelligence. Tulsi Gabbard, 43, was born in American Samoa and reared in Hawaii, although she also spent some time growing up in the Philippines. She started politics at a young age, being elected to Hawaii's House of Representatives at the age of 21, but she resigned after one term to go with her National Guard unit to Iraq. Later, she became the first Hindu and American Samoan in Congress, representing Hawaii, and was sworn in on the Bhagavad Gita, a sacred Hindu text.



Typhoon Man-yi Strikes Northern Philippines :-

Typhoon-weary Filipinos have begun removing fallen trees and fixing damaged houses following Super

Typhoon Man-yi, the Philippines' sixth big typhoon in less than a month, which devastated the country and killed at least eight people. "More than a million people were affected by the typhoon and two previous storms, including nearly 7,00,000 who fled their homes and moved to emergency shelters or relatives' homes," according to a civil defense officer. The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines and the Coast Guard report that most transportation services have resumed.



Victoria Kjaer Theilvig Becomes Denmark's First Miss Universe :-

Victoria Kjaer Theilvig of Denmark crowned the 73rd Miss Universe competition, which was held in Mexico. The 21-year-old battled against 125 other contestants from around the world, including India's Rhea Singha. Chidimma Adetshina of Nigeria was the first runner-up, and Maria Fernanda Beltran of Mexico came in second. Victoria is a Danish entrepreneur and professional dancer. The 21-year-old made history by becoming the first Miss Universe from Denmark. She gained international recognition in 2022 when she placed in the Top 20 of Miss Grand International.



Gabon Approves New Constitution in Historic Referendum :-

Gabonese voters overwhelmingly accepted a new constitution offered by the country's military leadership. According to media sources, the proposed new constitution limits the presidency to two terms and increases term lengths from five to seven years. The Central African Republic's new constitution also abolishes the role of prime minister and states that family members cannot replace a president. Gabon's military rulers have tentatively scheduled a handover to the civilian government for the summer of 2025.



Climate change responsible for 19% of rising dengue cases :-

Amid a record year for dengue infections worldwide, a recent study discovered that climate change is to blame for 19% of the increased dengue burden. According to a study published at the yearly convention of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) in the United States, climate change has the potential to cause an extra 40-60% increase by 2050, with some locations seeing increases of up to 150-200%. The latest findings from researchers at Stanford and Harvard universities offer the most definitive evidence to date that climate change is a major factor driving the global surge in the mosquito-borne disease.



Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Announced in Oslo :-

The 2024 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, held in Oslo, Norway, celebrated remarkable contributions to global peace and humanitarianism. This year, the award was shared between a global humanitarian organization addressing refugee crises and a renowned journalist advocating for press freedom. The organization was lauded for its lifesaving efforts in providing shelter, education, and healthcare to millions displaced by conflict and climate change. Meanwhile, the journalist was recognized for their fearless reporting in war zones, exposing human rights violations and fostering accountability. Nobel Committee Chair highlighted their efforts as "beacons of hope in tumultuous times," emphasizing the continued importance of humanitarian and journalistic integrity in promoting global stability.



Mali Junta Replaces Prime Minister Amid Political Unrest :-

In a significant political shake-up, Mali's ruling junta announced the dismissal of Prime Minister Choguel Maiga, replacing him with Abdoulaye Maiga. This move comes amidst ongoing challenges in governance, security, and public dissatisfaction. The junta stated that the leadership change aims to strengthen administrative stability as the nation prepares for a potential transition to civilian rule. The political developments in Mali are being closely monitored by international observers for their impact on regional stability in West Africa.



Armenia Joins International Solar Alliance :-

Randhir Jaiswal, the official spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said that Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). On November 30, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande established the ISA with the goal of scaling up solar energy and lowering the cost of solar power generation by aggregating demand for solar finance, technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building. Earlier on June 26 this year, Republic of Paraguay officially became its 100th full member.



Bali celebrates traditional Hindu thanksgiving festival 'Ngusaba' :-

Bali boasts a diverse cultural heritage that incorporates Hindu philosophy, native animist traditions, and Buddhist influences. The Ngusaba Goreng, a two-week Thanksgiving festival commemorating a bountiful harvest, is one of Bali's most significant cultural festivals. The celebration revolves around religious dances such as Rejang Dewa and Rejang Pucuk, which are carried out by girls who have not yet reached puberty. 'Ngusaba' denotes a meeting of gods and goddesses. These ceremonies represent the Balinese people's strong spiritual connection to their ancestry and the divine.



IndusInd Bank Partners with UNICEF for Climate Action :-

IndusInd Bank has formed a strategic cooperation with UNICEF to improve climate risk management and community resilience in five Indian districts. The collaboration, which was formalized in a Statement of Intent, will focus on establishing disaster-resilient communities in Dharashiv (Maharashtra), Begusarai (Bihar), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Baran (Rajasthan), and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh). The project is part of the bank's Holistic Rural Development program's Climate Action section.



Sri Lanka's Central Bank Eases Monetary Policy to Support Economic Recovery :-

Sri Lanka's central bank established an entirely novel policy rate of 8%, easing monetary conditions below previously used benchmarks in an effort to support the island nation's weak recovery from a major financial crisis. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) said the implementation of an overnight policy rate (OPR), which was predicted earlier this year, would make it easier for markets to react to lower interest rates and promote growth. Sri Lanka's economy is expected to grow by 4.5%-5% in 2024, slightly above the World Bank's estimate of 4.4%, an official at the bank said.

10: Miscellaneous



J&K: 12 civilians injured in grenade attack in Srinagar :-

On November 3, a grenade attack in Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir, injured at least 12 civilians. The injured have been taken to the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (SMHS). The incident occurred in Srinagar's market, near the Tourist Reception Centre on 03 November. The explosion triggered fear in the vicinity, sending consumers fleeing for safety. Police and paramilitary forces have been rushed to the spot to evacuate the injured and launch a search operation to track the terrorists. Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah condemned the incident, calling it "deeply disturbing."



Justice DY Chandrachud Retires as Chief Justice of India

Justice D Y Chandrachud's stint as India's 50th Chief Justice ended after two years of transformational verdicts and significant reforms, leaving a unique legacy in Indian judicial history. During his eight-year term as a Supreme Court judge, he served on 38 constitution benches and delivered important decisions such as the Ayodhya land dispute, the repeal of Article 370, and the

decriminalization of consensual gay sex, all of which altered society and politics. India's 50th Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, known also for his many pithy statements, leaves an imprint all his own on the annals of legal history.



Website Launched for 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar :-

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has asked the overseas Indian diaspora to visit Odisha and attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) conference in January 2025. The chief minister launched the website (pbdindia.gov.in) of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi alongside External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, saying the convention will allow Indians living abroad to witness Odisha's rich history, cultural, and spiritual heritage. The PBD will be organised from January 8 to 10 at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar.



Tim Southee to Bid Farewell to Cricket After World Test Championship :-

Tim Southee, New Zealand's great pacer, has declared that he will retire from Test cricket after the third Test

against England at his home venue, Seddon Park in Hamilton, this December. Southee will retire from Test cricket, according to New Zealand Cricket (NZC), but he is still available to represent the Black Caps in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final next year provided the team qualifies. The 35-year-old, who has amassed 385 Test wickets over 104 matches, is New Zealand's second-highest wicket-taker in the format and is also the only bowler globally to achieve the rare feat of taking over 300 Test, 200 ODI, and 100 T20I wickets.



Indian Tennis Star Prajnesh Gunneswaran Announces Retirement :-

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, an Indian tennis player, has retired from professional tennis. The 35-year-old shared his choice on social media. Gunneswaran reached a career high of No. 75, becoming the eighth highest-ranked Indian player in the Open Era. He got this rating in 2019 after recovering from a knee injury and finishing the year as India's top men's singles player. He participated in the main draw of five Grand Slam tournaments and played in all four Grand Slams in 2019. He also won two ATP Challenger titles and a bronze medal at the 2018 Asian Games.



Mithali Raj Appointed Mentor for ACA Women's Cricket Operations :-

Mithali Raj, the former India women's cricket captain, will serve as the Andhra Cricket Association's Women's Cricket Operations Mentor. During her time with the ACA, she will be scouting and developing the state's talented cricket players. ACA Secretary S. Satish Babu verified the development and outlined the initiatives being taken to promote women's cricket in the state. He informed that ACA is setting up a High-Performance Academy in Anantapur for women's cricketers where around 80 girls from different age groups will be selected and trained for 365 days.



Punit Goenka's Resignation as MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment :-

Punit Goenka, Managing Director and key managerial personnel of Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL), has decided to step down as MD in order to focus only on his operational tasks allocated by the board, and will remain as CEO of the company. In addition, the board approved Mukund Galgali, the company's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and important managerial staff, as Deputy CEO. According to the company, Goenka has approached the board of directors of ZEEL with an approach to focus

entirely on his operational responsibilities as the CEO of the company and relinquish his position as the MD.



Delhi Hosts Global Summit on Sustainable Energy Transition :-

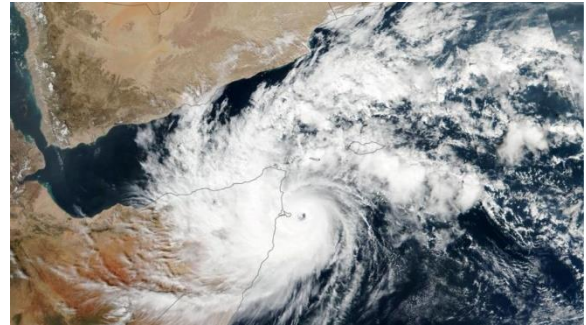
The Global Summit on Sustainable Energy 2024 commenced in Delhi, gathering policymakers, scientists, and environmental advocates to discuss strategies for combating climate change and accelerating renewable energy adoption. Key topics included green hydrogen production, energy storage technologies, and electrification of transportation systems. India showcased its leadership in renewable energy, particularly in expanding solar and wind power capacities. The summit is expected to result in actionable commitments, including multi-nation agreements to achieve carbon neutrality and investment pledges for clean energy projects.



UNESCO Recognizes Banarasi Silk Weaving as Intangible Cultural Heritage :-

UNESCO added Banarasi silk weaving to its prestigious Intangible Cultural Heritage list, highlighting its intricate craftsmanship and historical significance. This recognition is expected to boost global appreciation for

India's textile traditions and create opportunities for artisans to expand their markets internationally. The weaving tradition, characterized by its rich patterns and use of gold and silver threads, has been preserved through generations in Varanasi. Experts hailed the recognition as a step towards safeguarding the cultural heritage of traditional weaving techniques amidst rapid industrialization.



Cyclone Fengal Forms in the Bay of Bengal, Heavy Rains Expected :-

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced the formation of Cyclone Fengal, a system that originated as a cyclonic circulation in the Bay of Bengal. Named by Saudi Arabia, Fengal is projected to bring heavy rainfall to Tamil Nadu and neighboring regions. Authorities have issued alerts for potential flooding and disruptions, urging residents to stay vigilant. Fishermen have been advised against venturing into the sea. This development underscores the importance of enhanced weather monitoring and disaster preparedness in cyclone-prone areas.



PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Self-Sufficient Gaushala with CBG Plant :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Adarsh Gaushala, India's first self-sufficient cow shelter, in

Laltipara, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Equipped with a state-of-the-art Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant, the facility transforms cow dung into renewable energy, showcasing sustainable waste management practices. This innovative model integrates modern technology with traditional practices, promoting rural development and clean energy generation. The project is expected to inspire similar initiatives across the country.



Pankaj Tripathi Appointed Festival Ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024 :-

Actor Pankaj Tripathi has said that he is honored to be named the festival ambassador for the Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024. The festival honors Arunachal Pradesh's creative skills and rich cultural legacy. The 15-day celebration, which runs from November 22 to December 5, will include honorary guests Pankaj Tripathi and his wife Mridula. Workwise, Pankaj Tripathi was last seen in

director Amar Kaushik's *Stree 2*. The horror comedy also featured Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor in the lead.



14-Time Olympic Medalist Emma McKeon Bids Farewell :-

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Emma McKeon, Australia's most decorated Olympian, has announced her retirement from competitive swimming. McKeon has the Australian record for 14 Olympic medals, six of which were gold, won over three Summer Olympics, and her seven medals at Tokyo 2020 are the most ever won by a female swimmer at a single Games and the equal most won by any female athlete from any discipline at a single Olympics. McKeon, 30, had previously hinted that the 2024 Paris Games -- where she won gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay -- would be her final Olympics, but she had not said whether she would continue to swim competitively.

11: National



Ayushman Bharat Yojana

Ayushman Bharat: Free Health Coverage for Seniors 70+

In a significant expansion of the Union government's flagship program, the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that health coverage within the scheme is going to be available to all senior citizens aged 70 and up, irrespective of income. The scheme was introduced to "overcome the despair of the poor when illness strikes", the PM said, noting that the government bears the cost of hospitalisation for scheme beneficiaries up to ₹5 lakh.



Four replicas of Konark wheel installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan :-

For the first time, four sandstone replicas of Konark wheels were put in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan. The decision to install replicas of the 'wheels of life and time' from Odisha's Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is part of the government's larger endeavor to incorporate traditional, cultural, and historical components into Rashtrapati Bhavan. Konark epitomises the Odiya temple architecture, designed as a massive chariot for the Sun God. The wheels depicted around the temple walls symbolise India's cultural legacy.



India's First Green Certified Zoo Opens in Himachal Pradesh :-

In an important environmental milestone, the Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, located in Bankhandi, Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, has been awarded India's first green certification for a zoological park by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). This certification recognizes the zoo's sustainable architecture, energy-efficient infrastructure, and eco-friendly practices. Designed to minimize environmental impact, the zoo

incorporates renewable energy sources, water conservation measures, and recycling programs. The initiative aligns with India's commitment to sustainable development, aiming to create a model for future wildlife conservation facilities nationwide.



Indonesia's new President Prabowo Subianto may be Republic Day 2025 chief guest :-

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto might be the keynote guest at the 2026 Republic Day celebrations. His visit might strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, particularly the prospective transfer of BrahMos missiles. Prabowo, a former defense minister and the son-in-law of former Indonesian President and strongman Suharto, has expressed a desire to strengthen strategic ties with India, including the procurement of BrahMos missiles. Under Prabowo's presidency, Indonesia could be the second country after the Philippines to purchase BrahMos missiles.



Centre Doubles Stubble Burning Penalty Post Supreme Court Directive :-

In response to the Supreme Court's (SC) criticism of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 1986 and its "toothless" punishments, the Union Ministry of

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change doubling stubble burning fines to battle deteriorating air quality in Delhi and adjacent areas. The updated penalties, introduced under the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act of 2021, impose a Rs 5,000 fine on farmers with less than two acres, Rs 10,000 on those between two and five acres, and Rs 30,000 for larger landholders engaging in the practice.



Supreme Court Overturns 1967 Ruling on AMU's Minority Status :-

In a narrow 4-3 majority decision, the Supreme Court overturned its 1967 opinion in *S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India*, which had earlier denied Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) minority institution status. The majority decision was written by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud and supported by Justices Sanjiv Khanna, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra. Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta, and S.C. Sharma all dissented in different opinions. Article 30(1) of the Constitution guarantees religious and linguistic minorities the fundamental right to establish and manage educational institutions of their choice.



Delhi: Sarai Kale Khan Chowk Renamed to Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chowk :-

In a major announcement, Union Minister of Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar announced that the Sarai Kale Khan Chowk will henceforth be called as Birsa Munda Chowk. The decision was made to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a freedom fighter and tribal leader. The Union Minister stated that the decision was made to honour the freedom warrior so that visitors to the area might learn about him and be inspired by his life. Birsa Munda, the hero of the Indian tribal freedom struggle, played a pivotal role in inspiring the tribal community of the Chotanagpur region to fight for their independence.



India Launches Comprehensive Space Policy to Boost Innovation :-

In a significant move, India unveiled its comprehensive space policy, aimed at enhancing private sector participation and fostering global collaborations. This policy focuses on creating a robust ecosystem for satellite development, space exploration, and technological innovation. It sets the groundwork for public-private partnerships, providing startups with opportunities to work on space projects under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). India's enhanced focus on the space economy also aims to position the country as a leading global player in space technology. Union ministers emphasized that the policy is expected to drive job creation, technological advancements, and a competitive edge in international space missions.



India's First Constitution Museum Opens at JGU :-

India's first Constitution Museum was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) in Sonapat, Haryana. This initiative aims to deepen public understanding of the Constitution's legacy and relevance. It showcases historical artifacts, original documents, and multimedia exhibits, highlighting the Constitution's role in shaping India's democratic ethos. The museum seeks to inspire citizens, particularly students, to explore the vision and values embedded in India's founding document.



EPFO Implements Aadhaar-Based UAN Activation :-

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has mandated Universal Account Number (UAN) activation through Aadhaar-based OTP verification. This simplified system enables employees to easily access their provident fund accounts, reducing dependency on physical documentation. It reflects the government's commitment to digital governance and improving efficiency in social security services, ensuring seamless access for millions of workers across the country.



Hinduja Group's IIHL Acquires Reliance Capital :-

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has approved the Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) acquisition of Reliance Capital Ltd for ₹10,000 crore. This move signifies a major step in reviving the distressed financial services company, boosting investor confidence, and contributing to the financial sector's stability.



World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report in Delhi :-

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education, and Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs, and Sports, launched a study titled Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States in New Delhi. Jobs at Your Doorstep is a skills gap analysis that aims to match trades provided in schools to the industry-specific needs of the districts where the schools are located. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan complimented the World Bank team for the detailed report on six states and also suggested the team adopt a pan-India framework.



ICAI signs MoU with CBSE to enhance commerce-based skill courses:-

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Skill Education, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), to advance commerce-based skill courses for students across the country. The agreement intends to promote collaboration between the ICAI and CBSE in order to enhance commerce-related skills, particularly in the BFSI industry. The prime focus will be on enhancing the skills and employability of students through specialized courses designed to align with industry requirements, mentioned ICAI.



Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Unveils 'TheTeacherApp' :-

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan introduced the TeacherApp in New Delhi with the goal of improving educational quality. This digital platform intends to provide instructors with the tools they need to navigate 21st-century classrooms while encouraging ongoing professional development. Speaking on the subject "Elevating Teachers, Elevating India," Dharmendra Pradhan stated that the app will empower educators by offering ongoing professional development through creative material, technology, and community-building capabilities.

12: Obituaries



Bibek Debroy, Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council, Dies at 69 :-

Bibek Debroy, an economist and head of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic advisory council, died at age 69. Mr Debroy, a Padma Shri recipient, previously served as chancellor of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) in Pune. Mr Debroy received his

education at Ramakrishna Mission School in Narendrapur, Presidency College in Kolkata, the Delhi School of Economics, and Trinity College in Cambridge. He had worked in Presidency College, Kolkata; Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune; Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi; and also as the Director of a Ministry of Finance/UNDP project on legal reforms.



Rohit Bal, noted fashion designer, passes away at 63 :-

The renowned designer Rohit Bal has gone. The designer was only 63 years old and had suffered a heart attack the previous year. He returned to the fashion scene a few weeks ago during Lakme Fashion Week. Bal was recognized as a trailblazer in the Indian fashion industry, creating designs that defied convention. He was noted for perfectly merging classic aesthetics with contemporary flare, as well as for combining India's cultural heritage with worldwide fashion trends. He had been away from the fashion world in the past few years due to health issues. The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) confirmed the news with a post on their official Instagram handle.

**Kannada filmmaker Guruprasad passes away :-**

Guruprasad, 52, a Kannada cinema director known for films such as Mata, Eddelu Manjunatha, and Director's Special, was allegedly discovered dead in his apartment in Madanayakanahalli, Bengaluru. Police have initiated a probe into the date and circumstances surrounding Kannada director Guruprasad's demise. The director, who had recently remarried, was reportedly experiencing financial troubles, including suspicions of unpaid purchases. Guruprasad was not only a director but also acted in several films and was working on his latest project, Adema, when he passed away.

**Former Tamil Nadu Chief Secy Shankar Passes Away :-**

P. Shankar, former Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary, died in a Chennai hospital after a brief illness. He was 81. He has held the position for a brief time, from 2001 to 2002. Shankar was the younger sibling of P. Murari, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official and Principal Secretary to the President. Shankar was born in Chennai on August 20, 1943, and earned his post-graduate degree in Economics from RKM Vivekananda College. He joined the IAS in July 1966. In September 2002, Shankar was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner, a position he held till 2006.

**Music Legend Quincy Jones Dies At 91 :-**

Quincy Jones, a music giant who collaborated with Michael Jackson and Frank Sinatra, died at the age of 91, Variety reported. During his 70-year career, he received 28 Grammy Awards. Quincy had some amazing accomplishments to his name. He also produced the soundtrack for the 1969 picture The Italian Job, starring Michael Caine. His 1990 record Back on the Block earned him six of his 27 Grammy Awards, and he was named Producer of the Year three times. He is best known for his production collaborations with the pop icon Michael Jackson, which started in 1979 with the singer's solo album Off the Wall.



Folk Singer Sharda Sinha Passes Away At 72:-

Sharda Sinha, known for her heartfelt Chhath songs, died after suffering multiple myeloma, a kind of blood disease, for many years. She was 72. Sharda Sinha has been a musical veteran since the 1970s, making significant contributions to Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Hindi folk music. In 2018, she received the Padma Bhushan for her efforts in regional film, as well as a National Film Award. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences on the passing of legendary folk singer Sharda Sinha.



The first Miss World, Kiki Hakansson passes away at 95

Kiki Hakansson, the very first Miss World, died quietly at the age of 95. She died in her sleep at home in California. The news was made via the official Miss World Instagram account. Kiki Hakansson, born in Sweden, made history in 1951 when she was crowned Miss World at the first Miss World competition, held in London. Held on July 29, 1951, at the Lyceum Ballroom, the pageant was initially conceived as a one-time event tied to the Festival of Britain. However, the contest went on to become a global institution, and Kiki's victory marked the beginning of the Miss World legacy.



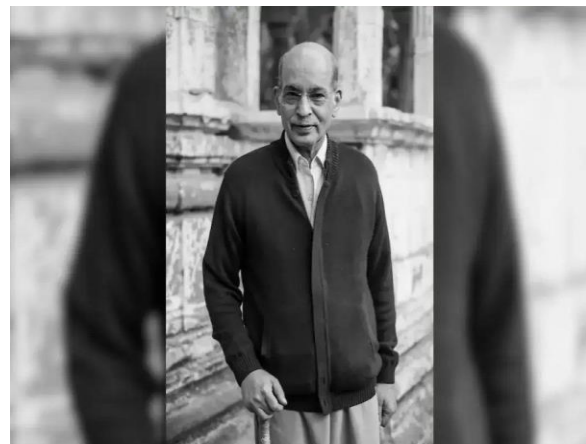
'Candyman' actor Tony Todd passes away at 69 :-

Tony Todd, best known for his appearances in Final Destination and Candyman, died at the age of 69. He died in his Los Angeles home. According to Deadline, his representative confirmed the news, but did not reveal the cause of his death. Tony Todd, who was born in Washington, D.C. in 1954 and raised in Connecticut, has a legacy of over 240 film and television credits. He is best remembered for his portrayal of Daniel Robitaille, aka Candyman, in the 1992 horror film and its 2021 sequel.



Freedom Fighter Madan Mohan Somtiya Dies At 102 :-

Freedom fighter Madan Mohan Somtiya, a Mewar Praja Mandal warrior who played a significant role in India's freedom struggle, died at the age of 102 in a hospital in Rajasthan's Rajsamand region. Somtiya was born on September 14, 1922, to middle-class parents Ramkrishna Jat and Nanaki Bai. Somtiya's son, Yogesh Kumar Chaudhary, stated that his father had been imprisoned several times throughout the liberation movement. Mewar Praja Mandal was established in April 1938 and Somtiya was about 15 years old at that time.



Mahendra Singh Mewar, descendant of Maharana Pratap, dies at 83 :-

Mahendra Singh Mewar, a famous member of the Mewar royal family and former Member of Parliament from Chittorgarh, died at the age of 83. Mewar, the father-in-law of Rajsamand MP Mahima Kumari and Nathdwara MLA Vishwajit Singh, was an honored figure whose death sparked widespread mourning in the region. He was elected to the Lok Sabha as a BJP candidate from the Chittorgarh constituency in 1989. Mahendra Singh Mewar was a descendant of Maharana Pratap, the 16th-century Rajput ruler of Mewar who reigned until his death in 1597.



Veteran Tamil Actor Delhi Ganesh Passes Away At 80 In Chennai :-

Delhi Ganesh, a renowned Tamil actor and former Indian Air Force officer, was cremated with full Air Force honors in Chennai on Monday, November 11. The 80-year-old actor died on November 9th, due to problems from his advanced age. Delhi Ganesh, known for his decades-long contribution to Tamil cinema, began his career as an officer in the Indian Air Force before moving on to acting. The veteran actor's stage name, Delhi Ganesh, was given by filmmaker K Balachander, who gave him his first break in 1976 with Pattina Pravesam.



Former UK Deputy PM John Prescott Passes Away :-

John Prescott, Britain's former Deputy Prime Minister and an influential figure in the Labour Party, has passed away at 86. Known for his commitment to social justice, Prescott championed the cause of the working class and played a crucial role in shaping policies during Tony Blair's government. His career spanned decades, earning him respect as a steadfast advocate for equality and fairness.



UK's John Tinniswood, World's Oldest Man, Passes Away at 112 :-

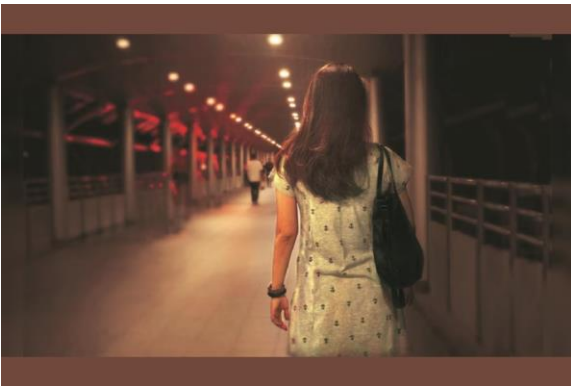
Briton John Tinniswood, the world's oldest man, died at 112 years old in a care home in Southport, northwest England, according to his family via Guinness World Records. Tinniswood was born in Liverpool on August 26, 1912. He died quietly. He became the world's oldest man in April 2023, when Venezuelan Juan Vicente Perez died at the age of 114. Having lived through monumental events such as the sinking of the Titanic and both World Wars, Tinniswood attributed his remarkable longevity to "pure luck."

13: Ranks & Reports



Lahore Declared the Most Polluted City in the World Again :-

Lahore has once again acquired the dreadful title of the world's most polluted city, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching a record 708. PM2.5 readings were $431 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 86 times higher than the World Health Organization's recommended yearly limit. The city's pollution crisis, caused by unrestrained vehicular emissions, antiquated industrial practices, and weak environmental policies, has resulted in a deadly smog that lingers year-round, indicating widespread environmental mismanagement.



Greenpeace Report: 77% of Women Feel Unsafe on Delhi Buses After Dark:-

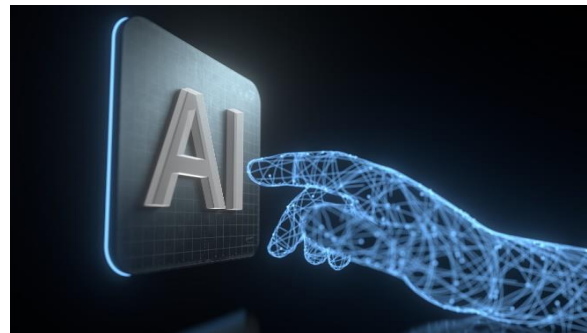
According to a new Greenpeace India survey, 77% of women feel insecure on Delhi buses after dark, despite the success of the city government's fare-free bus travel plan, which has handed over 100 million 'Pink Tickets' to women since October 2019. This plan has been praised for making public transportation more accessible to

women by allowing them to ride Delhi's buses for free, promoting financial independence. In fact, 75% of surveyed women noted significant financial savings thanks to the scheme.



Guinness Records Set in Ayodhya Over 25 lakhs Diyas on Deepotsav 2024 :-

During this year's Diwali celebrations in Ayodhya, two Guinness World Records were set for lighting and devotional practices. Over 25 lakh (2.5 million) traditional oil lamps, or diyas, were illuminated alongside the riverbanks, and 1,121 persons performed the aarti process together, an unprecedented occurrence in the city's annual Deepotsav. The record-breaking events took held on 55 ghats, including the popular Ram ki Paidi. Drones were deployed to verify the impressive scale of the display, capturing the precise count of lamps along the Saryu river, which serves as a significant landmark in Ayodhya.



Top Countries in AI Preparedness Index 2023-24 :-

In a spectacular literary debut, teenage poet Prosenjit Nath of Silchar has issued his first poetry collection,

"Yeast of Eden." This potential new voice in poetry has already received substantial notice, with the book's blurb written by renowned multilingual poet K. Satchidanandan, a Sahitya Akademy awardee and president of the Kerala Sahitya Akademy. In his synopsis, he stated that Prosenjit's work in this collection demonstrates his ability to articulate poetry while also reflecting the diverse variety of themes, moods, and emotions that the poet explores.



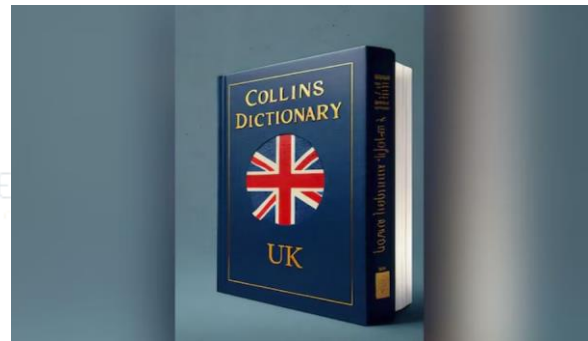
Jeff Bezos becomes world's second richest man after Amazon stock prices jump by 7% :-

Jeff Bezos, the creator of Amazon, has sold another significant portion of the company's stock. According to a recent regulatory filing (viewed by GeekWire), Bezos sold more than \$3 billion worth of Amazon stock. With the latest stock transaction, he has now sold nearly \$13 billion in Amazon stock this year. Amazon's stock price increased by 7% this week following the release of its third-quarter results report, which exceeded market forecasts. The surge in Amazon's stock price has also boosted the net worth of founder Jeff Bezos, who currently ranks second (after X owner Elon Musk and before Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg) on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index with a net worth of \$222 billion.



UPI Transactions Reach Record High in October with Rs 23.5 Trillion in Value :-

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has continued to develop, with October seeing its biggest transaction volume and value to date. Based on data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI handled 16.58 billion transactions worth Rs 23.5 lakh crore last month. This jump in UPI transactions represents a 10% increase in volume and a 14% increase in value over September, according to NPCI data reported by IANS. Daily UPI transactions also reached new highs, exceeding 535 million in volume and Rs 75,801 crore in value.



Collins Dictionary Names "Brat" 2024 Word of the Year

"Brat," inspired by Charli XCX's album of the same name, has been named the Collins English Dictionary's 2024 Word of the Year. The dictionary defines the adjective "brat" as "characterized by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude." Charli XCX's "Brat" album, released in June, has taken the world by storm, with the vivid "brat green" color dominating summer clothing and the "Apple Dance" trending on social media. The album was ranked No. 13 on the Billboard Top 200 chart on 01 November, and in June, "Brat" ranked as the top Dance/Electronic Album, according to Billboard.



Significant Rise Himalayan Glacial Lakes Increase 10.81% from 2011 to 2024 :-

The Himalayan glacier lakes are quickly expanding, posing a growing hazard to humans and ecosystems. Between 2011 and 2024, the surface area of these lakes increased by 10.81%, mostly due to climate change. The situation is even more urgent in India, where glacial lakes expanded by 33.7% during the same time period, according to a Central Water Commission (CWC) assessment. This dramatic growth heightens the risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), which could have catastrophic consequences for downstream regions.



India Becomes Second Largest Smartphone Market by Unit Volume in Q3 2024 :-

Counterpoint Research believes that India's smartphone industry would be the second largest in the world by unit volume and the third largest by value in the third quarter (Q3) of calendar year (CY) 2024. In Q3 smartphone shipments, India accounted for 15.5% of global shipments, trailing only China, which led with 22%. The US followed India with a 12 per cent share. By value, India ranked third, holding around 12.3 per cent of the market in Q3 CY 2024, up from 12.1 per cent in the same quarter last year.



India's patent filings double in five years, country now ranks 6th globally :-

According to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) 2024 report, India has made great progress in the global intellectual property (IP) landscape, ranking among the top ten countries for patents, trademarks, and industrial design. India now ranks sixth in the world with 64,480 patent applications, with more than half (55.2%) coming from domestic applicants—a first for the country. Furthermore, India granted 149.4% more patents in 2023 compared to the previous year, underscoring the rapid expansion of its IP ecosystem.



Public Sector Banks Post Strong H1 FY25 Growth, Driven by Reforms and Technology :-

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India performed well in the first half of fiscal year 2024-25, with aggregate business growing by 11% year on year (YoY). This accomplishment is attributable to comprehensive banking reforms implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, which aim to improve and streamline India's banking industry. PSBs are making strides in digital innovation by adopting cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain, and cloud computing.



WPI Inflation Soars to 4-Month High of 2.36% in October Amid Surge in Food Prices :-

Wholesale price inflation reached a four-month high of 2.36 percent in October, as food costs, particularly vegetables, and manufactured products surged, according to official statistics. The wholesale pricing index (WPI)-based inflation rate was 1.84 percent in September 2024. It was (-)0.26% in October last year. According to the report, food inflation reached 13.54 percent in October, up from 11.53 percent in September. This was led by 63.04 per cent inflation in vegetables, as against 48.73 per cent in September.



Shanghai, Tokyo, New York, and Houston Leading Emitters of Greenhouse Gases :-

A new dataset revealed at the United Nations climate negotiations shows that cities in Asia and the United States are the top producers to greenhouse gas emissions. Shanghai leads the list of polluted cities, closely followed by Tokyo, New York, and Houston. Climate Trace's data, produced utilizing enhanced observations and artificial intelligence, emphasizes the urgent need for global action to prevent climate change. Earth's total greenhouse gas emissions rose to 61.2 billion metric tons in 2023, a 0.7% increase from the previous year.



WHO Reports Highlight Challenges in Malaria Eradication :-

A recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized the persistent challenges in eliminating malaria, particularly in regions with limited healthcare infrastructure. Emerging issues such as drug resistance and climate change have further complicated eradication efforts. WHO called for increased investments in innovative treatments and vaccines, alongside community-based interventions like insecticide-treated nets. Despite setbacks, the global malaria death toll has steadily declined over the years, reflecting progress through coordinated international efforts and advancements in diagnostic tools.



S&P Global Revises India's GDP and Inflation Projections :-

S&P Global Ratings maintained India's GDP prediction for the current fiscal year 2024-25 at 6.8 percent, but reduced economic growth forecasts for the next two years. The global rating agency estimated India's GDP at 6.7% in 2025-26 and 6.8% in 2026-27, down 20 basis points (100 basis points equals 1 percentage point) from earlier predictions. The rating agency predicted a 7% growth rate for India in 2027-28. "In India we see GDP growth easing to 6.8 per cent this fiscal year (2024-25) as high interest rates and a lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand," said S&P Global Ratings.

14: Schemes & Committees



Namo Drone Didi Scheme Empowers Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) :-

The Indian Government has introduced the 'Namo Drone Didi' scheme, a unique initiative under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) aimed at empowering Women Self Help Groups (SHGs). This scheme provides drones to SHG members, offering training on how to operate them for agricultural purposes, land mapping, and other activities that can boost rural livelihoods. With a substantial budget allocation, the initiative aims to create new income opportunities for women and support sustainable economic development in rural areas, positioning SHGs as vital contributors to India's technological advancement in agriculture and resource management.



India Commits to 30% Protected Areas in Updated Biodiversity Plan :-

India has pledged to a UN agency to increase its budgetary assistance for biodiversity conservation by 2.5 times over the following six years, with the goal of converting at least 30% of its degraded land and sea

areas into habitats for wildlife. The aim was noted in the newest national biodiversity strategy and action plan, which was issued on the sidelines of the 16th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Columbia. Between 2017 and 2022, the Union government on an average spent over Rs 33,200 crore every year on biodiversity conservation.



MP government rolls out 35% reservation for women in state job openings :-

In a crucial move, the Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved a proposal to boost women's reservation in state government services from 33% to 35%. The decision was made during a cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla stated that the cabinet has resolved to raise the upper age restriction for recruiting associate professors in medical institutes from 40 to 50 years. Shukla said the decision will be implemented in all recruitments done through the state Public Service Commission and the Employees Selection Board.



Australia to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16 :-

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that the government would pass legislation prohibiting

children under the age of 16 from using social media, claiming that this is a world-leading policy. Legislation will be tabled in parliament this year, and it will take effect 12 months after lawmakers ratify it, he said. According to Communications Minister Michelle Rowland, impacted sites would include Meta sites' Instagram and Facebook, as well as Bytedance's TikTok and Elon Musk's X. Alphabet's YouTube would likely also fall within the scope of the legislation, she added.



Health ministry Launches new Scheme to Boost Medical Device Industry :-

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda announced the "Strengthening the Medical Device Industry" initiative, giving Rs 500 crore to improve important parts of the sector. The initiative focuses on the production of critical components and accessories, skill development, clinical study assistance, the development of shared infrastructure, and overall industry promotion. Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister described the scheme as a potential game changer that would not only strengthen the industry but also mark a significant step towards India's self-reliance.



Govt. Invites Proposals for Green Hydrogen Excellence Centers :-

The government has sought applications to establish a center of excellence through the National Green

Hydrogen Mission's Research and Development (R&D) Scheme. The goal is to build Centres of Excellence (CoE) to foster innovation and promote sustainability, resulting in long-term energy independence, according to a statement from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). These CoEs will accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy by advancing green hydrogen production, storage and utilisation technologies, it added.



Amit Shah Greenlights Rs. 725.62 Crore for Fire Services Expansion :-

A high-level committee led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved three projects totaling Rs 725.62 crore for the expansion and modernization of fire services in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal. According to an official announcement, the committee authorized Rs 376.76 crore for West Bengal, Rs 201.10 crore for Odisha, and Rs 147.76 crore for Chhattisgarh as part of the 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services' across the states. The high-level committee comprised of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Vice Chairman NITI Aayog Suman K Bery as members.



New Bike Taxi Service by Delhi Metro Includes Women-Driven Rides :-

Delhi Metro users may now book bike taxis directly from the official DMRC mobile app, DMRC Momentum (Delhi Sarthi 2.0), removing the need to utilize different apps. Dr. Vikas Kumar, DMRC's Managing Director, unveiled this new function. The service provides two types of bike taxis: SHERYDS, created exclusively for women, and RYDR, open to all riders. This initiative is tailored to meet the unique needs of female metro riders, providing a safer and more convenient travel option. It allows women to travel independently while ensuring their safety and comfort.



Clean Ganga mission to start special Dolphin Ambulance :-

Cleaning the Ganga entails protecting its unique biodiversity, particularly its endangered inhabitants, dolphins. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the primary organization responsible for cleaning the sacred river, plans to launch a special Dolphin Ambulance to rescue injured aquatic animals. Ganga Dolphins, India's national aquatic mammal, can also be found in the rivers of Bangladesh and Nepal. Under the ambitious project approved for conservation of the Ganga River Dolphin, a specialised vehicle will be developed to assist dolphins in distress.



Govt Should Include Coking Coal in Critical Minerals List: NITI Aayog :-

According to a Niti Aayog report, the government must add coking coal to the list of critical minerals and offer special dispensation to increase domestic production of the main raw material for steel manufacture. According to the report 'Enhancing Domestic Coking Coal Availability to Reduce Coking Coal Imports', given India's commitment to Net Zero by 2070, the country's interests would be better served by fully utilising India's proved reserves of medium coking coal (16.5 billion tonnes) for metallurgical purposes.



Over 50 nations endorse Baku declaration on climate action in tourism :-

In a historic move, the UN Climate Change COP29 has included tourism on its action agenda, with over 50 states signing the COP29 Declaration on Enhanced Climate Action in Tourism. This ground-breaking effort, sponsored by Azerbaijan's COP29 Presidency, aspires to convert the global tourism industry into one that is climate resilient and low-carbon. With its tourism declaration, the COP29 Presidency is focused on supporting the tourism sector, a key economic driver, in adopting sustainable practices to reduce its environmental impact.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches 'Nayi Chetna' Campaign Against Gender Violence :-

According to Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Nayi Chetna initiative aims to aid women in every hamlet by forming self-help organizations to combat gender abuse. He emphasized the need of women speaking up in the face of violence. The goals of Nayi Chetna 3.0 include promoting awareness about all forms of gender-based violence, encouraging communities to speak up and demand action, giving access to support networks for immediate aid, and empowering local institutions to take decisive action against violence.



Cabinet Approves 'One Nation One Subscription' Scheme :-

The Cabinet has authorized the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS), which will provide students, faculty, and researchers from all higher education institutions managed by the central and state governments, as well as research and development institutions, with access to worldwide scholarly research articles and journal publications. According to an announcement from the Ministry of Education, the initiative will benefit nearly 1.8 crore students, educators, researchers, and scientists across all disciplines. The government further said that access to journals will be provided through a national subscription coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET).



Delhi Govt Launches Portal for Old-Age Pension Scheme

Residents 60 years of age and beyond can now get monthly financial assistance under the Delhi government's Senior Citizen Pension Scheme. Over 10,000 applications were received on the first day of the program, indicating a high level of demand for the aid. Under the program, the state created 80,000 more registration spots for senior persons. Seniors 60 to 69 years old will earn ₹2,000 per month under the program, while those 70 and above will receive ₹2,500. Additional benefits are available for applicants from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and minority communities.



'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' Campaign Launched by Union Minister :-

Annapurna Devi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, launched the "Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign". The government launched Beti Bachao Beti Padhao [rescue girls, educate girls] ten years ago in an effort to change how society perceives girls. This growth reflects a shift in attitudes about the value of the girl child. At the portal's inauguration, Devi stated, "The next step is to clear the way for her to fulfill all of her goals and not allow customs like child marriage to impede her potential development."

15: Science & Technology



China Launches New Crew to Expand Space Station Operations :-

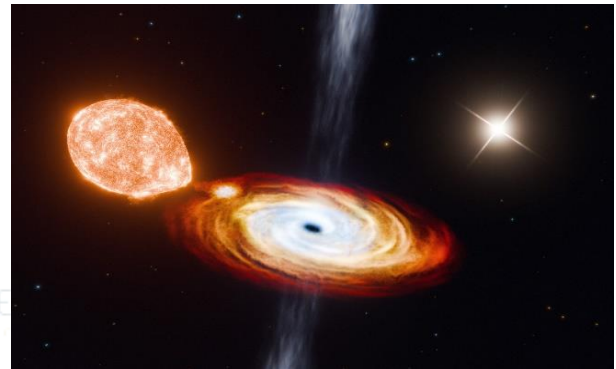
China successfully launched its spacecraft, sending three astronauts, including the country's first female space engineer, on a six-month mission to fine-tune its low-orbiting space station. A Long March-2F carrier rocket launched the crewed spaceship Shenzhou-19 from northwest China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre. China constructed its space station after being purportedly barred from the International Space Station (ISS) due to worries that China's space program is manned by its military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA). It is currently the only country to have a space station.



India's first 'Make in India' C-295 transport aircraft to roll out in September 2026 :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sánchez inaugurated India's first private military aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, marking a watershed moment in the country's defense industry environment. The opening marks a significant shift toward increasing self-reliance in military production, consistent with the Centre's 'Make in India'

strategy. The facility will primarily focus on the assembly of the Airbus C-295 aircraft, which is set to enhance the capabilities of the Indian Air Force (IAF) while fostering indigenous manufacturing. The facility is expected to become operational by November this year, with the first indigenously manufactured C-295 projected to roll out by September 2026.



Scientists Discover First Black Hole Triple System :-

In a landmark discovery, a team of scientists has identified a unique "black hole triple" system, the first of its kind to be documented. This extraordinary system consists of three black holes orbiting each other in complex gravitational interactions, located roughly 8,000 light years from Earth in a remote constellation. The discovery was made using advanced space observatories that can detect and study high-energy phenomena far beyond our galaxy. This configuration provides new insights into black hole formation, interaction, and the nature of gravity, which could help deepen our understanding of cosmic evolution and high-energy astrophysics.



Discovery of Lost Mayan City in Mexico Using Advanced LiDAR Technology :-

In an exciting archaeological discovery, scientists have used LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to uncover a lost Mayan city hidden beneath the dense vegetation of the Mexican jungle. This groundbreaking technology allowed researchers to detect ancient structures obscured by the forest canopy, revealing a network of pyramids, temples, and residential buildings from the ancient Mayan civilization. The discovery sheds light on Mayan urban planning and architectural prowess, adding to our understanding of their society and cultural heritage. This find is expected to pave the way for further studies in the field of remote sensing and archaeology.



ISRO Begins Groundbreaking Analogue Space Mission in Leh :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the country's first analog space mission near Leh, Ladakh, where the agency will replicate life in an interplanetary habitat. The move has significance since India intends to send a human to the Moon in the near future. Analog space missions are field tests conducted in regions on Earth that have physical parallels to harsh space settings, and they play an important role in spaceflight problem resolution. The month-long mission comes in the wake of India's plans to set up lunar habitats, which could provide a base to launch interplanetary missions.



ISRO to Launch EU's Proba-3 Satellite in December:-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the European Union's Proba 3 Sun Observation Mission in December, according to Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh. The Proba-3 satellite, which docked at Sriharikota, was designed to observe the Sun's weak corona. This mission is India's third launch for the European Union, following support for the Proba-1 and



NSE Launches Multilingual Mobile App and Website :-

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched its mobile application, NSEIndia, and expanded its website support to eleven regional languages, making financial data available to investors across India. The website now offers twelve languages, including Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu, in addition to the previous selections of English, Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati. This enables NSE to connect with investors across different regions and linguistic communities, promoting wider participation in financial markets.

Proba-2 satellites, but it stands out since it focuses on solar observation. He also added that India aims at increasing its contribution to the global space economy from 2% to 10%.



Zimbabwe Launches ZIMSAT-2 to Advance Space Programme :-

Zimbabwe launched its second satellite, ZIMSAT-2, from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome, marking a significant milestone in the country's expanding space programme. This satellite, outfitted with a high-resolution multispectral camera, will help with agriculture, resource exploration, environmental monitoring, and disaster management. ZIMSAT-2, a low-earth observation satellite, was launched onboard the Soyuz-2.1 spacecraft in a collaborative effort by Zimbabwe's National Geo-Spatial and Space Agency (ZINGSA) and Southwest State University in Russia..



Bengaluru Unveils First Digital Population Clock at ISEC

Bengaluru City's first digital population clock, which will display real-time population figures for Karnataka and the country, was launched at the city's Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC). The population clock, a project undertaken jointly by ISEC and the Union

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), would update the estimated Karnataka population every one minute and ten seconds, and the country's population every two seconds. It has been set up at the entrance of ISEC with the objective of creating awareness about the population growth of the country and providing authentic data for researchers and scholars.



Rare H5 Bird Flu Case Found in Canadian Patient in B.C, Canada :-

Canada recently identified its first suspected human H5 bird flu infection. British Columbia (BC) confirmed the case after a teenager tested positive for avian influenza induced by the H5 influenza virus, according to an official statement posted on the western province's website. The teenager, who is believed to be sick, comes from the Fraser Health region and is currently receiving treatment at BC Children's Hospital. The positive test for H5 was conducted at the BC Centre for Disease Control's Public Health Laboratory, per the statement.



New Fire-Resilient, Dual-Blooming Plant Species Discovered in Western Ghats :-

A novel fire-resistant dual blooming species with a burst of flowering driven by grassland fires and an inflorescence structure unique to Indian species has

been identified in the Western Ghats, which is known to harbor numerous yet-to-be-discovered species. Dr. Mandar Datar's team, which included Talegaon-Dabhade botanist Aditya Dharap and Ph.D. student Bhushan Shigwan, recently discovered a new species in the genus *Dicliptera*, which they named *Dicliptera polymorpha*. The species was collected from Talegaon-Dabhade, which is known region for its grasslands and fodder markets.



IIT Madras, ISRO Collaborate on Spacecraft Thermal Research Centre :-

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to establish a new Centre of Excellence focused on "Fluid and Thermal Sciences." With an initial seed financing of Rs 1.84 crore from ISRO, the Centre would serve as a critical base for thermal management research, focusing on solutions for spacecraft and launch vehicles. The new Centre will concentrate on research related to spacecraft thermal management, combustion instability in hybrid rockets, and cryo-tank thermodynamics.



C-295 Full Motion Simulator Inaugurated at Air Force Station Agra :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has opened a full motion simulator (FMS) facility at Air Force Station Agra to train

and support its pilots on the newly imported medium tactical transport platform, Airbus C-295. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, the OC-in-C of Central Air Command, opened the facility. The complex simulator allows pilots to train in a near-realistic environment by modeling operations such as tactical shift, paradropping, paratrooping, medical evacuation, and disaster relief. This cutting-edge facility will substantially enhance the operational capability of the C-295 fleet.



SpaceX to Launch India's Communication Satellite GSAT-20 :-

SpaceX, the American aerospace corporation run by Elon Musk, will launch one of India's largest communication satellites, the GSAT-20, weighing 4,700 kg. SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket was chosen for its ability to transport payloads weighing up to 8.3 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit (GTO). This alliance is a departure for Isro, which has traditionally relied on its LVM-3 launcher, which can lift satellites weighing up to 4 tonnes to GTO. Owned and operated by New Space India Ltd, Isro's commercial arm, GSAT-20 — also known as GSAT N-2 — will enhance India's communication infrastructure.



India Leads Global Initiative on AI Ethics for Responsible Innovation :-

India has emerged as a key global leader in shaping ethical frameworks for artificial intelligence (AI) deployment. At an international tech summit, India introduced a pioneering initiative aimed at addressing concerns surrounding AI's impact on society, including issues like bias, transparency, and accountability. The initiative encourages global collaboration to ensure AI development aligns with human values, focusing on sectors like healthcare, education, and governance. With this, India aims to position itself not only as an innovator in AI but also as a thought leader in establishing a regulatory framework to govern its responsible use.



ISRO and ASA Collaborate for Gaganyaan Mission :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has joined forces with the Australian Space Agency (ASA) to advance the Gaganyaan mission, India's first crewed spaceflight initiative. The agreement, finalized on November 20, 2024, marks a significant milestone in international cooperation for space exploration. Australia will provide ground support for tracking and data relay, leveraging its state-of-the-art facilities to ensure mission success. This partnership highlights ISRO's commitment to fostering global alliances and technological excellence as India takes a giant leap in human spaceflight.



IISc Develops STRONG Language for Nanopore Research :-

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has unveiled STRONG (STring Representation Of Nanopore Geometry), an innovative computational language for analyzing nanopores' shapes and structures. This breakthrough enables researchers to simulate and study the behavior of nanopores, paving the way for advancements in materials science, biotechnology, and nanomedicine. The development of STRONG underscores India's leadership in cutting-edge research and its potential applications in DNA sequencing, drug delivery, and molecular sensing.



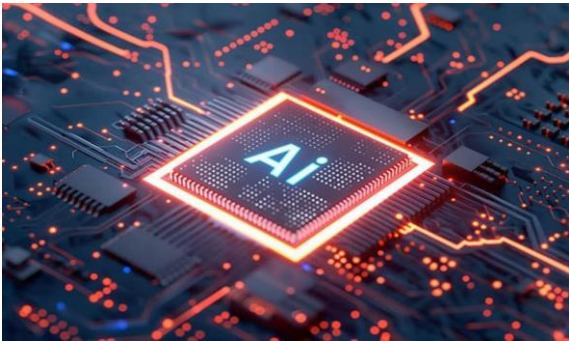
Prehistoric Footprints Discovered in Kerala :-

A stunning archaeological discovery has been made at Kanhirapoi in Madikkai panchayat, where 24 pairs of prehistoric footprints and a human figure were unearthed etched into rock on private property. Experts believe these engravings date back to the Megalithic period and provide an intriguing peek into ancient culture. The find was first reported by local archaeology enthusiast Satheesan Kaliyanam, following which archaeologist Professor Ajith Kumar and history Professor Nandakumar Korothe confirmed its significance during a site visit.



Raorchestes asakrensis: New Frog Species Discovered in Meghalaya :-

A two-year investigation in Meghalaya by scientists from SACON (The Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History) in Anaikatti resulted in the discovery of a new frog species. They named the species 'Raorchestes asakrensis' after the Eman Asakgre Community Reserve in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, where it was discovered, to commemorate the people who helped them. The team, consisting of R S Naveen, S R Chandramouli, S Babu, PV karunakaran and HN Kumara, conducted surveys at 13 sites in the Garo and Khasi Hills between October 2020 and January 2022.



Canara HSBC Life Unveils OmniGen AI :-

Canara HSBC Life Insurance is transforming the future of underwriting with the debut of OmniGen AI, a first-of-its-kind 'Generative AI-driven solution' built on Amazon Web Services (AWS). Using cutting-edge technology, this solution will serve as a co-pilot for underwriters, consuming various dimensions and attributes of bundled

information such as underwriting guidelines, underwriting manual, risk profile attributes required to make precise underwriting decisions, and risk model output to provide quick and accurate decisions with rationale and references to the underwriting manual.



TakeMe2Space set to launch India's first AI laboratory in space :-

TakeMe2Space, a Hyderabad-based space technology startup, has announced the upcoming launch of MOI-TD (My Orbital Infrastructure - Technology Demonstrator), India's inaugural lab in space. The project will show real-time data processing in orbit, making space research more economical and accessible. The launch is slated for mid-December 2024, using ISRO's PSLV C60 launch vehicle. The IN-SPACe Technical Centre assisted the testing and assessment of the MOI-TD platform. TakeMe2Space plans to continue leveraging these resources for all future missions, building on their successful collaboration.

16: Sports



Ravindra Jadeja Climbs to 5th Spot in India's Test Wicket List :-

Ravindra Jadeja ended up being the fifth-highest Indian wicket-taker in Test cricket on the opening day of India's third match against New Zealand in Mumbai, passing Ishant Sharma and Zaheer Khan. Ishant had 311 wickets in 188 innings, whereas Zaheer had the same total in 165 innings. The speed pair tied for fifth place on the list of most wickets by an Indian bowler. Jadeja overtook them and is behind only Anil Kumble, R. Ashwin, Kapil Dev and

Harbhajan Singh. During the innings, Jadeja also overtook West Indies bowler Lance Gibbs (309) to become the eighth-highest wicket-taker among spinners.



Ind vs NZ 3rd Test: New Zealand scripts history as India suffers Test series whitewash :-

India faced the humiliation of being whitewashed at home for the first time in more than 24 years, dropping the third Test against New Zealand by 25 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on November 3. This is the first time India has been whitewashed 0-3 in a home Test series, and New Zealand is the first team to do so. The New Zealanders won the first Test in Bengaluru by eight wickets and the second in Pune by 113 runs. New Zealand's maiden series triumph in India going back to 1955 also snapped the hosts' home streak of 18 straight series triumphs since a 2-1 loss to England in 2012.



Wriddhiman Saha Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket :-

Wriddhiman Saha, a veteran India wicketkeeper-batsman, has announced his retirement from cricket after a more than 15-year career. Saha, 40, took to social media to announce that the current Ranji Trophy season will be his last. Since his international debut in 2010, the Bengal stumper has played 40 Tests and nine ODIs.

Wriddhiman Saha's career began with Bengal's Ranji Trophy team, when he replaced Deep Dasgupta, and he scored a century on debut in 2007. In Test cricket, he has played 40 matches, scoring 1,353 runs with an average of 29.41 and a highest score of 117, including three centuries.



Boxer Mandeep Jangra claims WBF world title :-

In boxing, Indian fighter Mandeep Jangra won the World Boxing Federation's Super Featherweight world title in the Cayman Islands. He defeated Britain's Conor McIntosh 10-0 in a decision that was unanimous. Mandeep became the first Indian pugilist to win a world championship in any professional boxing event category. Mandeep, who won a Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow edition, has faced only one defeat in his professional career so far. He has won 11 out of his 12 fights with seven being knockout victories.



4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament Inaugurated in Ladakh :-

Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, launched the 4th LG Horse Polo Cup 2024 at Goshan Drass' Horse Polo Ground. During the event, he also unveiled Ladakh's first Polo Stadium at Goshan Drass, a landmark facility built for 6.84 crore rupees. This

tournament demonstrates Ladakh's commitment to preserve its polo history and improving sports infrastructure for local talent and tourists alike. He assured the community that next year's tournament will be even bigger, with plans to invite the President or Vice President of India to witness the event taking the event at the national level.



Arjun Erigaisi makes history by climbing to No. 2 on FIDE World Chess Rankings :-

Arjun Erigaisi, India's emerging chess star, has made history by rising to No. 2 in the FIDE World Chess Rankings with an astonishing third-round win over Alexey Sarana at the Chennai Grand Masters. This astounding accomplishment is the latest step in the 21-year-old's rapid career. Erigaisi's victory over Sarana not only increased his ranking, but also drove him to the top of the Masters category, where he is now tied with Iranian grandmaster Amin Tabatabaei after three rounds of tough battle.



Mohammad Nabi to Retire from ODI Cricket After ICC Champions Trophy 2025 :-

Afghanistan's great allrounder Mohammad Nabi will retire from the ODI format following the conclusion of next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan. The 39-year-old is the biggest player on Afghanistan's white-ball

teams. He appeared in their maiden ODI, scoring a half-century on debut against Scotland in 2009. Over 165 One-Day Internationals, he scored 3,549 runs at an average of 27.30 and grabbed 171 wickets. In the opening game of the ongoing three-match ODI series against Bangladesh in Sharjah, Nabi scored an impressive 82, helping his team set a competitive total, which they successfully defended with Allah Ghazanfar's six-wicket haul.



IND beat SA by 135 runs to win series 3-1 in Johannesburg :-

India delivered a record-breaking performance to cap a brilliant T20I tour of South Africa. Opting to bat, India scored a mammoth 283 for 1, owing to unbroken centuries from Tilak Varma (120 not out off 47 balls) and Sanju Samson (109 not out off 56 balls), before bowling South Africa out for 148 in 18.2 overs. Tristan Stubbs led South Africa in scoring with 46, while David Miller added 36. For India, pacer Arshdeep Singh was the most successful bowler with figures of 3/20 while Varun Chakravarthy (2/42) and Axar Patel (2/6) got two wickets each.



FIFA unveils NASA-inspired golden Club World Cup trophy :-

FIFA introduced a golden trophy designed in partnership with Tiffany & Co. for the disputed and recently expanded Club World Cup. The trophy, which has a 24-carat gold-plated finish, will be lifted by the tournament's victors in the United States next year. And, despite vehement opposition from players' unions and leagues, FIFA obviously sees a long-term future for the event, with the award giving room to engrave the winning teams' symbols for the next 96 years. It added the trophy drew inspiration from "NASA's Voyager deep-space missions in the 1970s, the periodic table, maps of pioneering journeys and astronomy."



Jyothi Surekha Wins Gold, Abhishek Verma Takes Silver at GT Open 2024 :-

Compound archers Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma won gold and silver medals in the GT Open, the second leg of this season's Indoor Archery World Series, held in Strassen, Luxembourg. The victory comes weeks after Atanu Das won bronze in the men's recurve category at the first stage of the series, the Swiss Open in Lausanne. More than 450 competitors from over 35 nations took part in this 18-metre target circuit event. In the final, reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi prevailed over Paasmeeri Marita of Belgium 147-145.



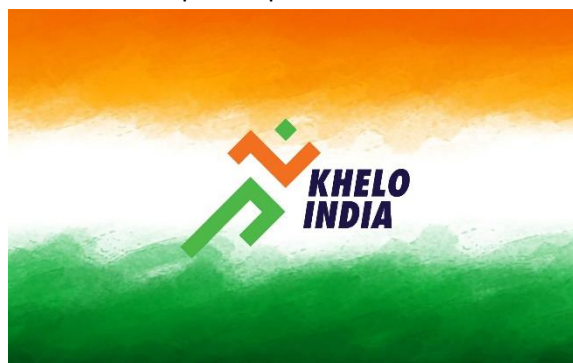
Odisha Wins Maiden Gold in 14th Senior National Hockey Championship :-

The Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Hockey Haryana to win the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship championship at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai. Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, Uttar Pradesh Hockey upset Manipur Hockey, capping off an exciting final day of competition. In a dramatic final, the Hockey Association of Odisha overcame Hockey Haryana 5-1. In the fourth quarter, Shilanand Lakra (48', 57', 60') scored three goals in the span of 12 minutes to ensure victory for the Hockey Association of Odisha.



India Dominates at the Asian Athletics Meet with Record-Breaking Wins :-

Indian athletes delivered exceptional performances at the Asian Athletics Meet 2024, securing multiple gold medals and setting new records. The standout events included golds in track disciplines like 400m hurdles and field events such as long jump and discus throw. India's medal tally underscores the success of its sports development programs, which have focused on nurturing talent through advanced training facilities, scientific coaching methods, and international exposure. As athletes continue to excel, the focus now shifts to maintaining momentum for the upcoming global athletics championships.



Bihar to Host Khelo India Youth and Para Games in 2025

In a landmark achievement, Bihar has been chosen to host the prestigious Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) and the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) in April 2025. The event will spotlight the state's growing infrastructure and administrative capability in organizing large-scale sports tournaments. It is expected to attract thousands of young athletes and para-athletes from across the country, showcasing Bihar's commitment to promoting inclusive sports and identifying talent at the grassroots level.



Italy Wins Fifth Billie Jean King Cup Title :-

Italy triumphed in the Billie Jean King Cup, defeating Slovakia 2-0 in the final held in Malaga, Spain. Jasmine Paolini led the charge with a dominant performance, winning her match 6-2, 6-1. This victory marks Italy's fifth title in the tournament's history, reinforcing its position as a powerhouse in women's tennis. The event also highlighted the growing global interest in the sport, with thrilling matches captivating audiences worldwide.



Eden Gardens Honors Jhulan Goswami with Dedicated Stand :-

The iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata will honor legendary Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami by naming a stand after her. Known as one of the greatest bowlers in women's cricket, Goswami's illustrious career includes numerous

records and accolades. The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) announced this tribute to commemorate her contributions to Indian cricket and to inspire future generations of athletes.



Alistair Brownlee Retires, Marking the End of a Glorious Era :-

Double Olympic gold medalist Alistair Brownlee, a trailblazer in British triathlon, announced his retirement at the age of 36. His stellar career included memorable victories at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympics. Brownlee's influence on the sport, marked by his sportsmanship and determination, has inspired countless athletes worldwide. His retirement marks the end of an era for the sport.



Sony Sports Secures ACC Broadcasting Rights for 2024-2031 :-

Sony Sports Network has won exclusive broadcasting rights for all Asian Cricket Council (ACC) tournaments from 2024 to 2031, including major events such as the Asia Cup. This historic partnership was announced by Jay Shah, the president-elect of the ICC and the current ACC and BCCI chief. The agreement positions Sony Sports as a premier broadcaster for cricket in Asia, highlighting its growing influence in the sports media landscape. Fans across the continent can look forward to seamless coverage of cricketing action, bolstered by Sony's

advanced production technology and commitment to expanding the sport's viewership globally.



Antonsen Triumphs at China Masters 2024 :-

Anders Antonsen defeated Jonatan Christie to become the first Danish player to take home the men's singles at the China Masters. The European champion required 51 minutes to win 21-15, 21-13 and claim his fourth BWF Tour victory of 2024, securing his position at the top of the Race to Finals standings. Christie did have some solace in that making the final in Shenzhen qualified him for the BWF Tour Finals in Huangzhou next month. Antonsen led 11-5 at the first mid-game interval with Christie sending a number of lifts beyond the baseline. The Indonesian was very much out of sorts, trying in vain to finish rallies quickly with the third seed not needing to hit outright winners.



North-East United FC Clinches Governor's Gold Cup Victory :-

The 40th Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament came to an exciting conclusion on November 24, 2024, at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. NorthEast United FC defeated Gangtok Himalayan SC in a dramatic 4-3 penalty shootout, adding another

unforgettable chapter to the tournament's history. The Governor's Gold Cup is a prominent football event known for encouraging skill and sportsmanship throughout India. The final match was the culmination of an exciting and competitive tournament, with both teams delivering outstanding performances.



Reetika Hooda Strikes Gold at World Military Championships :-

Reetika Hooda won the gold medal in the women's 76kg division at the World Military Championships, becoming only the second Indian woman to do so, which was an incredible accomplishment for Indian wrestling. This success follows Jyoti Sihag's victory in the 55kg division, which marked India's women's debut at the prestigious championship. 2024 marked the first year India sent a women's team to the World Military Championships. This follows the Armed Forces' decision to recruit sportswomen into their ranks.



13-Year-Old Vaibhav Suryavanshi Makes History as IPL's Youngest Signing :-

Vaibhav Suryavanshi of Samastipur, Bihar, made history by being the IPL's youngest player ever. In the IPL 2025 auction, he was signed by the Rajasthan Royals for ₹1.10 crore, highlighting his growing popularity in cricket. The

Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals engaged in a furious bidding battle for the player, but Rajasthan emerged triumphant. Vaibhav's career exemplifies his hard work and talent, establishing him as a rising star in Indian cricket. He also made history by becoming the youngest player to debut in the Ranji Trophy, surpassing legends like Sachin Tendulkar and Yuvraj Singh.



India's Historic Victory Over Australia: Breaking a 47-Year Record :-

India performed a powerful performance in Perth, winning the maiden Test by a stunning 295 runs, leaving Australia reeling and scrambling for explanations. Set an implausible target of 534, the world's top-ranked Test team collapsed for 238 in the final session of day four. This victory was India's largest in terms of runs on

Australian soil in Tests. India's victory in Perth ended a 47-year record. Their previous biggest win by runs in Australia was a 222-run triumph in Melbourne on 30 December 1977.



India's Divith Reddy Crowned U-8 World Champion :-

Divith Reddy, an eight-year-old from Hyderabad, added to India's increasing chess reputation by winning the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship in Montesilvano, Italy. The Telengana youngster scored an impressive 9/11 points, as did his compatriot Sattwik Swain, but the former won the gold medal because to his tiebreak score. Divith, who has a FIDE rating of 1784 points, had a three-way tie with compatriot Sattwik and Ziming Guo of China but the Telengana boy clinched the gold with a better tie-break score.

17: State



Andhra Pradesh Launches Deepam 2.0 Scheme for Clean Cooking Energy :-

In an effort to improve living conditions for women and promote clean cooking energy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has launched the Deepam 2.0 scheme in Edupuram, Srikakulam. This scheme provides free LPG cylinders to low-income households, specifically benefiting rural women who previously relied on firewood and other inefficient fuel sources. Naidu, who personally distributed the gas cylinders at the launch, emphasized the scheme's goal of improving public health and reducing environmental pollution. The initiative supports the state's broader objective of making clean cooking fuel accessible to all households by 2025.



Telangana Launches Statewide Caste Census :-

The caste census, which was one of the Congress' pre-election promises to analyze people's socioeconomic, job, political, and caste status, began in Telangana on November 6. The goal is to identify the population of each caste in order to promote social justice, as envisioned by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The state administration has created a dashboard to track the real-time development of the survey modules. In the first phase, the enumerators pasted stickers on each house using it as an identification mark to conduct the survey.



Bihar's Sultanganj Station Gets New Name Ajgaibinath Dham :-

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has stated that Sultanganj railway station in Bihar's Bhagalpur district will be renamed after the Hindu shrine Ajgaibinath Dham. Ajgaibinath Temple, an ancient shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, is located in Sultanganj and is known for its beautiful carvings and inscriptions. The temple, located on the banks of the sacred Ganga River, is of great spiritual significance to believers. This decision underscores the government's commitment to honoring the region's cultural and religious heritage.



PV Sindhu Lays Foundation for World-Class Badminton Centre in Visakhapatnam :-

PV Sindhu, an Indian badminton star and Olympic medalist, set the groundwork for the PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence. The centre is three acres in size and is located in Chinna Gadili village on the city's outskirts. The Andhra Pradesh government had granted the property in 2021. Speaking during the event, Sindhu stated that the first step toward establishing a world-class facility has been taken.. She thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Vizag Police Commissioner Dr Shanka Brata Bagchi, and District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad for their support.



Launch of Uttar Pradesh's First Double-Decker Electric Bus by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath:-

During the Aakanksha Haat programme at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled the state's first double-decker electric bus. The move intends to establish a bus service that will assist minimize traffic congestion and protect the environment in metropolitan areas. The CM also announced a 50% discount on tickets for female riders commuting on the double decker electric bus service. He additionally

announced to provide free travel facility to women in the services operated on the heritage route in the morning trip every Saturday.



Odisha's 24 Coastal Villages Recognised as 'Tsunami Ready' by UNESCO :-

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO designated 24 coastal villages in Odisha as 'Tsunami Ready'. The villages are in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam, according to the statement. Furthermore, Tsunami Ready Recognition Certificates were renewed for two villages in the state. The villages are Noliasahi in Jagatsinghpur district and Venkatraipur in Ganjam district. They were recognised as Tsunami Ready in 2020. The recognition was given during the 2nd Global Tsunami Symposium held in Indonesia.



Andhra Pradesh Assembly Approves Bill To Withdraw Garbage Tax :-

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to abolish the collecting of waste collection taxes. To this purpose, Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana introduced an Amendment Bill to Repeal the Garbage Tax in the State Legislative Assembly. The Assembly

approved it. Mr. Narayana criticised the former YSRCP government for implementing the garbage charge without consulting the people, claiming that women in some districts criticized the action. In certain areas, the drinking water supply was halted for no payment of garbage tax.



Election Results : INDIA Bloc Retains Jharkhand :-

After trailing in the early rounds, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's JMM-led INDIA bloc rallied to win 56 seats in the state's 81-member parliament. The BJP, which had a significant lead when the counting began, won 21 seats. Hemant Soren's JMM contested 41 assembly seats, with the remaining seats going to its allies: Congress (30), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) (6), and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (4). The BJP contested 68 seats, while its allies, the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) fought in 10, the Janata Dal (United) in two, and the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) in one.



Election Results : BJP-Led Mahayuti Secures Landslide Victory In Maharashtra :-

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Mahayuti coalition won a huge victory in Maharashtra, while the Jharkhand

Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led INDIA bloc reclaimed power in Jharkhand, according to the results of the assembly elections in the two states. In Maharashtra, the Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and Nationalist Congress Party won 235 of the 288 assembly seats, with the BJP alone winning 132. Shinde's Sena, a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, won 57 of the 81 seats it contested.



CM Rio Opens New Amenities at Kisama for Hornbill Fest :-

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has inaugurated different infrastructures to commemorate the 25th edition of the Hornbill Festival at Kisama, which begins on December 1. During the day, Rio unveiled the international morung, the Hornbill festival app, a dormitory for cultural troupes, a marketing complex for the handloom and artisan pavilion, a medical booth-cum-cash vending facility, and the tourism department

lounge. He said the festival is no more a Naga festival and has rather become an international event attracting tourists from all over the globe.



Gujarat Launches Cottage and Rural Industries Policy 2024-29 :-

The Gujarat government launched a new cottage and rural industries program, offering increased loans and incentives to artisans and entrepreneurs who establish businesses in the state. Balwantsinh Rajput, Minister of Cottage Industries, launched the program in Gandhinagar, claiming that it will help create approximately 12 lakh jobs over the next five years. The new policy was implemented after the former scheme's five-year validity period expired, according to an official release. Under the policy, the state will work towards the availability of credit and market support to artisans and focus on infrastructure, skill, technology upgrades and innovation, Rajput said.

18: Summits & Conferences



UN nature conference ends without agreement on finance :-

The 16th UN biodiversity discussions in Cali, Colombia, were suspended on November 2nd due to a lack of consensus on the establishment of a new fund for environmental preservation. The summit, which lasted around 12 hours longer than planned, resulted in an important agreement to form a subsidiary body that will engage indigenous peoples in future biodiversity conservation talks and decisions. The participating countries also agreed to establish a new global fund dedicated to sharing the benefits of digitally-sequenced

genetic data taken from plants and animals with the communities they come from.



First Asian Buddhist Summit to be held in Delhi on November 5-6 :-

The Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) will hold the first Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi on November 5-6. The summit's topic is "Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia." The Hon'ble President of India is anticipated to attend the ceremony as Chief Guest. Through the summit, it shall bring together Sangha leaders, scholars, experts and practitioners from various Buddhist traditions across Asia to foster dialogue, promote understanding and address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community.



ILO's 352nd Governing Body Meeting Being Held In Geneva :-

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) 352nd Governing Body meeting is taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 28 to November 7, 2024. During the first week, Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment, leads the India delegation. India praised the ILO during the October 30,

2024, discussion of the proposal for increased democratization within the ILO Governing Body, however, India also stated support for comprehensive governance reforms in other UN bodies in addition to the ILO.



Amit Shah Chairs 32nd Kendriya Hindi Samiti Meeting in New Delhi :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that a long-term program for the promotion, protection, and durability of Hindi literature and its diverse grammatical forms was required, according to a statement issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Mr. Shah was addressing at the 32nd conference of the Kendriya Hindi Samiti, the highest authority that sets criteria for the promotion and progressive usage of Hindi. The Samiti's role is to coordinate the work and programs implemented by various Ministries and departments of the government of India for the development and promotion of Hindi.



Hyderabad hosted annual cybersecurity summit to address growing cyber threats :-

The Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) held the H.A.C.K. (Hyderabad Annual Cybersecurity Knowledge)

Summit 2024 at the Park Hotel in Somajiguda. This event sought to bring together cybersecurity experts, government officials, and industry executives to address the urgent issue of cyber threats and explore ways for improving cybersecurity measures. The summit, hosted by the Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC), had the Minister for IT and Industries, D. Sridhar Babu, as chief guest, along with other prominent industry and government figures.



Indian Military Heritage Festival 2024 :-

The second edition of the annual Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) took place in New Delhi from November 8 to 9, 2024. The two-day festival intended to bring together global and Indian think tanks, corporations, public and private sector initiatives, non-profits, academics, and research researchers interested in India's national security, foreign policy, military history, and heritage. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan inaugurated the festival along with the three Service Chiefs. The inauguration of the festival also witnessed the launch of Project 'Shaurya Gatha'.



Mentoring Summit India 2024 to be launched in Bengaluru :-

Mentoring Summit India 2024, a two-day event for mentoring practitioners in India, will be held in the city

on November 13 and 14 at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC). The conference, hosted to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Mentor Together, a Bengaluru-based organization that focuses on formal youth mentoring in India, is sponsored by LinkedIn, the British Asian Trust, BT Group, the Brookings Centre for Universal Education, and the Agency Fund. Some key themes that will be addressed include mentoring and educational policy, designing quality mentoring programmes, decoding the global evidence around youth mentoring, innovations in mentoring etc.



55th International Film Festival of India :-

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which will take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, is setting up to be a cinematic extravaganza. With the theme 'Young Filmmakers - The Future is Now,' IFFI 2024 pledges to highlight the best emerging voices in film while also honoring Indian cinema's past. The Festival Director, legendary filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, revealed key elements of this year's event at a curtain-raising event at the National Media Centre (NMC) in New Delhi. The festival will feature a dazzling line-up of over 180 films from 81 countries.



5th National EMRS Fest Celebrates Tribal Heritage & Birsa Munda's Legacy:-

The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) is holding the 5th National EMRS Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav in 2024. The Odisha Model Tribal Educational Society (OMTES) will organize the major event from November 12th to 15th, 2024, at Shiksha 'O' Anusandhan at Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This year's theme of cultural fests is, "A Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda & Tribal Freedom Fighters," and it adds historical and cultural significance to the occasion, aligning with the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.



PM Modi to attend G20 Summit in Brazil, visit Nigeria and Guyana :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-nation journey from November 16 to 21, visiting Nigeria, Brazil, and Guyana to improve bilateral and multilateral ties. This tour will be historic, as PM Modi will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Nigeria in 17 years, and the first to conduct a state visit to Guyana since 1968. At the invitation of Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, PM Modi will visit Nigeria from November 16-17, engaging in high-level talks to advance the strategic partnership established in 2007 between the two nations.



Piyush Goyal launches 43rd India International Trade Fair in New Delhi :-

The 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) has started at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the 14-day event. The theme for this year's fair is Viksit Bharat @ 2047. This year's focus state is Jharkhand, and the partner states are Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. This year, 11 countries, including China, Egypt, Iran, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and the UAE, are taking part in this international event. The first five days of the fair till 18th November, will be open for business trade. Thereafter, it will be open to the general public till the 27th of November.



India Hosting Global Conference Of Cooperatives For The First Time :-

On November 25, at Bharat Mandapam in the nation's capital, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025 and the ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024. Representatives from more than 100 nations will be present at the event. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the leading organization representing the worldwide cooperative movement, is hosting both the ICA worldwide Cooperative Conference and the ICA General Assembly for the first time in its 130-year history.



RAMAN ACADEMY
"inspiring excellence"

SECTION 2

PRACTICE QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS



BY RAMAN ACADEMY



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SECTION 3

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



BY RAMAN ACADEMY

Economics

Development of Tuna Cluster in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Why in the News?

The Department of Fisheries has notified the creation of a Tuna Cluster in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as part of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

- With an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of almost 6.0 lakh square kilometres, the A&N Islands have substantial prospects for the development of fisheries.
- With a potential of 60,000 metric tonnes, this area boasts abundant marine resources, especially tuna and tuna-like species.
- The islands' proximity to Southeast Asia facilitates effective air and sea travel, while the clear waters encourage sustainable fishing.

About Tuna Species and its Significance

- Large, swift swimmers, tuna are members of the Thunnini tribe in the Scombridae family.
- Tropical and temperate oceans around the world are home to tuna, which are distinguished by their sleek bodies and exceptional agility.
- Among the more than 15 species of tuna, the Bluefin, Yellowfin, Albacore, Bigeye, and Skipjack are among the most popular.

- Tuna species like Bluefin can weigh over 450 kg and can develop rapidly. They can also survive for several decades.
- Its flavour, texture, and nutritional content make it one of the most sought-after and lucrative fish in the world's seafood market.
- Particularly valued species include bluefin tuna, which frequently commands high prices in markets, particularly in Japan for sushi and sashimi dishes.
- It is high in omega-3 fatty acids, which promote heart health, brain function, and inflammation reduction; it is also low in saturated fat and high in protein.
- Iron, vitamin B12, vitamin D, and selenium are among the vital vitamins and minerals it offers.

PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

	To catalyze the Blue Revolution in India's fisheries sector.
Investment	Rs. 20,050 crores over five years (FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25) as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package.
Fish Production	Increase fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonnes by 2024-25.
Export Earnings	Raise fisheries export earnings to Rs. 1,00,000 crore by 2024-25.
Income Doubling	Double the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.
Post-Harvest Losses	Reduce post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10%.
Employment Generation	Generate substantial employment opportunities in the fisheries sector.

Aims and Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable and equitable fisheries development. 2. Increased productivity through diversification. 3. Modernizing the value chain. 4. Income doubling. 5. Boosting exports. 6. Ensuring security for fisheries communities. 7. Effective management.
Implementation Components	Central Sector Scheme and Centrally Sponsored Scheme with active state participation.
Implementation Approach	Structured framework and cluster-based approach for optimal outcomes

Asia Tea Alliance not in favor of GM Tea



Why in the News?

- As climate change impacts the world's tea industry, the Asia Tea Alliance (ATA) decided to oppose genetically modified (GM) tea.
- Some businesses have pushed for genetically modified tea since climate change has caused India's tea production to drop by 10% this year.

- After China, India is the world's fourth-largest exporter of tea and the world's second-largest producer of black tea.

What is Asia Tea Alliance (ATA)?

- **Founded:** April 19, 2019, in **Guizhou, China**.
- **5 Members:** India, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Japan.
- **Goals:** Enhance tea trade, cultural exchange, and globally promote tea.

About Indian Tea Industry:

- With 18% of the world's total tea consumption, India is the biggest consumer of black tea.
- 1.16 million people are directly employed by the Indian tea industry, and an equivalent number are indirectly employed.
- It is controlled by the Union Government through an Act of Parliament and overseen by the Tea Board of India. Geographical conditions:
 - The Nilgiris in south India, north Bengal (including Darjeeling, Terai, and the Dooars), and northeast India (including Assam).
 - Tea is best grown in tropical and subtropical climates, which are primarily found in Asia, Africa, and South America.
 - At least five hours of sunlight each day and cool to mild temperatures (15–23°C) are necessary, as is 150–200 cm of annual rainfall.
 - The first tea to be GI-tagged in 2004–05 was Darjeeling Tea, dubbed the "Champagne of teas" due to its scent.

RBI released list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)



Why in the News?

The RBI designated SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2024.

Current D-SIBs in India:

- State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank are categorised as D-SIBs as of 2024.
- In 2015, SBI was designated as a D-SIB; in 2016, ICICI Bank; and in 2017, HDFC Bank.

What are Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?

- The stability of a nation's financial system depends on D-SIB banks.
- Their failure might create major economic disruptions, which is why they are frequently referred to as "Too Big To Fail" (TBTF).
- Every year, the RBI identifies D-SIBs.
- In July 2014, the methodology for identifying these banks was released.
- Since 2015, the RBI has released an annual list of D-SIBs.

D-SIBs are placed in different buckets based on systemic importance scores. Higher bucket rankings require greater capital requirements to absorb losses.

- SBI is in Bucket 4.
- HDFC Bank is in Bucket 3.
- ICICI Bank is in Bucket 1.

D-SIBs must maintain additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital based on their bucket.

- SBI: 0.80% of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs).
- HDFC Bank: 0.40%
- ICICI Bank: 0.20%

Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs):

- The Financial Stability Board (FSB) designates G-SIBs on the international scene.
- G-SIBs include major global banks like HSBC and JP Morgan Chase.
- G-SIB-eligible foreign banks must maintain additional CET1 capital in India in proportion to their global risk-weighted assets.

Benefits of D-SIB Classification

- By demanding extra capital buffers for resilience during economic hardship, it guarantees financial stability.
- By improving oversight and regulation, it boosts public trust.
- Better governance and controls result from the increased supervisory attention it receives.
- It frequently gains from improved access to money, reduced borrowing rates, and stronger credit ratings.

Coffee Board devises road map with eye on doubling production, exports



Why in the News?

The Coffee Board of India has launched a 10-year roadmap with a goal to double the country's coffee production and coffee exports by 2034.

About Coffee Board of India:

	Details
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee cultivation in India began with the planting of 7 seeds of coffee during 1600 AD by saint <i>Baba Budan</i>, in the courtyard of his hermitage in Chikmagalur, Karnataka. Until 1995, marketed the pooled supply of coffee. Post-1995, coffee marketing became a private-sector activity due to economic liberalisation.
Structural Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, established in 1942, headquartered in Bangalore. Comprises 33 members, including a Chairman appointed by the Government of India.
Functions of Coffee Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of production, productivity & quality. Export promotion for achieving higher value returns for Indian Coffee. Supporting the development of the domestic market.
Coffee Industry in India – Imports/Exports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karnataka is the largest producer (70%), followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. India exports over 70% of its coffee production. India is the 8th largest coffee exporter (FAO) globally (by volume).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee exports peak from March to June.
Agro-climatic Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a tropical plant which is also grown in semi-tropical climate. 16° – 28°C temperature, 150-250cm rainfall and well-drained slopes are essential for its growth. Low temperature, frost, dry weather for a long time and harsh sunshine are harmful for its plant. Coffee plants grow better in the laterite soils of Karnataka in India. Major Varieties Cultivated: Arabica, Robusta and Liberica. Arabica has high market value than Robusta coffee due to its mild aromatic flavor.

India's first modern Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant



Why in the News?

PM Modi inaugurated the 100 TPD cattle dung-based Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant in Gwalior.

About the CBG Plant

- The facility is situated in Adarsh Gaushala, the biggest cowshed in the area, which has over 10,000 cattle, in Laltipara, Gwalior.
- It covers more than five acres.

- It is the first self-sufficient gaushala in India with a state-of-the-art CBG plant that turns organic waste (including vegetable and fruit waste from homes and mandis) and cow manure into useful biogas.
- The Indian Oil Corporation and the Gwalior Municipal Corporation collaborated to build the project, which came with a ₹31 crore price tag.

Working features:

- Bio CNG: A cleaner, more environmentally friendly substitute for conventional fossil fuels, the plant generates 2 tonnes of compressed Bio CNG per day from 100 tonnes of cattle dung.
- Organic Manure: A important by-product for organic farming, the plant also produces 10 to 15 tonnes of dry bio-manure every day.
- Windrow composting: To improve the processing of organic waste, the factory has windrow composting, which is next to the main building.

What is Compressed Biogas (CBG)?

	Details
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBG is a renewable natural gas that is created when organic waste is biochemically converted to methane. • It can be utilised as a substitute for fossil fuels in power generation, cooking, and transportation since it shares chemical similarities with compressed natural gas, or CNG.

Process of Making CBG

1. Organic garbage Collection: Farms, businesses, and homes provide organic garbage, including food waste, animal manure, agricultural residue, and municipal solid waste.
2. Anaerobic Digestion: Biogas (methane, carbon dioxide, and trace gases) is produced when waste is broken down by microorganisms in an airtight chamber without oxygen.
3. Purification: To remove contaminants like CO₂, H₂S, and water, the raw biogas is purified using techniques like membrane separation, pressure swing adsorption, or water washing. This leaves just pure methane.
4. Compression: To create CBG, the purified methane is compressed to 200–250 bar of pressure, which lowers the volume for transportation and storage.
5. Storage and Distribution: For a variety of uses, it is carried to gasoline stations or industry in high-pressure tanks or cylinders.

Significance of CBG

- Lessens reliance on fossil fuels.
- Reduces methane emissions from landfills.
- By substituting CBG for CNG, pollution can be decreased.
- Makes use of organic waste from the area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplies environmentally beneficial fertilisers,
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	encourages organic farming, and generates jobs.
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Environment & Diversity

Mount Fuji



Why in the News?

Japan's iconic Mount Fuji has set a new record for the longest delay in snowfall since records began in 1894.

Why delay in snowfall at Mount Fuji?

- Higher Temperatures: The cooling required for snow has been postponed due to Japan's warmest summer on record and above-normal October temperatures.
- Heatwave: Even into September, Japan saw a number of "extremely hot" days with highs of over 35°C.
- Snow production was further hampered by a northerly change in the subtropical jet stream, which delivered warmer air over Japan.

About Mount Fuji:

	Details
Location	Honshu Island, Japan, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

Height	3,776 meters (12,389 feet), making it the tallest mountain in Japan.
Type of Volcano	Stratovolcano , characterized by a conical shape formed from alternating layers of lava flow, ash, and tephra.
Eruptions	Last major eruption occurred in 1707 (Hoei eruption), causing ash to fall on Edo (now Tokyo).
Geological Formation	Formed through volcanic eruptions over thousands of years; current shape solidified around 300,000 years ago .
Climate	Varied climate with decreasing temperatures at higher altitudes; snow caps the summit from November to May .
Surrounding Area	Part of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park ; surrounded by five lakes: Lake Kawaguchi, Lake Yamanaka, Lake Sai, Lake Shoji, and Lake Motosu.
Cultural Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National symbol of Japan Sacred in Shintoism, associated with the deity Konohanasakuya-hime Known as one of Japan's Three Holy Mountains
Art and Literature	A popular subject in traditional Japanese art (e.g., Hokusai's Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji), referenced in poetry and literature.
UNESCO World	Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013 for its cultural significance and beauty.

Heritage Site	
Cultural Festivals	Hosts various festivals, such as the Fuji Shiba-sakura Festival , celebrating local flora.

Project to monitor animal health launched



Why in the News?

The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying launched the 'Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response' initiative in New Delhi.

What is the primary aim of the Animal Health Security Project?

Through improved monitoring, laboratory systems, and regional cooperation, the Animal Health Security Project seeks to increase India's ability to prevent, identify, and address threats to animal health while lowering the risk of zoonotic diseases.

What are the objectives of the Animal Health Security Project?

- **Prevention, Detection, and Response:** Reduce the likelihood that infections will spread from animals to people by strengthening India's capacity to prevent, identify, and address hazards to animal health.
- **Boost Surveillance Systems:** To quickly detect any dangers, enhance and combine

early warning and surveillance systems for animal diseases.

- **Infrastructure for Labs and Vaccines:** To guarantee readiness, modernise and grow lab networks and vaccine production plants.
- **Data Systems and Analytics:** To facilitate risk communication and well-informed decision-making, enhance interoperable data systems and analytics capabilities.
- **Cross-Border Cooperation:** Through cross-border cooperation, encourage regional cooperation for the control of transboundary animal diseases.

How is the project funded and what is its timeline?

- The Pandemic Fund, which was created by the G20 nations to assist low- and middle-income nations in strengthening their pandemic preparedness, is providing funding for the initiative.
- India's idea was awarded a \$25 million grant, and the fund raised \$2 billion in its first round.
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will carry out the project.
- **Timeline:** August 2026 is the anticipated completion date.

Why is this project necessary for India?

- **Threat of Zoonotic Diseases:** Approximately two-thirds of infectious diseases that affect people are zoonotic, or spread by animals; COVID-19 is one recent example. India is susceptible to zoonotic diseases due to its sizable population of 536 million livestock.
- **Impact on Public Health:** The project is essential for India's pandemic prevention and public health security, as five of the six

main worldwide public health emergencies in recent decades have been zoonotic.

- **Protection of Vulnerable groups:** The project intends to safeguard the livelihoods, nutritional security, and general well-being of vulnerable groups that depend on livestock by tackling animal health problems.

Way forward:

- **Boost Sector-to-Sector Coordination:** To develop an integrated response to zoonotic hazards, strengthen cooperation amongst the environmental, public health, and animal health sectors, guaranteeing prompt data exchange and response systems.
- **Maintain Infrastructure and Capacity Building Investments:** After the project is over, make sure that funds are kept up for training, vaccine development, and laboratory networks in order to stay ready and strengthen resistance to new animal-to-human illnesses.

What is the Artificial Reef Project implemented in Kerala?



Why in the News?

20,000 pompano fingerlings were released into the sea off Vizhinjam as part of an artificial reef project aimed at replenishing marine fishery resources and promoting sustainable fishing.

About the Artificial Reef Project in Kerala:

	Details
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance fish resources along Kerala's coast. • Support sustainable fishing and improve fishing community livelihoods.
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covers 42 fishing villages in Thiruvananthapuram district, from Pozhiyoor to Varkala.
Deployment Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,300 artificial reef units deployed, with 150 units per village. • Reef module types: Triangular (80 units), Floral (35 units), and Fused Pipe (35 units).
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented by KSCADC (Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation). • Technical support from CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute).
Deployment Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight: Each module weighs over one tonne. • Depth: Positioned at 12 to 15 fathoms on the seabed. • Technology: Placed using GPS for precise positioning.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ₹13.02 crore project cost under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). • ₹302 crore allocated for sustainable fisheries in Kerala.
Expected Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosts marine biodiversity. • Increases fish stocks and supports breeding environments. • Promotes sustainable fishing practices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances livelihoods of local communities.
Reef Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 locations across 33 fishing villages in Thiruvananthapuram.
Fish Attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs have attracted fish species like tuna, trevally, and mackerel.
Future Expansion Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase II: Proposed to cover 96 villages in Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, and Thrissur districts (₹29.76 crore). Phase III: Proposed to cover 96 villages in northern districts (₹25.82 crore).

Savannah Elephant populations fell by about 70% on average



Why in the News?

Savanna elephants have experienced a significant population decline of around 70% across surveyed sites, primarily due to poaching and habitat loss.

Decline in African Elephants Population

- Researchers used data from 475 sites across 37 nations between 1964 and 2016 to provide a thorough evaluation of these species.

- Savanna Elephants:** At the sites surveyed, populations decreased by an average of almost 70%.
- Forest Elephants:** At surveyed sites, populations decreased by an average of almost 90%.
- At surveyed areas, the average number of African elephants declined by 77%.

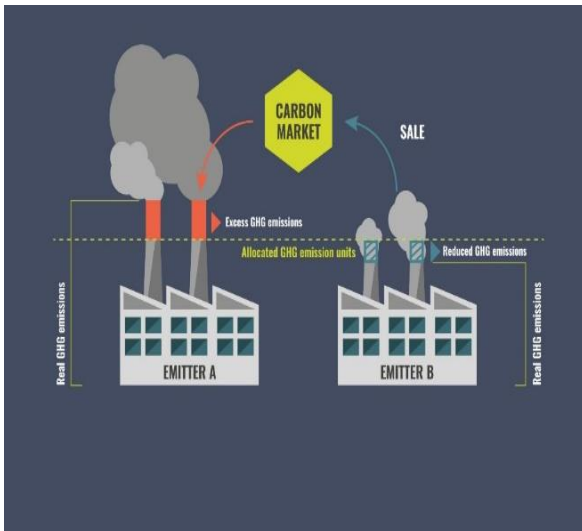
Features of African Elephants:

- The largest land mammal on the planet, African elephants are distinguished by their size, intelligence, and intricate social structures.
- African elephants are classified as either forest elephants (smaller, with straighter tusks and dense forest habitats) or savanna (bush) elephants (larger, with bigger tusks and open grassland environment).
- African elephants are extremely intelligent animals that exhibit memory, empathy, and complex social relationships within their herds.
- Conservation status:**
 - CITES: Appendix I
 - IUCN: Savanna Elephants (Endangered); Forest Elephants (Critically Endangered)

Geographical Spread

- Savanna Elephants:** Found mostly in grasslands and savannas in eastern and southern Africa, these elephants are highly prevalent in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania.
- Forest Elephants:** Found primarily in Gabon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and portions of Cameroon, these animals live in the tropical forests of central and western Africa.

Article 6.4 of the Carbon Market



Why in the News?

- Global carbon trading under UN oversight has been made possible by the passage of Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement at the COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- UN member nations can now exchange carbon credits internationally thanks to this recent development.

What is Article 6.4?

- The Paris Agreement's Article 6.4 creates a worldwide carbon market to make it easier for nations to trade carbon credits.
- It is included in Article 6, which describes procedures for global collaboration in the pursuit of net-zero emissions.
- Goal: Make it possible for nations to invest in emission reduction initiatives in other nations in order to offset their own emissions.
- It creates a worldwide carbon market that is supervised by a UNFCCC Supervisory Body.
- This organisation would create regulations, oversee the granting of loans, and guarantee adherence to global norms.

- Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs), which reflect decreases in CO₂ or comparable greenhouse gases, can be created and traded by nations.
- Credits can be exchanged internationally and are obtained from authorised climate programs.
- Countries can use ITMOs (Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes), which are tradeable units that represent emissions reductions, to achieve their NDCs through subsections such as Article 6.2.

Significance of Article 6.4

- Cost-Effective Climate Action: Article 6.4 offers a cost-effective way to reduce emissions by facilitating global carbon markets, which may save an estimated \$250 billion a year in climate plan implementation.
- Support for NDCs: By giving nations more flexibility and encouraging global investments in green initiatives, the mechanism assists them in meeting their NDC targets under the Paris Agreement.
- Economic Growth and Climate Mitigation: Carbon markets encourage renewable energy investments, generate employment in climate-related fields, and connect climate action with economic growth.
- Promotes Sustainable Development: By encouraging the transfer of green technologies and bolstering local economies, Article 6.4 provides incentives for sustainable projects in developing nations.

ADB increases Climate Finance backed by US, Japan Pledge



Why in the News?

- The United States and Japan have agreed to offer risk assurances for some existing loans, which will increase climate-related funding by up to \$7.2 billion through the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Sovereign guarantees are being used for climate funding for the first time.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	
About	<p>ADB was founded in 1966 following the Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headquarters: Located in Manila, Philippines. Status: Official UN Observer.
Aims and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific region. Provide Program Assistance that provides loans (hard/soft), technical assistance, and grants.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances effectiveness through policy dialogues, advisory services, and co-financing to mobilize additional financial resources.
Goals and Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADB raises funds primarily through bond issues on global capital markets. The ADB has set a climate finance target of \$100 billion from 2019 to 2030. The U.S. will guarantee \$1 billion of existing ADB loans, while Japan will underwrite \$600 million. <p>Advantages of the Guarantee Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands ADB's lending capacity. Lending space will be used over 5 years, while the guarantees will last for 25 years. Example: <i>A sustainable aviation fuel initiative in Pakistan using cooking oil, with ADB covering about half of the \$90 million cost.</i>
Members hip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Members: 67 countries, with 48 from Asia and the Pacific. Membership Eligibility: Includes members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries. Major Shareholders: Japan and the United States (Each hold 15.607% of shares), China (6.444%), India (6.331%), Australia (5.786%)

Species in News: Kaalinga**Why in the News?**

The Western Ghats' king cobra, commonly called 'Kalinga Sarpa', will soon be recognized in the scientific community as *Ophiophagus kaalinga*.

About Kaalinga (*Ophiophagus kaalinga*):

	Details
Geographical Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native to the Western Ghats of Karnataka, India, and extends to adjacent regions within the Western Ghats. Prefers dense tropical forests and hilly terrains.
Physical Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can grow up to 10-12 feet. Carnivorous, feeding on snakes, small mammals, and lizards. Potent neurotoxic venom capable of killing several humans or an elephant in a single bite.
Uniqueness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known for territorial behaviour and intelligence. Females build and fiercely guard nests (4 ft x 3 ft) with 23-43 eggs per clutch.
Conservation Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At risk due to habitat fragmentation, human-animal conflict, and the absence of specific anti-venom. <p>IUCN Status: Vulnerable</p>

WPA, 1972: Schedule II (accorded protection but with lesser restrictions compared to Schedule I)

Species in News: Western Honey Bees**Why in the News?**

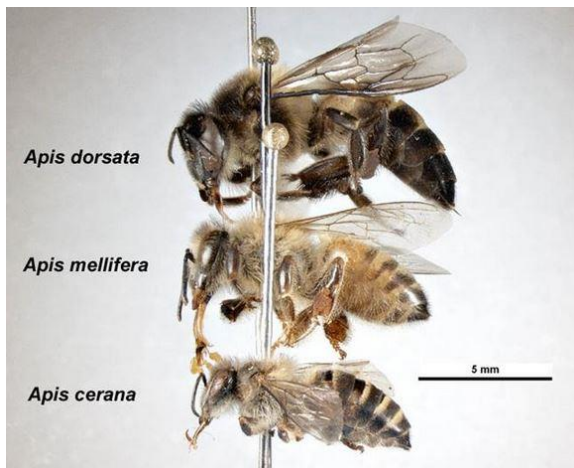
- The widespread usage of western honey bees to increase pollination has had unexpected ecological effects.
- They now unintentionally bring and spread the Thai Sacbrood Virus to hives of native bees.

About Western Honey Bees

- Apis mellifera* is its scientific name.
- introduced all over the world for their capacity to produce honey and pollinate. They were brought to India in 1983 in an effort to increase honey production.
- extensively utilised in agriculture, especially for pollinating crops, vegetables, and fruit trees.

Thai Sacbrood Virus Outbreak

- Honey bee numbers have been negatively damaged by the Thai Sacbrood Virus (TSBV) outbreak in China and Vietnam.
- About 90% of Asiatic honey bee colonies in South India were destroyed by a Thai sacbrood virus outbreak in 1991–1992, and it reappeared in Telangana in 2021.
- The virus mostly affects honey bee larvae, which is why their mortality rates are so high.
- Consequently, bee colonies in the impacted areas saw sharp drops, which had an impact on pollination services and honey production.
- The virus has spread more easily as a result of bee colonies moving for commercial pollination and honey production.



About Indian Bees and Their Habitat

- The majority of Indian bees are Asian honey bees, specifically *Apis cerana indica*.
- They can be found in a variety of settings, such as urban areas, woodlands, and agricultural areas.
- They do well in places with lots of flowers and nectar.
- Indian bees sustain biodiversity and food production in the ecosystem and are crucial for pollination, particularly for native plants.
- The use of pesticides, habitat degradation, and competition from Western Honey Bees, which could outcompete them for food and nesting locations, are some of the problems they face.

Significance of Honey Bee:

- **Pollination and Food Security:** Honey bees are essential for pollinating crops, which helps produce fruits, vegetables, and nuts and ensures agricultural sustainability and global food security.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** By aiding in plant reproduction, honey bees promote biodiversity and ecosystem health, preserving the harmony of natural environments and boosting ecosystem resilience.

Kaziranga National Park



Why in the News?

A sub-adult female tiger from Kamakhya Reserve Forest in Assam strayed near Kaziranga National Park and was attacked by locals.

All facts about Kaziranga National Park:

	Details
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in the Golaghat, Sonitpur, Biswanath, and Nagaon districts of Assam, India. • Spans 430 sq. km. (166 square miles). • Established as a reserve forest in 1905, declared a national park in 1974, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. • Declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006.
Geographical Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park is crisscrossed by the Brahmaputra River along with numerous small bodies of water. • Dominated by tall elephant grass, marshland, and tropical moist broadleaf forests. • Terrain includes sandbars, <i>beels</i> (flood-formed lakes), and <i>chapories</i> (elevated areas).
Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora: Includes 4 main vegetation types: alluvial

	<p>inundated grasslands, alluvial savanna woodlands, tropical moist mixed deciduous forests, and tropical semi-evergreen forests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fauna: Home to 35 mammalian species (15 threatened), it also includes the world's largest populations of Indian rhinoceros (2,613), wild water
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	<p>buffalo (1,666), swamp deer (468), elephants (1,940), gaur (1,300), and sambar (58).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important bird area with 57 species of birds, including migratory species. Rich biodiversity, including significant populations of chital, Indian muntjac, wild boar, and hog deer.
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Governance

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)



Indian Council of Social Science Research

Why in the news?

Employees of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) institutions have expressed concerns over the delay in revising their pay scales.

About the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR):

	Details
Establishment	It was established as an Autonomous organization, in 1969 on the recommendation of <i>Prof. V. K. R. V. Rao Committee</i> (National Income Committee).

Nodal Ministry	Operates under the Ministry of Education.
Function	Promote, fund, and support social science research in India.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage social science research Fund and coordinate research in various branches Collaborate with international research organizations Provide policy recommendations based on research
Organizational Structure	It is governed by a Council of eminent scholars and policymakers, supported by 24 research institutes and 6 regional centers.
Research Institutes	<p>Funds institutes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSS), Kolkata Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Pune

Key Programs and Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICSSR Data Service: National repository for social science data • NASSDOC: Documentation and library services • Workshops and conferences to enhance research capabilities
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International Collaboration	Collaborates with organizations like UNESCO and the Indian Council of World Affairs for joint projects and scholar exchanges.
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History

First Asian Buddhist Summit



Why in the News?

The Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), held the first Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi.

About the Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS)

- A high-level gathering of Buddhist leaders, academics, and practitioners from all around Asia is called ABS.
- "The Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia" was the theme of the inaugural summit.
- It supports India's Act East Policy, which aims to strengthen spiritual and cultural linkages among Asian countries.
- Key topics discussed at the summit include:
 - The function of Buddhist tradition, art, and architecture.
 - the spread of the Buddha Dhamma and its impact on Asian culture.

- the importance of revered Buddhist artefacts and how they affect society.
- Buddhist literature and philosophy's applicability in the twenty-first century.
- investigating the connection between scientific studies for health and wellbeing and Buddhism.

About Buddhism:

	Details
Origin of Buddhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated in India over 2,600 years ago. • Founded by <i>Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha)</i> around 563 BCE. • Born into the royal family of the <i>Sakya clan</i> in Lumbini, near the Indo-Nepal border. • At age 29, Gautama renounced a life of luxury and embraced <i>asceticism</i>. • Attained Bodhi (enlightenment) after 49 days of meditation under a pipal tree in Bodhgaya, Bihar. • Delivered his first sermon in Sarnath, known as Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana. • Died at 80 in Kushinagara (Mahaparinirvana) in 483 BCE.
Tenets of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocated the Madhyam Marg (Middle Path) between indulgence and asceticism. • Emphasized individual responsibility for

Buddhism	<p>happiness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Noble Truths (ariya-sachchani): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dukkha: Suffering is inherent. 2. Samudya: Every suffering has a cause. 3. Nirodha: Suffering could be extinguished. 4. Atthanga Magga: Achieved through the Eightfold Path. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eightfold Path (astangika marg): Right view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, mindfulness, effort, concentration. • Ultimate goal: Attaining Nirvana (Nibbana). • Five Precepts (Panchasil): Prohibitions against violence, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying, and intoxicants.
Major Buddhist Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially oral teachings, memorized by the Sangha. • Written down around 25 BCE in Pali. • Three Pitakas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vinaya Pitaka: Monastic rules. 2. Sutta Pitaka: Main teachings, divided into five Nikayas (Digha, Majjhima, Samyutta, Anguttara, Khuddaka). 3. Abhidhamma Pitaka: Philosophical analysis of teachings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other important texts: Divyavadana, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, Milind Panha.
Role of the Buddhist Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important turning points in early Buddhism, leading to sectarian clashes and the Great Schism. • Four Major Councils: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Council (483 BCE): Presided by Mahakasyapa, aimed to preserve teachings. 2. Second Council (383 BCE): Addressed monastic discipline.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Third Council (250 BCE): Under Ashoka, focusing on spreading Buddhism. 4. Fourth Council (72 CE): Led to division into Mahayana and Hinayana.
Different Buddhist Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahayana: "Great Vehicle," emphasizes Bodhisattva ideal and idol worship; spread to Central and East Asia. • Hinayana: "Lesser Vehicle," focuses on individual salvation and original teachings; Theravada is a major branch. • Theravada: Closest to original teachings; dominant in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. • Vajrayana: "Vehicle of the Thunderbolt," complex rituals; developed around 900 CE. • Zen: Focuses on meditation, developed in China and Japan.
Spread of Buddhism in Ancient India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monastic organization through Sangha for spreading teachings. • Rapid growth during Buddha's lifetime. • Ashoka's influence post-Kalinga conquest; adopted Dhamma conquest, sending missions to various regions, including Gandhara, Kashmir, Greece, Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar), Egypt, and Thailand.

Jagannath Puri Temple



Why in the News?

Odisha's law minister recently clarified that there was no secret chamber inside the treasury of the Jagannath Temple in Puri.

About Jagannath Puri Temple

- Located in Puri, Odisha, the Jagannath shrine is a significant Vaishnavite shrine devoted to Jagannath, a manifestation of Sri Krishna.
- Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva, the first ruler of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, started the reconstruction of the current temple in the tenth century on the location of an earlier temple.
- The three main deities are hauled on enormous, ornately decorated temple chariots during the Puri temple's yearly Ratha Yatra, or chariot festival, which makes it famous.

It's Architecture:

- It is among the most spectacular monuments in India because of the richness of its sculpture and the fluidity of the Oriya style of temple design.
- The massive temple complex is encircled by a tall defensive wall and spans more than 400,000 square feet.
- Meghanada Pacheri is the name of this wall, which is 20 feet high.
- The main temple is surrounded by another wall called Kurma Bedha.

The temple has four distinct sectional structures, namely:

1. Deula, Vimana or Garba griha (Sanctum sanctorum) where the triad deities are lodged on the ratnavedi (Throne of Pearls). In Rekha Deula style;
2. Mukhashala (Frontal porch);

3. Nata mandir/Natamandapa, which is also known as the Jagamohan (Audience Hall/Dancing Hall), and
4. Bhoga Mandapa (Offerings Hall)

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas



Why in the News?

- November 15th has been observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas since 2021 in remembrance of the roles played by tribal communities in the fight for Indian independence.
- The renowned Sri Birsa Munda's birth anniversary is celebrated on this day.

Who was Birsa Munda?

- Born on November 15, 1875, in the Chotanagpur area (present-day Jharkhand), at a time when the Munda community was undergoing major transformation.
- His early years were spent travelling with his parents, and Jaipal Nag taught him primary school.
- Birsa became a pioneer in support of tribal rights after being impacted by the Sardari agitation, a nonviolent protest against British control.

Causes of the Rebellion:

- Tribal populations were uprooted and exploited as a result of British policies such

as the Permanent Settlement Act (1793), which upset traditional land patterns.

- Jagirdars and thikadars undermined the Mundas' khuntkatti land rights system, which led to land alienation.
- Under British authority, a rise in non-tribal migration resulted in forced labour and high-interest money lending, which led to exploitation.
- Tribals were more conscious as a result of missionary-led education, which sparked social divisions as well as struggles for tribal rights.

Historical Background:

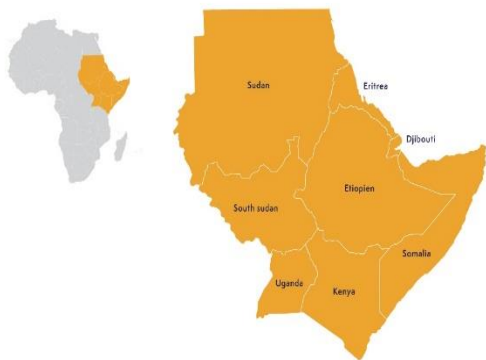
- In an effort to stop Christian missionaries from converting indigenous people, Birsa

founded the Birsait faith. It made British conversion efforts more difficult.

- The Birsait sect attracted members from the Munda and Oraon communities.
- He was revered by the Mundas as the "Father of the Earth," or Dharati Aaba.
- Birsa Munda led the Ulgulan Movement, also referred to as the Munda Rebellion, from 1899 to 1900.
- focused on the Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada, and Bandgaon areas of the Munda belt.
- The objective, referred to as Ulgulan or the "Great Tumult," was to create independence and Munda Raj, or self-rule.
- Birsa Munda was captured and killed as British forces put an end to the uprising.

International Relations

Horn of Africa



- The main causes of food insecurity are extreme weather and climate change, which create dire circumstances.
- The situation has gotten worse due to the destruction of infrastructure, food supplies, and revenue streams caused by conflict.

Why in the News?

According to a joint report by the UN and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), at least 65 million people are food insecure in the Horn of Africa.

Food Insecurity in Horn of Africa Region:

Of the 65 million affected, 36 million reside in IGAD member states: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

Main Causes:

About the Horn of Africa:

	Details
Location	A peninsula in northeastern Africa, extending into the Arabian Sea.
Geographical Composition	Comprises the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.
Population	Approximately 115 million people.
Area	Covers about 2 million square kilometers.
Geographical Features	Includes mountains, plateaus, deserts, and coastlines. Significant areas include the Ethiopian Plateau, Ogaden Desert, and Eritrean and Somali coasts.

Historical Name	Known as Bilad al Barbar or Berber Land in ancient times.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known for diverse landscapes and unique biodiversity. Strategic importance due to proximity to oil-producing regions in the Middle East.
Key Bodies of Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the south of the Gulf of Aden and along the southern boundary of the Red Sea. Grand Renaissance Dam: Under construction by Ethiopia on the Nile River, impacting regional water dynamics.
Shipping Routes	Major shipping routes pass through the Red Sea, with Djibouti serving as a critical maritime hub for international trade.
Climate	Characterized by a mix of arid, semi-arid, and temperate climates, influencing agriculture and livelihoods in the region.

Geopolitical and strategic importance for India:

- The Middle East, which is essential to the world's oil production, is close to the Horn of Africa.
- The Red Sea shipping lanes next to the Horn carry about 40% of the Middle Eastern oil, making it a vital location for energy security.
- The Bab el Mandeb Strait, one of the busiest maritime chokepoints in the world, connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and is controlled by Djibouti and the neighbouring regions.
- To protect their interests in this vital area, a number of nations, including the US, France,

and China, have built military installations in Djibouti.

- China's "string of pearls" strategy, which seeks to establish economic and military bases around India, is consistent with its presence in Djibouti and other Horn of Africa countries.
- For Indian investments in the mining, energy, and infrastructure sectors, the Horn region acts as a gateway to Africa.
- Terrorist organisations like Al-Shabaab and pirates are hazards to the region, especially Somalia.

Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD)



Why in the News?

India and the US held the first US-India Indian Ocean Dialogue on November 14 strengthening cooperation over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

About the Indian Ocean Dialogue:

- One of the main projects of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is the Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD), which was created at the 13th Council of Ministers' meeting in November 2013 in Perth, Australia.
- It is a Track 1.5 debate that brings together officials and non-officials for a more inclusive conversation. The most recent

edition, which took place in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in May 2023, is the ninth.

- **Key areas discussed in 2024 Edition:**

- **Strengthening marine Security:** Improves cooperation on marine security and freedom, which is essential for energy supplies and commercial routes.
- **Economic and Environmental Cooperation:** Addresses the effects of climate change on the area and promotes trade and the blue economy.

Significance in India-U.S. Relations

- The Indo-Pacific Partnership combines the strategic objectives of both countries and strengthens quad cooperation.
- The region's power balance promotes an open Indo-Pacific by balancing out the influence of other states.
- **Collaboration in Defence and Technology:** Strengthens India's security role by fostering new connections in defence and emerging technology.
- Disaster preparedness strengthens efforts at sustainable resource management and climate resilience.

What is the Student Direct Stream visa?



Why in the News?

Canada has discontinued the Student Direct Stream (SDS), ending faster processing for students from specific countries, including India.

What is the Student Direct Stream (SDS) Visa?

- Canada launched the SDS, a fast-track visa processing program, in 2018 to help students from specific nations—including India—get study permits more quickly.
- The average processing time for applications under SDS was about 20 days.
- By demanding certain school records and evidence of financial stability (such as a Guaranteed Investment Certificate), this stream was created to streamline and expedite the application process for qualified candidates.
- Students from 14 nations, including Trinidad and Tobago, China, India, Pakistan, and Vietnam, were subject to the SDS.
- With a high acceptance rate for study permits in previous years, SDS has been well-liked by Indian students since its inception.

Why was SDS discontinued?

- **Fair Access:** The goal of switching to a single, standardised procedure is to provide every candidate an equal chance.
- **Strengthened Protection:** As part of its routine procedure, Canada plans to strengthen protections in order to alleviate student vulnerability.
- The modifications are a part of Canada's larger immigration reforms, which also include updated study permit caps and financial criteria.

How does the discontinuation affect Indian Students?

Indian students will face:

- Extended Processing Times: Under the current standard procedure, visa approvals may now take longer.
- Additional Financial Proof: Additional financial records will be needed.

- Changes to the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP): Effective November 1, 2024, new regulations may affect post-graduation employment opportunities.

Polity

Inter-State Council has been reconstituted



Why in the News?

The Inter-State Council has been reconstituted with Prime Minister as its chairman, all CMs and 9 Union ministers as members and 13 Union ministers as permanent invitees.

About the Inter-State Council (ISC):

	Details
Formation	Established on May 28, 1990, by a presidential order following the Sarkaria Commission (1988) recommendations.
Headquarters	New Delhi
Chairman	Prime Minister
Constitutional Status	Not a permanent body nor a constitutional body; created by the President under Article 263 of the Constitution.
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and discuss subjects of common interest. • Make recommendations for better coordination on subjects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberate on matters referred by the Chairman.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister as Chairman. • Chief Ministers of all states and union territories with legislative assemblies. • Lieutenant Governors/Administrators of union territories without assemblies. • 6 Union Cabinet Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister. • Governors of states under President's rule.
Standing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Home Minister as Chairman. • 5 Union Cabinet Ministers and 9 Chief Ministers.
Inter-State Council Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established in 1991, headed by an officer of Secretary rank.
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has met 12 times since its formation in 1990.

Press Council of India



Why in the News?

- Every year on November 16, people celebrate National Press Day to commemorate the vital role that a free and responsible press plays in society.
- It commemorates the founding of the journalistic Council of India in 1966, which was created as a moral watchdog to preserve journalistic standards and shield it from threats or undue influence.

About the Press Council of India (PCI):

	Details
History and Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constituted on July 4, 1966, as an autonomous, statutory, and quasi-judicial body. • Established to act as a moral watchdog over the press to ensure it operates with ethics and independence. • First Press Commission of India (1954) recommended forming a council to uphold professional standards in journalism. • Initially governed by the Press Council Act of 1965, later replaced by the Press Council Act of 1978.
Composition of PCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprises 28 members and a Chairperson. • Chairperson appointed by a committee that includes the Chief Justice of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and a representative of the President. • Member Representation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 13 working journalists representing different news organizations. – 6 members from editors and newspaper

	<p>er owners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 5 members from Parliament (3 from Lok Sabha, 2 from Rajya Sabha). – 1 nominee each from the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Bar Council of India (BCI), and Sahitya Akademi. • Term: Each member serves a 3-year term and can be re-elected.
Powers and Functions of PCI	<p>Powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quasi-Judicial Authority: PCI has statutory powers to hold inquiries into complaints against the press or journalists for professional misconduct. • Inquiry Powers: PCI can summon witnesses and call for documents if necessary. • Disciplinary Action: PCI has the authority to censure or admonish newspapers, editors, or journalists for violating professional ethics. • Recommendations: Although PCI cannot enforce laws or impose penalties, it can recommend actions to the relevant authorities in case of serious violations. <p>Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholding Press Freedom: Ensures that the press in India is free from undue influence and performs its duties with responsibility. • Protecting Journalists: Investigates complaints of harassment or threats against journalists and defends their rights. • Policy Advisory Role: Advises the

	government on policy issues that affect press freedom and media laws.
	• Studies and Reports: Conducts studies on media issues, such

	as election reporting, defense coverage, and journalist safety, to provide guidelines on responsible reporting.
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Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Does the Sun rotate?



Why in the News?

Indian astronomers at the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO) have achieved a groundbreaking feat by mapping, for the first time, the variation in the Sun's rotation speed from its equator to its poles.

Sun's Rotation: Key Facts

- The Sun has differential rotation, which means that its various components rotate at different speeds in contrast to a solid body.
- Latitude affects rotation speed, with slower rotation towards the poles and faster rotation close to the equator.
- The Sun's composition of gaseous plasma rather than solid substance is the main cause of this variation.

Rotation Period Variation by Latitude:

- Equatorial Regions: Sidereal revolution at the equator takes about 24.47 days, making it the quickest rotation time.
- Approximately 16 degrees latitude is the sunspot zone. With a duration of roughly 27.3 days, rotation slows down a little.
- Rotation slows considerably at higher latitudes (up to 75 degrees); for instance, the rotation period is roughly 33.4 days at 75 degrees latitude.
- Poles: With a period of about 31.1 days, the poles rotate the slowest.

Sidereal vs. Synodic Rotation Periods:

- The time it takes for the Sun to complete one full rotation in relation to far-off stars is known as the sidereal rotation period. At the equator, it lasts 24.47 days, but at higher latitudes, it lasts approximately 33.4 days.
- The time it takes for a fixed feature on the Sun to appear in the same location when viewed from Earth is known as the synodic rotation period. Because of Earth's own orbit around the Sun, it lasts longer than the sidereal period, averaging about 26.24 days.

Why Differential Rotation Occur?

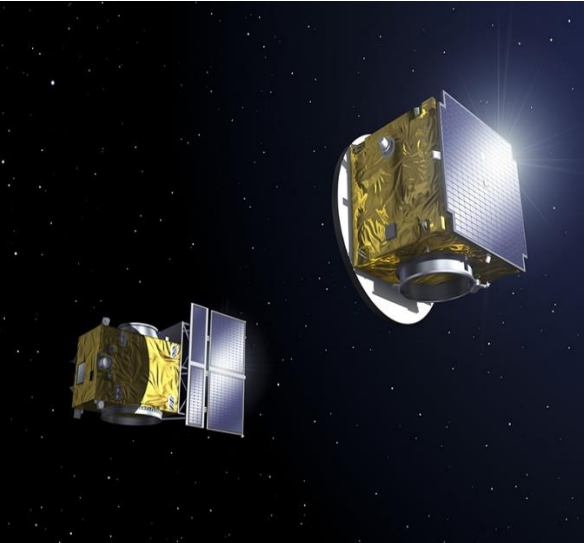
- Composition of Gaseous Plasma: The Sun's various regions rotate at different speeds because of the heated, ionised state of matter that makes up its plasma.
- Convective Zone Dynamics: Differential rotation is influenced by the Sun's outer

convective layer. At different latitudes, the spinning speed is affected by the rising and falling plasma.

Scientific Implications

- Solar Dynamo Theory: Theories about the solar dynamo, which produces the magnetic field of the Sun, are based on the Sun's differential spin.
- Mystery of Differential Rotation: The precise process underlying the Sun's differential rotation is still being studied in solar physics, despite a great deal of research.

Europe’s Proba-3 Mission arrived in India



Why in the News?

- The European Space Agency's (ESA) PROBA-3 Mission is scheduled to be launched by India from the Sriharikota spaceport in December.
- Two satellites intended to investigate the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, will be launched into orbit by ISRO's PSLV rocket.

About Proba-3 Mission:

	Details
Mission Name	PROBA-3 (Project for On-Board Autonomy-3)

Objective	Study the Sun’s corona by creating an artificial eclipse with precision formation flying of two satellites
Launch Date and Location	December 4, 2024, from Sriharikota spaceport, India, via ISRO’s PSLV-XL rocket
Orbit	Highly elliptical orbit, ranging from 600 km to 60,000 km, with a 19.7-hour orbital period
Satellites	Two satellites: 1. Coronagraph spacecraft (340 kg) and 2. Occulter spacecraft (200 kg)
Alignment Precision	Millimeter-level alignment to block the Sun’s light and allow continuous corona observation
Key Scientific Goals	Observe solar phenomena, such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections, to improve space weather forecasting
Unique Features	First ESA mission dedicated to precision formation flying, using smaller, agile satellites for cost-effective observation
International Collaboration	Jointly developed by ESA and ISRO, with contributions from France, Belgium, and the Netherlands
Communication Support	Managed via antenna in Santa Maria (Azores) and ground station in Redu (Belgium)
Significance	Advances solar research and international collaboration; enhances space weather insights, supporting infrastructure on Earth

IDF working on new guidelines to treat Type 2 Diabetes



Why in the News?

- A global team of experts is working with the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) to produce new treatment guidelines for Type 2 diabetes.
- These recommendations, which are tailored to the healthcare systems of particular nations, seek to combine clinical practice and scientific data.

What is Type 2 Diabetes?

- High blood sugar levels are a symptom of type 2 diabetes, a chronic illness in which the body either produces insufficient insulin or grows resistant to it.
- It is frequently associated with poor diet, obesity, and physical inactivity.
- Increased thirst, frequent urination, exhaustion, and blurred vision are some of the symptoms.
- A balanced diet, consistent exercise, and weight control are all part of the treatment.
- Blood sugar levels can be controlled using medications like Metformin, and insulin therapy may be necessary in certain situations.

About International Diabetes Federation (IDF):

	Details
Establishment	1950; Brussels, Belgium
Membership	Over 230 national diabetes associations in 170 countries and territories.
Purpose	To improve the care and lives of people with diabetes and promote its prevention worldwide.
Mission	Advocacy, research, education, and raising awareness to reduce the global burden of diabetes.
Key Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – World Diabetes Day (November 14) – Global Diabetes Atlas – Diabetes Advocacy – Educational initiatives for healthcare professionals
Diabetes Types Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type 1 Diabetes: Primarily affects children and young adults, where the body's immune system attacks the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. • Type 2 Diabetes: The most common form, often linked to lifestyle factors and obesity. It involves insulin resistance and eventually pancreas dysfunction. • Gestational Diabetes: A type of diabetes that occurs during pregnancy and increases the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes later in life.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Forms: Covers genetic forms, latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA), and MODY (Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young).
Collaborations	Partners with global organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and others for global health initiatives.
Leadership	Led by an elected President with the support of a Board of Directors from member countries.
Regional Offices	Operates regional offices in Africa, Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

LignoSat: the First Wooden Satellite launched into space



Why in the News?

The world's first wood-panelled satellite, LignoSat, was recently launched to test the use of timber as a renewable material for future space missions.

About LignoSat Satellite:

	Details
Purpose	To test the potential of wood as a renewable building material in space applications.

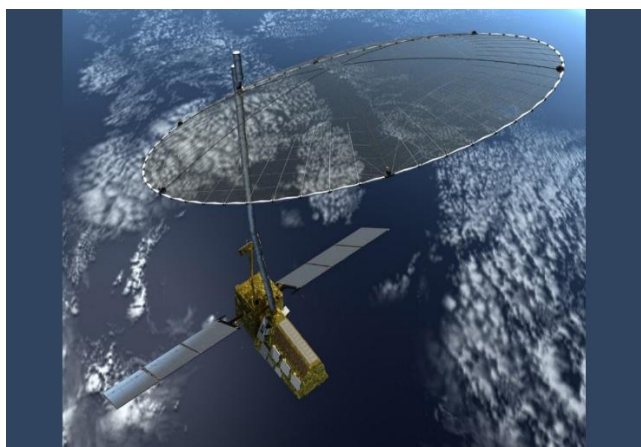
Developed By	Kyoto University and Sumitomo Forestry of Japan.
Launch Details	Launched on November 5 aboard a SpaceX Dragon cargo capsule.
Mission Duration	Spend a month at the International Space Station (ISS) before being deployed into Earth's orbit for six months to test its performance.
Size and Weight	Measures 4 inches (10 cm) per side and weighs 900 grams.
Material	Built with magnolia wood panels, using a traditional Japanese technique that avoids screws and glue.
Construction	Combines wood-panel casings with aluminium structures and standard electronic components.
Durability Testing	Designed to withstand extreme temperature fluctuations in space, ranging from -100 to 100 degrees Celsius every 45 minutes.

LignoSat as a Renewable Solution for Space Construction

- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** Unlike conventional aluminium-based satellites, LignoSat reduces pollutants like aluminium oxides that damage the ozone layer upon re-entry.
- **Sustainable Material:** Wood is a renewable, lightweight, and corrosion-resistant material in space, as there is no water or oxygen to accelerate degradation.
- **Long-Term Vision:** The satellite could pave the way for sustainable space construction, with future plans to use wood in building structures on the Moon and Mars.

- Mitigating Orbital Congestion: As satellite constellations grow, sustainable materials like wood could help reduce space debris and pollution in Earth's orbit.

New NASA-ISRO Satellite 'NISAR' to revolutionise Earth monitoring



Why in the News?

- The goal of the NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite is to improve our knowledge of environmental changes and Earth's natural processes.
- NISAR will serve as a complete Earth observation observatory after it is launched into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

About NISAR Satellite:

	Details
Collaboration	• Joint mission between NASA (United States) and ISRO (India).
Purpose	• Designed to monitor Earth's natural processes and environmental changes, contributing to disaster preparedness, climate research, and sustainable management.
Launch Date	• Planned for early 2025.
Launch Location	• Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Launch Vehicle	• ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II).
Orbit	• Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
Dual-Band Radar System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-band radar (provided by NASA): Penetrates dense vegetation and tracks ground motion. • S-band radar (provided by ISRO): Enhances precision for surface monitoring.
Day and Night Functionality	• Operates 24/7, unaffected by weather conditions.
Large Antenna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diameter: 12 meters. • Structure: 39-foot reflector made from gold-plated wire mesh to focus radar signals effectively.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scans Earth's entire surface every 12 days. • Measures surface changes with accuracy down to fractions of an inch. • Can penetrate vegetation and soil layers, providing 3D reconstructions of subsurface structures.
Areas of Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems and Environmental Changes (forest biomass, deforestation, wetlands, agricultural lands, glaciers, and ice sheets). • Natural Disasters (seismic shifts, volcanic bulging, landslides, and tsunamis).
Benefits and Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Preparedness: Early warning data for natural disasters. • Infrastructure Monitoring: Tracks structural changes in critical infrastructure. • Environmental and Climate

	Research: Studies carbon storage, vegetation dynamics, and climate change impacts.
Unique Advantages	• Largest collaboration between NASA and ISRO.

	• Successfully tested in thermal vacuum conditions in Bengaluru in 2023.
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Security Issues

Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24



Why in the News?

The Indian Army contingent has departed for Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia to take part in the 9th edition of India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24.

Note:

- The French Air and Space Force and the Indian Air Force are participating in a bilateral air force exercise called Exercise Garuda.
- Every two years, Exercise Shakti is a training event that alternates between France and India.

About Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24

	Details
What is it?	A bilateral joint special forces exercise between India and Indonesia aimed at enhancing military cooperation. Held alternatively in India and Indonesia.

History	Initiated in 2012 as part of defense cooperation between India and Indonesia.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between special forces• Share best practices and experiences in counter-terrorism• Conduct joint operations and drills to improve interoperability
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint planning and execution of special operations• Orientation on advanced special forces skills• Sharing information on weapons, tactics, and techniques• Operations practice in diverse terrains• Cultural exchanges between troops
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthens bilateral relations• Fosters trust between India and Indonesia• Contributes to regional security and addresses terrorism challenges• Enhances operational capabilities of both armies
Recent Edition	Ninth Edition (2024): Scheduled from November 1 to 12, focusing on enhancing understanding, cooperation, and interoperability.

Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR



Why in the News?

The Indian Army contingent departed for the 15th edition of VAJRA PRAHAR, a joint Special Forces exercise with the US Army.

About Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR:

	Details
What is it?	A joint Special Forces exercise between India and the US aimed at enhancing military cooperation.
Inception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started in 2010 as part of bilateral defense cooperation between India and the US. No exercises held between 2012 and 2015 and in 2020.
Frequency	Conducted annually, alternately in India and the United States.
15th Edition Dates	Scheduled from 2nd to 22nd November 2024 at the Orchard Combat Training Centre, Idaho, USA.
Participants	45 personnel from each country; Indian Army's Special Forces and US Army's Green Berets.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance military cooperation Promote interoperability and tactical exchange Improve combined capabilities in joint operations

Key Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High physical fitness standards Joint planning and tactical drills
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Team Mission Planning Reconnaissance Missions Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Execution of Special Operations Roles of Joint Terminal Attack Controllers Psychological Warfare

MAHASAGAR Initiative



Why in the News?

- The Chief of Naval Staff led the Indian Navy's third iteration of the MAHASAGAR Initiative, a high-level virtual engagement.
- Emphasising the value of training collaboration to meet common maritime difficulties, the theme is "Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR."

About MAHASAGAR Initiative:

	Details
Full Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAHASAGAR stands for "Maritime Heads for Active (MAHA) Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)"

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAGAR Doctrine was culminated out of PM's vision in 2015.
Symbolism	Translates to "vast ocean" in Hindi, symbolizing the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Indian Navy in 2023 as part of India's commitment to maritime security and regional cooperation. Held bi-annually.
Primary Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Cooperation: Collaborative training efforts among IOR nations. Capacity Building: Developing skilled manpower to address maritime security challenges.
Participating Nations	Countries bordering the Indian Ocean, include Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.
Leadership	Chief of the Naval Staff of India leads the interactions.
Participants	Heads of Navies, Maritime Agencies, and Senior Leadership from each participating country.
Significance	Strengthens maritime security and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region, emphasizing collaborative efforts and regional capacity building.

Significance of MAHASAGAR

- MAHASAGAR helps India's function as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean and bolsters its maritime presence.
- The program fosters peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region by strengthening maritime cooperation.

- Countries gain from safer trade routes and regional economic growth when they cooperate and maintain shared security.

Exercise 'Poorvi Prahar'



Why in the News?

The Indian Army has conducted a high-intensity tri-services exercise named Poorvi

Prahar from November 10 to 18 in Arunachal Pradesh's forward areas.

About Exercise 'Poorvi Prahar'

- To increase combat efficiency for Integrated Joint Operations in difficult mountainous terrain, the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force are working together.
- It features a broad range of advanced military platforms:
 - Aircraft and Helicopters: Includes fighter aircraft, reconnaissance platforms, Chinook helicopters, and the Advanced Light Helicopter (Rudra).
 - Artillery: Deployment of M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers.
 - Capabilities: These resources offer excellent mobility, firepower, and accuracy appropriate for the challenging terrain of the area.
- Significance:**

- In order to strengthen India's strategic deterrence capabilities in the area, it highlights the Indian Armed Forces' preparedness to carry out multi-domain operations on land, in the air, and at sea.

Project Veer Gatha 4.0



Why in the News?

Over 1.76 crore school students participated in Project Veer Gatha 4.0, sharing creative tributes to the bravery and sacrifice of Armed Forces personnel.

About Project Veer Gatha:

	Details
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in 2021 to honor the acts of bravery and selfless sacrifice of Gallantry Awardees. • 1.76 crore students from 36 states and UTs participated. • Conducted annually since its inception, with increasing participation:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Edition (2021): 8 lakh students, Second Edition (2022): 19.5 lakh students, Third Edition (2023): 1.36 crore students.
Aims and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instill patriotism and national pride among students. • Spread awareness about the heroic contributions of Gallantry Awardees. • Foster creativity through various forms of artistic expression. • Promote national unity and pride across India's diverse school system. • Enhance knowledge about unsung heroes and military heritage.
Features of the Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative content submissions, including poems, paintings, essays, and videos. • 100 national-level winners annually, with a ₹10,000 cash prize and recognition by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Defence. • District and state awards for outstanding students. • Educational outreach programs by the Ministry of Defence to engage students. • Digital submission via the MyGov portal, making the process inclusive and easy for wide participation. • Focus on both famous Gallantry Awardees and unsung heroes.

2023 Selections

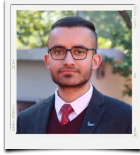


Himani
Rank - 2 (SDM)



Yogesh Kumar
Rank - 7 (SDM)

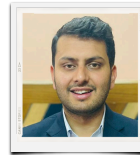
Previous Selections



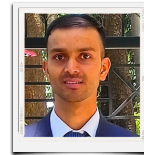
Kartikeya Sharma
SDM HAS 2022



Abhishek Singh Thakur
SDM HAS 2022



Dheeraj Sharma
Tehsildar HAS 2022



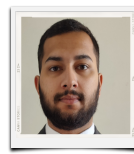
Jitender Singh
Tehsildar HAS 2022



Ravinder Singh
Naib Tehsildar 2022



Arun Kumar Sankhyan
Naib Tehsildar 2022



Arjun Singh Parmar
Naib Tehsildar 2022



Jagriti
Naib Tehsildar 2022



Abhishek Barwal
Rank - 1 SDM
HAS - 2021



Amit Kalthiak
Rank - 1 SDM
HAS - 2020



Kshitiz Rana
Rank - 824
UPSC 2022



Rashmi Sharma
DSP
HAS 2021



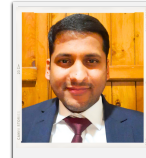
Gireesh Nadda
ARCS
HPAS - 2021



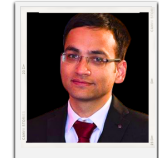
Mohit Shukla
ETO
HPAS - 2019



Nipun Kashyap
ETO
HPAS - 2019



Apurav Chandel
ETO
HPAS - 2018



Karan Singh
BDO
HPAS - 2018



Ankur Verma
RM - HRTC
2020



D.P. Thakur
AE -
HPSEBL 2019



Govind Prashad
Teh Welfare
Officer 2020



Dipali Tomar
Teh Welfare
Officer 2020



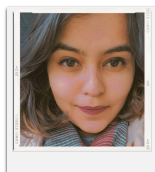
Arsh Singh Rana
Assistant
Professor



Aman Sharma
Assistant
Manager HPSCB



Kartik Thakur
ETI
2020



Mukta Sharma
ETI
2020



Sidarth Negi
Inspector Audit
2020



Swati Sharma
Inspector Audit
2020