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1. National/International News

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5. Defence

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8. Science and Technology

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NATIONAL

THE MAHA KUMBH MELA 2025, A SACRED PILGRIMAGE, WILL BE HELD IN PRAYAG-RAJ FROM 13TH JAN TO 26TH FEB 2025, DRAWING MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS FOR SPIRITUAL PURIFICATION -

- The word 'Kumbh' comes from the root 'kumbhak' (the sacred pitcher of elixir of immortality). It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.



This gathering takes place at 4 different places, namely:

- In Haridwar, on the banks of the Ganges.
- In Ujjain, on the banks of Shipra.
- In Nashik, on the banks of Godavari (Dakshin Ganga).
- In Prayagraj, at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna, and the mythical invisible Saraswati.

Different Types of Kumbh:

- The Kumbh Mela is celebrated 4 times over a course of 12 years.
- At Haridwar and Allahabad, Ardh-Kumbh Mela is held every 6th year.
- The Maha Kumbh Mela is celebrated at Prayag after 144 years (after 12 'Purna Kumbh Melas').
- Maagh Kumbh is celebrated every year in the month of Maagh (Jan-Feb) in Prayagraj.

The Kumbh Mela symbolises national unity and India's cultural heritage, recognized by UNESCO in 2017 as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity for its enduring ancient traditions.

Kumbh 2019 creates 3 Guinness World Records:

- Largest traffic and crowd management plan.
- The biggest painting exercise of public sites under the Paint My City Scheme.

- Biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism.

GUJARAT'S GHARCHOLA HANDICRAFT GETS GI RECOGNITION -

- Gujarat's iconic handicraft, 'Gharchola,' has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Union government, taking the state's total GI tags to 27, with 23 dedicated to handicrafts.
- This recognition highlights the rich cultural heritage and exquisite craftsmanship of Gujarat's artisans. Presented during the "GI and Beyond – Virasat Se Vikas Tak" program in New Delhi, the accolade underscores the state's commitment to preserving and promoting its artistic traditions.



JAMMU AND KASHMIR CELEBRATES FIRST CONSTITUTION DAY SINCE 1950 -

- For the first time since the adoption of India's Constitution in 1950, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) observed Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) with grand celebrations on November 26, 2024.
- The event marked the completion of 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution and emphasized the core values of justice, equality, and fraternity enshrined in the Preamble.
- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led the historic celebrations, underscoring the region's integration into the national framework.



CABINET APPROVES PAN 2.0: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF TAXPAYER SERVICES -

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

has approved the PAN 2.0 Project, an upgrade of the current PAN/TAN system, with a financial outlay of ₹1,435 crore.

- The project aims to streamline and digitize the PAN services, enhancing taxpayer registration and service delivery.
- PAN 2.0 is a part of the government's Digital India vision, which focuses on improving the digital infrastructure and making the PAN a common identifier across various government systems.



KARTARPUR SAHIB CORRIDOR CELEBRATES 5 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS CONNECTIVITY -

- **The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, connecting India and Pakistan, marks its fifth anniversary today.** The corridor leads to the Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent the last 18 years of his life.
- The corridor was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 9, 2019, during the 550th Prakash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- **Over the past five years, more than 3.4 lakh devotees have visited the site. The corridor is a significant step in religious diplomacy, allowing pilgrims from India to visit this sacred site without a visa.** As of today, 417 pilgrims have traveled, the highest this year.



JAPAN AND WALES TO PARTNER WITH NAGALAND FOR HORNBILL FESTIVAL 2024 -

- Japan has been announced as the official partner country for the 25th edition of Nagaland's renowned Hornbill Festival, alongside Wales, which was confirmed earlier.
- **This strategic partnership, forged through meetings between Nagaland's Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Japanese Embassy representatives, including Takashi**

Ariyoshi and Mayumi Tsubakimoto, marks a significant moment in the state's cultural calendar.

- The festival, scheduled from December 1-10 at Kisama near Kohima, will feature Japan's contribution in areas like cultural performances, capacity building, and workshops focusing on handicrafts and bamboo products, with renowned Japanese artists and experts leading these sessions.

PRASAR BHARATI LAUNCHES OTT PLATFORM 'WAVES' -

- Prasar Bharati, India's public broadcaster, has launched its own OTT platform 'Waves' at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- With a diverse content library, it aims to deliver a mix of nostalgic classics and contemporary programming, making it a hub for family-friendly entertainment. The platform is available on Android and iOS, offering content in over 12 languages and spanning multiple genres such as infotainment, gaming, education, shopping, and live events.
- **Waves provides 65 live TV channels, video-on-demand, free-to-play games, and online shopping through ONDC. It hosts content across genres like infotainment, education, and entertainment in over 12 languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, and Konkani.**
- **Nostalgic and Modern Shows:** The platform blends India's cultural past with the present, featuring classic TV shows such as Ramayan, Mahabharat, and Shaktimaan, alongside new age content like Fauji 2.0 and Kicking Balls. The inclusion of student films, reality shows, and regional programming enhances its appeal.

PM MODI GRACES ODISHA PARBA 2024 IN DELHI -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Odisha Parba 2024 celebrations held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.



- Organized by the Odia Samaj from November 22-24, this flagship event highlighted Odisha's vibrant cultural, social, and political heritage.
- The Prime Minister's address celebrated Odisha's legacy, its historical contributions, and its promising future.

IGAS BAGWAL: CELEBRATING UTTARAKHAND'S VIBRANT FOLK HERITAGE -

- Uttarakhand, a state rich in culture and tradition, observes a unique festival known as Igas Bagwal. This festival, also called Budhi Diwali or Harbodhni Ekadashi, is celebrated in the mountainous regions with reverence and joy, precisely 11 days after Diwali.
- Rooted in local customs, Igas Bagwal represents the essence of Uttarakhand's folk heritage, uniting communities through shared festivities and traditional practices. This article delves into the significance, customs, and cultural essence of Igas Bagwal, offering insight into one of the most treasured festivals in Uttarakhand. This year this festival starts from 12 November.



UN LISTS CHHATTISGARH'S BASTAR VILLAGE AS TOURISM DESTINATION -

- The small village of Dhudmaras, located in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, has been selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for its Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme.
- This programme highlights villages with potential for sustainable tourism development and aims to enhance local tourism infrastructure, promote cultural heritage, and improve residents' quality of life.
- Dhudmaras was selected from over 260 applications worldwide for the Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme.



MP CABINET APPROVES 35% JOB RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN STATE SERVICES -

- Madhya Pradesh cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, approved a 35 percent reservation for women in all state government recruitments. The decision was made during a cabinet meeting held at the Mantralaya in Bhopal.
- **Increase in Reservation:** The cabinet approved raising women's reservation in state government recruitment from 33% to 35%.
- Statement by Deputy CM Rajendra Shukla: Described this as a "major step toward women empowerment."
- **Approval:** 254 new fertilizer sales centers will be opened across the state.
- **Objective:** Aims to reduce long queues and improve access for farmers, allowing easier cash payment for fertilizers.



RECENTLY, CYCLONE DANA MADE LANDFALL IN ODISHA -

- Recently, Cyclone Dana made landfall in Odisha.
- **Landfall** is the event of a tropical cyclone moving from water onto land, specifically when the storm's center (eye of the cyclone) crosses the coast.
- It differs from a direct hit where the core of high winds (or eye-wall) comes onshore but the center of the storm may remain offshore.
- The Eye of the Cyclone is a central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure.

Other Components of the Cyclone-

- **Eyewall:** It is the most dangerous part of a tropical cyclone, with the strongest winds, heaviest rainfall, and towering convective clouds rising up to 15,000 meters (49,000 feet).
- **Rainbands:** Curved bands of clouds and thunderstorms trail away from the eye wall in a spiral form, capable of producing heavy bursts of rain, strong winds, and even tornadoes.

UTTARAKHAND CM INAUGURATES JAULJIBI MELA 2024 IN PITHORAGARH -

- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Jauljibi Mela 2024 in Pithoragarh, calling it an “invaluable heritage” of the state.
- The mela, historically significant for promoting harmony between India, Tibet, Nepal, and neighboring regions, plays a vital role in strengthening both economic and cultural ties.
- During the event, Dhami also launched 18 development projects worth ₹64.47 crores, with significant investments in rural and agricultural sectors. The CM emphasized that the event provides a platform for small traders, farmers, and artisans, fostering economic growth, especially in border areas.
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SIGNIFICANT RISE HIMALAYAN GLACIAL LAKES INCREASE 10.81% FROM 2011 TO 2024 -

- A recent government report indicates that glacial lakes and water bodies in the Himalayan region have

experienced a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024, primarily driven by climate change.



- This expansion raises concerns about the heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). The report, accessed by PTI from the Central Water Commission (CWC), highlights that lakes in India have seen an even more significant growth, with a surface area increase of 33.7%.
- The total area of glacial lakes in India grew from 1,962 hectares in 2011 to 2,623 hectares in 2024, marking a 33.7% increase.
- A total of 67 lakes in India experienced over 40% increase in surface area, categorizing them as high-risk for GLOFs.
- The most notable expansions were recorded in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Overall, glacial lakes across the Himalayan region increased from 533,401 hectares in 2011 to 591,108 hectares in 2024.

CENTRE TO BEGIN CENSUS FROM 2025 -

- The Central government is set to commence the long-awaited census exercise in 2025, aiming for completion by 2026. This census was originally scheduled for 2021 but faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following its completion, the BJP-led government plans to initiate a delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha seats, which is expected to be finalized by 2028.
- **Census Start and End:** The census will begin in 2025 and is projected to conclude in 2026, marking a significant delay of four years.
- **Delimitation Process:** The delimitation of Lok Sabha seats will commence post-census completion, with a target completion date of 2028.
- **Future Census Cycles:** The traditional decadal census cycle will be adjusted, with the next census scheduled for 2035.

JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA APPOINTED AS 51ST CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA -

- In a major judiciary update, Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI), with his oath-taking ceremony set for November 11, 2024.
- His appointment follows CJI DY Chandrachud's recommendation and was confirmed by President Droupadi Murmu. Justice Khanna will serve as CJI until his retirement on May 13, 2025, holding a tenure of approximately 183 days.
- Justice Khanna began his legal practice in 1983, focusing on taxation, constitutional, and commercial law. He held key roles such as Senior Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department and Standing Counsel (Civil) for Delhi.

**RSS MARKS 100 YEARS ON VIJAYADASHAMI -**

- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the world's largest voluntary organization, is entering its 100th year on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami. Founded on this very day in 1925, also known as Dussehra, the RSS has grown exponentially over the past nine decades, expanding its reach across India and abroad.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on its centenary, acknowledging its significant contribution to nation-building.
- In a post on X, Modi urged his followers to listen to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's annual Vijayadashami address, describing it as a "must-listen" speech.



- Modi extended heartfelt congratulations to all RSS volunteers, emphasizing the historic milestone and uninterrupted journey of the organization dedicated to "Maa Bharti."
- The PM stated that the RSS's dedication to the nation would inspire generations and energize the pursuit of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

HAL BECOMES 14TH MAHARATNA COMPANY -

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been upgraded to the status of Maharatna, making it the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to receive this prestigious classification from the Government of India.
- This announcement, made on October 12, enhances HAL's operational autonomy and financial capabilities, allowing it to invest up to 15% of its net worth in projects and up to ₹5,000 crore in foreign ventures without government approval. The stock price responded positively, trading at ₹4,510, reflecting a 1.42% increase.
- HAL joins the ranks of other Maharatna PSUs such as NTPC, ONGC, BHEL, and Indian Oil Corporation, which have shown substantial operational success.
- To qualify for Maharatna status, CPSEs must first hold Navratna status and meet stringent financial criteria, including:
 - Average Annual Turnover: Exceeding ₹25,000 crore.
 - Average Annual Net Worth: More than ₹15,000 crore.
 - Average Annual Net Profit: Over ₹5,000 crore for the past three years

INTERNATIONAL

THE CHENNAI-VLADIVOSTOK EASTERN MARITIME CORRIDOR HAS BECOME OPERATIONAL AND IS CARRYING OIL, FOOD AND MACHINES -

- The Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor (VCMC) is a proposed sea route that connects the ports of Chennai and Vladivostok, and is part of the Eastern Maritime Corridor. **The route will pass through the Sea of Japan, the South China Sea, the Strait of Malacca, the Bay of Bengal, and the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago.**
- The Eastern Maritime Corridor connects ports on India's east coast with ports in the far-east region of Russia. **The VCMC was signed in 2019 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a visit to Vladivostok, Russia. Vladivostok is Russia's largest port on the Pacific Ocean, and is located about 50 kilometres from the China-Russia border.**
- **The VCMC is about 5,600 nautical miles long. The VCMC aims to improve trade relations between India and Russia,** and provide a more cost-effective way to transport goods between the two countries. The VCMC could reduce the time it takes to transport cargo between the two countries by up to 16 days.

KENYA CANCELS AIRPORT AND ENERGY DEALS WITH INDIAN TYCOON GAUTAM ADANI AMID U.S. BRIBERY CHARGES -

- **Kenyan President William Ruto announced on November 21, 2024, the cancellation of multimillion-dollar deals with Indian business tycoon Gautam Adani, citing concerns over bribery and fraud allegations.**
- The decision follows U.S. indictments against Adani, one of Asia's richest men, accusing him of securities fraud and a bribery scheme linked to a solar energy project in India.
- This announcement comes amid mounting criticism and protests in Kenya, where Adani's deals were seen as



controversial and potentially harmful to workers' rights and job security.

NEPAL BEGINS ELECTRICITY EXPORT TO BANGLADESH -

- Nepal has recently initiated the export of electricity to Bangladesh via India's electricity grid and development took place on November 15, 2024.
- **The ceremony was attended by key officials from Nepal, Bangladesh, and India. The power flow is anticipated to enhance sub-regional connectivity in the power sector.**
- The tripartite power sales agreement was signed on October 3, 2024. **This agreement involved NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, Nepal Electricity Authority, and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).**
- The agreement aims to facilitate electricity trade among the three nations.



INDIA RE-ELECTED TO UN PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION FOR 2025-2026 -

- India has been re-elected to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the 2025-2026 term, reaffirming its pivotal role in international peace efforts.
- **The announcement was made by India's Permanent Mission to the UN, highlighting the country's unwavering dedication to promoting global stability as a founding member and major contributor to UN peacekeeping.**
- This accomplishment underscores India's ongoing engagement with the PBC since its establishment in 2005.

AUSTRALIA BARS UNDER-16S FROM SOCIAL MEDIA -

- Australia has enacted a world-first legislation to ban children under 16 from social media platforms, **such as**

TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram, as part of its effort to protect minors from online harm.

- The law imposes hefty fines of up to AUD 50 million for non-compliance, with social media companies given a year to implement the changes.
- While proponents laud the move as essential for child safety, critics argue the legislation is rushed, may pose privacy risks, and could unintentionally harm vulnerable youth.

COP29: THE CRUCIAL CLIMATE SUMMIT IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN -

- The 29th UN Climate Summit, COP29, kicked off in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 11, 2024, with discussions set to focus on vital climate finance mechanisms, particularly the new “New Collective Quantified Goal” (NCQG).



- The summit, running until November 22, aims to address urgent global climate issues and secure financial commitments to assist developing nations in combating the devastating effects of climate change, caused largely by greenhouse gas emissions.
- COP29 has been dubbed the “Finance COP” due to its central focus on financial strategies, including a push for greater funding commitments and the role of the private sector in driving climate action.

CANADA CANCELS SDS VISA PROGRAM ENDED FOR INDIA AND 13 OTHER COUNTRIES -

- The Government of Canada has officially announced the termination of its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which was widely popular among Indian students for expedited processing of study permits. Effective immediately, students from India and 13 other countries who previously benefited from faster



application handling through the SDS will now have to apply through the regular study permit system.

- **Closure of SDS Program:** The Government of Canada has ended the Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which expedited study permit processing for students from India and 13 other countries.
- **Effective Date:** The change is immediate, and all applications will now follow the standard study permit process.
- **Reason for Closure:** The closure aims to strengthen program integrity, address student vulnerabilities, and ensure equal access to the application process, as stated by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

G20 RIO SUMMIT 2024: A FOCUS ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND TURBULENCE

- The 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro concluded with the adoption of the Rio Declaration, addressing critical global issues such as climate change, the Ukraine war, conflicts in West Asia, and economic inequality.



- The declaration outlined pathways to sustainable growth, multilateralism, and humanitarian intervention while exposing deep divisions among member nations.
- The declaration reaffirmed the G20’s commitment to the Paris Agreement and progress under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- However, no consensus was reached on boosting climate funding for developing nations, with leaders stating that funding should come “from all sources.”
- The declaration unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and stressed the importance of protecting civilians, particularly in conflict zones like Gaza and Lebanon.
- It emphasized diplomacy and dialogue to resolve ongoing wars and crises, urging comprehensive ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon to mitigate humanitarian suffering.

- Leaders called for an enlarged Security Council, advocating better representation for underrepresented regions and groups.

INDIA AND AUSTRALIA- 2ND ANNUAL SUMMIT -

- **On November 19, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia held the 2nd India-Australia Annual Summit in Rio de Janeiro, alongside the G20 Summit.**
- This summit marked a pivotal moment in the bilateral relationship, showcasing significant progress in diverse areas under the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP).
- The leaders discussed shared regional and global challenges, emphasizing the importance of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Increased Bilateral Trade:** Two-way trade surged, supported by the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA).
- **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA):** Leaders expressed intent to finalize an ambitious, balanced CECA to unlock full economic potential.
- **Australia-India Business Exchange (AIBX):** Extended until 2028 to promote business partnerships.



INDIA OVERTOOK CHINA AS TOP SOURCE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE US

- India surpassed China as the top source of international students in the US, sending over 3.3 lakh students in the 2023-24 academic year, marking a 23% increase from the previous year.



- **The increase is particularly noticeable in graduate programs (up by 19%) and optional practical training participation (up by 41%). Indian students contributed \$11.8 billion to the US economy.**

INDIA AND ITALY STRENGTHENED STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2025-29 -

- Prime Minister Modi and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil to enhance the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan for 2025-29.
- **Focus was on the India-Middle East Economic Corridor, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, migration, Industry 4.0, and scientific cooperation through a new Executive Programme for 2025-27.**



NOBEL PRIZE 2024 IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE -

- Recently, the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.
- The scientists won the esteemed prize for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation.

SAUDI ARABIA BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD'S LARGEST BUILDING -

- **Saudi Arabia has commenced construction on the Mukaab, aiming to become the largest building globally.** This monumental project is located in Riyadh and represents a \$50 billion investment. It is part of a broader vision to modernize the city and enhance its skyline.
- **The Mukaab will soar to 1,300 feet in height and span 1,200 feet in width. It will have enough space to house 20 Empire State Buildings.** The total floor area will reach 2 million square feet, dedicated to various functions, including fine dining, retail, offices, and residential units.

- The building will comprise 104,000 residential units and 9,000 hotel rooms, creating a vibrant downtown atmosphere. The design prioritizes human interaction, ensuring that green spaces are accessible within a 15-minute walk from any location inside the Mukaab.

HONG KONG REGAINS TITLE OF WORLD'S FREEST ECONOMY -

- Hong Kong has regained its title as the freest economy in the world, surpassing Singapore, according to the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World report. This ranking is important, especially since earlier reports showed a decline in Hong Kong's economic freedoms.
- In the latest report, Hong Kong scored 8.58, just ahead of Singapore's score of 8.55. Following them, Switzerland ranked third, New Zealand fourth, and the United States fifth. On the other hand, Venezuela was ranked last, with a low score of 3.02.



US ELECTION RESULTS 2024 -

- The United States is gearing up for one of the most significant political events of the decade: the 2024 presidential election. Set to take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, this high-stakes election has already drawn worldwide attention as Americans prepare to cast their votes for the country's next leader.
- This election will be a contest between two influential figures: Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Both campaigns have intensified, particularly in critical battleground states, making this election one of the most anticipated political events globally.



INDIA-PAKISTAN EXTEND KARTARPUR CORRIDOR AGREEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS

- In a significant diplomatic development, India and Pakistan have agreed to renew their pact on the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for an additional five years, just days after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad, where he met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.
- The original agreement, which facilitates the visit of Indian pilgrims to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, was set to expire on October 24. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed the extension, stating it will ensure uninterrupted operation of the corridor for pilgrims.
- The 4 km-long Kartarpur Corridor provides visa-free access for Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the final resting place of Sikhism's founder, Guru Nanak Dev. India has urged Pakistan to waive the US\$ 20 service charge imposed on each pilgrim, reflecting ongoing concerns regarding pilgrimage costs.



SHEIKH NAIM QASSEM: HEZBOLLAH'S NEW CHIEF AMID TENSIONS -

- In a rare public move, Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia paramilitary and political group, announced the appointment of Sheikh Naim Qassem as its new secretary-general following the recent assassination of Hassan Nasrallah by Israel on September 27.
- Known for his deep ties to Hezbollah and decades of political activism, Qassem's leadership marks a critical transition for the organization amid ongoing Israeli conflicts and internal shifts within Hezbollah's regional influence.



LAHORE DECLARED THE MOST POLLUTED CITY IN THE WORLD AGAIN -

- Lahore has once again claimed the title of the most polluted city globally, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) soaring to alarming levels. Recently recorded at a staggering 708, the PM2.5 levels reached an unprecedented 431 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended annual limit by 86 times.
- This crisis, attributed to unchecked vehicular emissions, outdated industrial practices, and ineffective environmental policies, creates a hazardous smog that engulfs the city year-round, posing severe health risks to its residents.

**GLOBAL PUBLIC DEBT SET TO EXCEED \$100 TRILLION, WARNS IMF -**

- According to a report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the world's total public debt is poised to surpass \$100 trillion this year for the first time.
- The IMF warns that this figure may rise even more rapidly than previously anticipated, driven by political sentiment favoring increased spending and the growing borrowing needs associated with slow economic growth.
- The world's total public debt is projected to exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in 2024.
- This figure is expected to reach 93% of global GDP by the end of 2024 and approach 100% by 2030, surpassing the 99% peak seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**INDIA-CHINA SIGN BORDER DEAL AFTER FOUR-YEAR NEGOTIATIONS -**

- India and China signed a border deal after four years of negotiations. This agreement focuses on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

- The deal aims to enhance patrolling rights in the Depsang Plains and Demchok areas.
- Tensions between India and China escalated in 2020 following the Galwan clash, which resulted in the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers and an undisclosed number of Chinese soldiers.
- The clash stemmed from disputes over the poorly defined 3,440 km border, leading to military confrontations. Since then insisted that relations with China would only improve once the border situation normalized.

**PM MODI AND SPANISH PM PEDRO SANCHEZ JOINTLY INAUGURATE TATA AIRCRAFT COMPLEX IN VADODARA, GUJARAT -**

- In a landmark event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sanchez, jointly inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex for manufacturing C-295 military transport aircraft at the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- This project, a first-of-its-kind private sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aircraft in India, marks a significant step forward in India's journey towards indigenous defense production under the "Make in India, Make for the World" mission.

**UNGA ELECTS 18 NEW MEMBERS TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR 2025-2027 TERM -**

- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) has elected 18 new members to the 47-member Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term. This decision was made through a secret ballot held recently, with



countries like Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand among the newly elected.

- The newly elected members will begin their three-year terms on January 1, 2025. The Human Rights Council, based in Geneva, plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights globally. The elections reflect a commitment to staggered terms, ensuring continuity within the Council's composition.
- **The Human Rights Council, established in 2006, aims to address human rights violations and promote fundamental freedoms.** The recent elections continue the practice of rotating membership, with approximately one-third of the Council's 47 members changing annually. This system is designed to maintain a diverse representation of countries, promoting equitable geographical distribution.

The elected members reflect the following distribution among regional groups-

- **African States:** 13 seats
- **Asia-Pacific States:** 13 seats
- **Eastern European States:** 6 seats
- **Latin American and Caribbean States:** 8 seats
- **Western European and other States:** 7 seats

NIHON HIDANKYO ORGANIZATION HONORED WITH THE 2024 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE -

- **The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 to the Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo.**
- This grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as Hibakusha, is

receiving the Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.



- For its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.
- **The survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,** who have shared their personal stories to educate the world about the horrors of nuclear weapons.
- They advocate for disarmament and emphasize that such weapons must never be used again.

PRIME MINISTER ATTENDED THE 19TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS) -

- On 11 October 2024, the Prime Minister of India took part in the 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- His presence highlighted India's dedication to working with other nations in the Indo-Pacific region, a vast area that includes the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- **The Prime Minister emphasized the important part that ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) plays in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific.**
- He mentioned India's vision for the region, known as the Pacific Vision, which focuses on collaboration with countries like the Quad nations (India, Australia, Japan, and the United States) to promote peace and cooperation in the region.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PROBA-3: ISRO TO LAUNCH ESA'S PRECISION FORMATION FLYING SOLAR MISSION -

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to launch the **European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission on December 4, 2024**, using its PSLV-XL rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- This pioneering mission will study the Sun's corona, the outermost and hottest layer of the Sun's atmosphere, through an artificial solar eclipse created by two satellites flying in precise formation.
- Proba-3 represents a significant technological breakthrough and an example of international collaboration in space exploration.

ISRO AND ASA JOIN HANDS FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION -

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has entered into a significant collaboration with the **Australian Space Agency (ASA)** to support India's first crewed spaceflight program, **Gaganyaan**.
- On November 20, 2024, the two space agencies signed an Implementation Agreement (IA) to enhance cooperation on crew and crew module recovery, which is crucial for the success of the Gaganyaan mission.
- This agreement will provide India with the necessary assistance to ensure the safe recovery of astronauts in the event of a contingency during the mission.



ISRO'S GSAT-N2 COMMUNICATION SATELLITE DEPLOYED BY SPACEX -

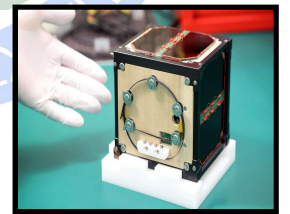
- On November 18, 2024, SpaceX successfully launched the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) GSAT-N2 communication satellite** from Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

- This advanced satellite, designed to enhance broadband connectivity and support India's Smart Cities Mission, was carried aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- Marking the first commercial collaboration between ISRO and SpaceX, the launch demonstrates India's growing reliance on international partnerships to achieve its ambitious space and technological objectives.
- **Launch Site:** Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, Marks the first commercial collaboration between ISRO and SpaceX.



WORLD'S FIRST WOODEN SATELLITE, LIGNOSAT -

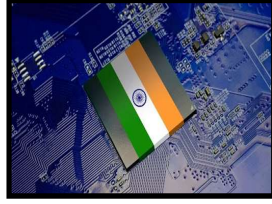
- **Japanese scientists launched the world's first wooden satellite, named LignoSat**, marking a pioneering experiment in sustainable space technology.
- **Developed by Kyoto University in collaboration with Sumitomo Forestry**, this satellite aims to explore the potential of timber as a material for future space habitation and structures.
- The innovative project, which uses honoki wood, is designed to test the resilience of wood in the extreme conditions of space, possibly paving the way for long-term human settlements in space with renewable resources.



UP CABINET CLEARS ₹3,706 CR HCL-FOXCONN SEMICONDUCTOR PROJECT -

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has approved a major semiconductor manufacturing project led by **Vama Sundri Investment**, a subsidiary of HCL Tech, in partnership with Foxconn.

- This ambitious facility, to be set up along the Yamuna Expressway, involves an investment of ₹3,706 crore and aims to strengthen India's semiconductor production capabilities.



- The UP Cabinet has approved projects by Vamasundari (HCL Group) and Tarq Semiconductor (Hiranandani Group), aiming to establish a semiconductor manufacturing hub in Jewar, near the Noida International Airport.

RECENTLY, ELON MUSK'S SPACEX USED A PAIR OF GIANT ROBOTIC ARMS NAMED MECHAZILLA TO GRAB STARSHIP'S BOOSTER SUPER HEAVY, MID-AIR AFTER SEPARATION FROM THE STARSHIP ROCKET -

- This approach improves the booster's reusability by avoiding ocean landings and reducing costs and turnaround time.
- **Mechazilla (Mid-Air Booster Recovery)**- It refers to SpaceX's towering structure equipped with a pair of giant robotic arms designed to catch and recover the parts of launch vehicles during its descent.
- **Once the launch vehicle separates from the booster, the booster returns to the launch site, using grid fins to control its descent and orientation.** As it nears the launch tower, the robotic arms, which are controlled by precision motors and actuators, align vertically along the tower.
- Falcon 9 booster lands on specially-built platforms using landing legs strapped to its side, rather than being caught in mid-air.

ROYAL ENFIELD LAUNCHES EV BRAND "FLYING FLEA" -

- Royal Enfield has recently unveiled its highly anticipated electric vehicle (EV) brand, "Flying Flea", an homage to one of the brand's most iconic models. The original Flying Flea was a compact, lightweight

motorcycle designed in the 1940s for military use during World War II.

- Engineered to be air-dropped behind enemy lines, the bike was valued for its nimble handling and ability to navigate rugged terrains. Its unique design and military legacy eventually paved the way for a civilian model that remains popular among enthusiasts today.
- **Now, nearly 75 years later, Royal Enfield is reviving the Flying Flea name, this time for its born-electric series of motorcycles, emphasizing urban mobility, nostalgia, and cutting-edge EV technology.**



ISRO'S FIRST ANALOG SPACE MISSION LAUNCHED IN LEH, LADAKH -

- **ISRO launched India's first analog space mission from Leh, led by the Human Space Flight Centre in collaboration with AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.**
- **The mission aims to simulate an interplanetary habitat, utilizing Ladakh's Mars-like conditions to study challenges of space habitation, benefiting the future exploration.**

RELIANCE AND NVIDIA PARTNER TO BUILD AI INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIA -

- **Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has teamed up with US chipmaker Nvidia to establish AI infrastructure in India, announced during the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai.**
- This collaboration aims to position India as a leading intelligence market, with plans to deploy Nvidia's GB 200 supercomputer technology for large-scale AI capabilities.
- **The initiative emphasizes India's vast IT talent, digital data, and a youthful population, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision of self-sufficiency in AI development.**

WORLD'S HIGHEST IMAGING CHERENKOV TELESCOPE UNVEILED IN LADAKH -

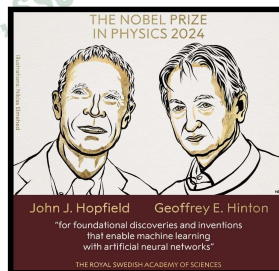
• On October 4, 2024, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, inaugurated the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh. This monumental facility is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia and stands as the highest of its kind in the world, located at an altitude of approximately 4,300 meters.



- Built indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with support from Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and other Indian industry partners, MACE represents a significant achievement in India's pursuit of advanced astrophysical research.
- Its inauguration coincides with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the DAE, symbolizing a robust commitment to scientific advancement.

JOHN J. HOPFIELD AND GEOFFREY E. HINTON AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE 2024 IN PHYSICS -

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2024 to John J. Hopfield from Princeton University, USA, and Geoffrey E. Hinton from the University of Toronto, Canada.



- They are being honored for their foundational discoveries and inventions that have advanced the field of machine learning, particularly through the development of artificial neural networks.

Nobel Prize 2024 in Physics – Winner's Name

A. John J. Hopfield

B. Geoffrey E. Hinton

- **Topic-** For foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks
- This year's two Nobel Laureates in Physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning. John Hopfield created an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data.

INDIA'S LUNAR POLAR EXPLORATION MISSION (LUPEX) APPROVED -

- India's National Space Commission has officially approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex), marking the country's fifth lunar mission. This mission follows the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 in August 2023, which made India the fourth nation to land on the Moon.
- Lupex is a collaborative endeavor between India's ISRO and Japan's JAXA, aimed at exploring the Moon's resources, particularly water in its polar regions.
- The primary goal of Lupex is to investigate the presence and distribution of water on the Moon, both on the surface and beneath the lunar regolith.
- The mission aims to gather crucial data about how water interacts with the Moon's environment, which is vital for future lunar exploration and potential human habitation.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

SBI, HDFC BANK, ICICI BANK: RBI'S 2024 LIST OF DOMESTIC SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS (D-SIBS) -

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reaffirmed the status of State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).



- This classification remains unchanged from the previous year. The RBI continues to monitor these banks closely due to their important role in the financial system.
- **The D-SIB framework was introduced to ensure financial stability. It requires banks to maintain higher capital buffers. These buffers are determined by a bank's Systemic Importance Score (SIS).** SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank are categorized into different buckets based on their SIS. Each bucket has specific capital requirements.

\$8.5B DISNEY-RELIANCE MERGER COMPLETED FOR INDIAN ASSETS -

- **Reliance Industries and Walt Disney have finalized an \$8.5 billion** merger of their Indian media assets, concluded on 14th November.
- **The merged assets have been reorganized into three distinct divisions, each led by its own CEO,** marking a new era for the two media giants in India.
- The merger was finalized combining the Indian media assets of Reliance Industries and Walt Disney.
- Three main divisions have been created: Entertainment, Digital, and Sports.

Ownership Structure

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL):** 16.34% ownership.

- **Viacom18:** 46.82% ownership.
- **Disney:** 36.84% ownership.
- **Chairperson:** Nita Ambani (Reliance Industries).
- **Vice Chairperson:** Uday Shankar (Disney).

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES SEE SHARPEST WEEKLY FALL IN RECORD, HIT 4-MONTH LOW -

- India's foreign exchange reserves suffered their largest weekly drop on record, falling by \$17.76 billion to a four-month low of \$657.8 billion for the week ending November 15, 2024.



- **This marks the sharpest decline since records began in 1998, surpassing the previous high of \$15.5 billion during the global financial crisis of October 2008.**
- The primary causes for the fall include the strengthening of the US dollar, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) intervention to protect the rupee, and declining gold prices.

UK AND INDIA TO RELAUNCH FTA TALKS IN EARLY 2025: STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES -

- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the resumption of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with India, set to restart in early 2025.



- **This decision follows a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where both leaders emphasized strengthening their strategic partnership, which covers key sectors such as security, defense, technology, climate, health, and education.**
- The bilateral trade between the two countries stands at GBP 42 billion annually.

FASTEST GROWING G20 ECONOMY INDIA'S 7% GDP GROWTH TOPS G20 CHART -

- India has emerged as the fastest-growing economy among G20 countries, with a projected GDP growth rate of 7% for 2024.
- This remarkable achievement highlights India's economic resilience and potential amidst global challenges.
- The rankings, released during the ongoing G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, underscore the disparity in growth rates among G20 nations and set the stage for discussions on sustainable development, global governance reforms, and strategies to combat poverty, hunger, and inequality.

Top Growth Rankings in G20

- India: 7% growth, leading the G20.
- Indonesia: Second spot with 5%.
- China: Ranked third with a growth rate of 4.8%.
- Russia: Fourth at 3.6%.
- Brazil: Host nation at fifth with 3%.

Performance of Other Regions and Countries

- African Region: Projected growth of 3%.
- USA: Seventh spot with 2.8% growth.
- Western Powers:
- Canada: 1.3%.
- Australia: 1.2%.
- France, EU, UK: 1.1%.
- Italy: 0.7%.
- Japan: 0.3%.
- Germany: 0% (worst performer among advanced economies).

META FINED ₹213.14 CRORE OVER WHATSAPP PRIVACY POLICY -

- Meta has announced its intention to appeal a ₹213.14 crore fine imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) regarding its 2021 WhatsApp privacy policy update. CCI accuses the company of anti-competitive practices, including forcing users to accept new data-sharing terms, which Meta denies. The ruling could have significant implications for digital platforms balancing user privacy, competition, and business growth in India.

- In 2021, WhatsApp updated its privacy policy, which Meta claims was transparent and optional. The update introduced new features related to business services, aiming to enhance user experience and provide greater transparency about data usage.
- CCI, however, argued that the update forced users to agree to expanded data-sharing terms with Meta-owned apps, removing their choice and creating anti-competitive conditions.

INDIA BECOMES SECOND LARGEST SMARTPHONE MARKET BY UNIT VOLUME IN Q3 2024 -

- India's smartphone market has become the second largest globally by unit volume and third by value in Q3 2024, according to Counterpoint Research. In this period, India accounted for 15.5% of global smartphone shipments, trailing China's 22% but surpassing the US, which held a 12% share.
- By value, India's market share slightly rose to 12.3%, from 12.1% a year earlier.
- While China led the value segment with 31% and the US followed with 19%, the Indian market is poised for more growth, with 690 million active smartphone users in a population of 1.4 billion.
- Growth was driven by early festive sales, a 3% year-on-year rise in shipments, and a notable 12% increase in market value. The trend toward premium devices saw the average selling price (ASP) climb by 8% to US\$ 294.

**PAYTM RECEIVES NPCI NOD TO ONBOARD NEW UPI USERS AFTER RBI RESTRICTIONS -**

- Paytm has received approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to onboard new UPI users, ending a nine-month embargo imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This decision is expected to increase Paytm's UPI transaction volumes and boost its market position.

- In January 2024, the RBI restricted Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from adding new UPI users due to supervisory concerns. The company's UPI market share dropped from 13% to 7%.
- In March, Paytm was permitted to operate as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) using four banks—SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank—but without onboarding new users.

IMF MAINTAINS INDIA'S GDP GROWTH AT 7% FOR FY25, 6.5% FOR FY26 -

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its growth projections for India, forecasting the economy to expand by 7% in FY25 and 6.5% in FY26. According to the IMF, the post-pandemic recovery, fueled by pent-up demand, has largely run its course as the economy now aligns with its potential growth trajectory.
- This steady outlook reflects India's resilience amid global economic uncertainties. The IMF retained India's GDP growth forecasts at 7% for FY25 and 6.5% for FY26.
- Pent-up demand from the pandemic has largely been exhausted, as the economy reconnects with its potential growth. The RBI also maintained its FY24 growth projection at 7.2%, citing strong consumption and investment momentum.



RBI'S DIWALI'S PLAN TRANSPORTING 102 TONNES FROM ENGLAND -

- On Dhanteras, October 29, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revealed that it successfully transported an impressive 102 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England to secure storage facilities in India.
- This strategic move was part of the RBI's meticulous planning to ensure the safe and discreet transfer of such a significant quantity of gold, reinforcing the nation's

reserves while aligning with the festive spirit of the occasion.

- This transfer aimed to reinforce India's gold reserves and ensure the safety of the nation's financial assets amid global geopolitical tensions.
- The RBI's total gold reserves amounted to 854.73 metric tonnes as of the 43rd Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (April-September 2024).

GST COLLECTIONS REACH SIX-MONTH HIGH IN OCTOBER -

- The GST mop-up hit Rs 1.87 trillion, marking a six-month peak and an 8.9% year-on-year increase from Rs 1.72 trillion in October 2023.
- Year-to-date gross GST collections reached Rs 12.74 trillion, up 9.4% compared to Rs 11.64 trillion in the same period last year.
- Ladakh led with 30% growth, followed by Kerala (20%) and Haryana (15%).
- October's net GST revenue was Rs 1.68 trillion.

NOBEL IN ECONOMICS 2024 AWARDED TO ACEMOGLU, JOHNSON, AND ROBINSON -

- 2024 Nobel laureates in the economic sciences are Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson – have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity. Societies with a poor rule of law and institutions that exploit the population do not generate growth or change for the better.

Winners Name-

- A. Daron Acemoglu
- B. Simon Johnson
- C. James A. Robinson
- **Topic-** For studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity
- Societies with poor rule of law and exploitative institutions tend to stagnate economically, while those with inclusive institutions promote growth and development.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

NATIONAL PRESS DAY IS OBSERVED ON NOVEMBER 16 -

- National Press Day is observed on November 16 in India, which honours the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966. It marks the critical role of the press in a democratic society.
- The press is often regarded as the “fourth pillar of democracy,” which plays a vital role in holding the government accountable. The PCI was created to protect press freedom. This year’s theme focuses on the “changing nature of the press.”
- National Press Day serves as a reminder of the press’s responsibilities. It encourages journalists to uphold ethical standards. The day encourages discussions on media integrity.
- It also promotes awareness about the challenges faced by the press. This includes issues like censorship and misinformation.

AVIATION SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK 2024: NOVEMBER 25 TO 29 -

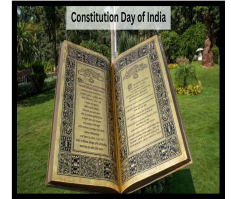
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) observes Aviation Safety Awareness Week every year during the last week of November (November 25 to 29) to reiterate its dedication to safety in all aspects of aviation.
- Under the leadership of AAI Chairman Vipin Kumar, this initiative fosters a robust culture of safety across airports and Air Navigation Services (ANS) in India, aligning with global aviation safety standards.



SAMVIDHAN DIWAS 2024: CELEBRATING THE 75TH CONSTITUTION DAY OF INDIA -

- India celebrates Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas annually on November 26, marking the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1949.

- This historic day is a tribute to the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which form the bedrock of India’s democracy. In 2024, the nation observes the 75th Constitution Day, honouring the transformative journey and ideals that guide the republic.
- As India celebrates Samvidhan Diwas 2024, it is a moment to honour the monumental efforts of the Constituent Assembly and recommit to the ideals that have shaped the nation.
- This day serves as a reminder of the enduring spirit of the Constitution and its role as a beacon of hope and justice for every Indian citizen.



NATIONAL MILK DAY 2024 -

- National Milk Day is celebrated every year on November 26 in India to recognize the immense contribution of milk and the dairy industry to the country’s growth.
- This day marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, also known as the Father of the White Revolution in India. Dr. Kurien’s revolutionary initiatives helped transform India into the largest milk producer in the world.
- This day is not just a tribute to Dr. Kurien’s legacy, but also a celebration of milk as a vital nutritional resource and an economic powerhouse for rural India.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2024 -

- November 25 is observed annually as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- The day calls upon governments, international organizations, and civil society to raise awareness and

promote actions to combat violence against women and girls worldwide.

- **In 2024, the observance marks 25 years since the UN's official designation of the day**, coupled with a UN Women-led campaign to launch a new report and highlight best practices for eliminating violence against women and girls.

GLOBAL HUNGER AND POVERTY ALLIANCE LAUNCHED BY BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT LULA -

- On November 18, 2024, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva officially launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty during the opening of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro.



- **This landmark initiative, involving 148 founding members, including 82 countries and a variety of international organizations, financial institutions, and NGOs, aims to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty globally by 2030.**
- **Hunger Statistics:** Currently, 733 million people face undernourishment globally, equivalent to the combined populations of Brazil, Mexico, Germany, the UK, South Africa, and Canada.
- **Alliance Goal:** Eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030, reduce inequalities, and foster sustainable development through international cooperation.
- **Inspirational Programs:** The Alliance draws from Brazil's successful programs like Bolsa Família, the National School Feeding Program, and the Food Acquisition Program.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF SCIENCE AND PEACE 2024: 9-15 NOVEMBER -

- **The International Week of Science and Peace (IWOSP) is celebrated annually from November 9 to 15**, promoting the role of science and technology in fostering global peace and cooperation.

- **First observed in 1986 during the International Year of Peace**, IWOSP has since gained recognition as a significant week, encouraging scientific solutions to global issues and fostering international dialogue.
- Origins of the International Week of Science and Peace
- **The initial celebration of the International Week of Science and Peace was organized in 1986 as part of a non-governmental initiative under the International Year of Peace.**
- Following its success, the United Nations General Assembly formally recognized IWOSP in 1988 under Resolution 43/61. The resolution called on Member States, NGOs, and institutions to participate and organize events promoting the peaceful applications of science and technology.

UTTARAKHAND FOUNDATION DAY -

- **Uttarakhand Foundation Day, also known as Uttarakhand Diwas, is celebrated to mark the formation of Uttarakhand as a separate state in India.** Known as the "Land of the Gods" (Devbhumi), the state is famous for its scenic beauty and numerous Hindu pilgrimage sites. This day honors the cultural and historical significance of Uttarakhand and its journey to becoming a distinct state.
- **Annually celebrated on November 9**, with 2024 marking the 24th anniversary of the formation of Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand was officially formed on November 9, 2000, after a long struggle for statehood due to the region's cultural, geographical, and administrative differences with Uttar Pradesh.
- Initially called Uttaranchal, the state's name was changed to Uttarakhand in 2007.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

INDIAN ARMY CHIEF NAMED HONORARY GENERAL OF NEPALI ARMY -

• General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army, was recently conferred with the title of Honorary General of the Nepal Army by the President of Nepal, Ramchandra Paudel.



- This honor reflects the deep-rooted historical, cultural, and military ties between India and Nepal. **The tradition of honorary generalship between the two nations highlights the strong, enduring friendship and strategic cooperation shared by their armies.**
- General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS of India, received the Honorary General title from the Nepali Army during a ceremony at President House, Sheetal Niwas.
- The title was bestowed by **President Ramchandra Paudel of Nepal.**
- The exchange of honorary generalships between India and Nepal is a long-standing tradition that dates back to the 1950s.
- Every three years, the Chief of Indian Army and the Chief of Nepali Army exchange the title of Honorary General.

PM MODI RECEIVES HIGHEST HONORS FROM GUYANA AND DOMINICA -

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred prestigious awards by Guyana and Dominica in recognition of his significant contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his efforts in strengthening international ties, especially between India and these Caribbean nations.



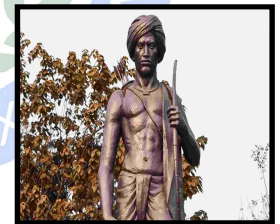
• **These awards highlight the deepening diplomatic relations and the global recognition of Modi's**

leadership in global health, climate resilience, and development cooperation.

- **PM Modi was awarded 'The Order of Excellence,' Guyana's highest honor, by President Irfaan Ali.** The award acknowledges his exceptional contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his global leadership.
- **Modi was also conferred the 'Dominica Award of Honour' by President Sylvanie Burton of Dominica.** The award recognizes Modi's leadership and India's support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the provision of 70,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to Dominica.

SARAI KALE KHAN CHOWK RENAMED TO BHAGWAN BIRSA MUNDA CHOWK -

• **The renaming of Sarai Kale Khan Chowk to Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chowk has sparked controversy** between the Delhi government and the Union government.



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a statue of the tribal icon, Bhagwan Birsa Munda, on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary and announced the renaming.
- However, **the Delhi government questioned the legitimacy of this move, citing the lack of an active State Naming Authority and the absence of due process for renaming locations.**

'WHY BHARAT MATTERS' EAM JAISHANKAR'S NEW BOOK LAUNCHED IN DUBAI -

- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launched his new book, Why Bharat Matters, at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Library in Dubai, UAE.** The event, held on 14th November, allowed Dr. Jaishankar to provide insights into the themes of his book, focusing on India's evolving role in a shifting global landscape. The book touches upon global transformations, India's internal

progress, and the importance of self-reliance in assessing global challenges.



- The global landscape is evolving with advances in technology, artificial intelligence, green technologies, and electric mobility.
- These changes are compounded by climate change and extreme weather events, altering global dynamics and power relations.
- India's position in this shifting world order is evolving, with significant progress in economic growth, democratization, and increased opportunities.

PM MODI RECEIVES GLOBAL PEACE AWARD IN WASHINGTON -

- The Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM), a newly launched non-governmental organization, was inaugurated on November 22, 2024, at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland, USA.
- The organization aims to foster unity and uplift minority communities within the Indian American diaspora. During the launch event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honored in absentia with the 'Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment', recognizing his efforts in inclusive development and minority welfare.

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE 2023: HONOURING DANIEL BARENBOIM AND ALI ABU AWWAD FOR PEACE EFFORTS -

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 was awarded to Daniel Barenboim, a world-famous pianist and conductor, and Ali Abu Awwad, a Palestinian peace



activist, on November 19, 2024. This prestigious award recognizes their remarkable efforts to promote peace and non-violence.

Daniel Barenboim: Connecting Through Music

- Daniel Barenboim was honored for using music to bring people together. His work shows how music can create understanding and harmony across cultures, even in areas with conflict.

Ali Abu Awwad: A Voice for Non-Violence

- Ali Abu Awwad was recognized for his peace work through his organization, Roots, which encourages dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. Despite losing his brother in the conflict, Awwad chose to advocate for peace instead of revenge.

NATION HONOURS THE QUEEN OF COURAGE: RANI LAKSHMIBAI -

- India celebrated the birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmbai, the legendary Queen of Jhansi, with heartfelt tributes and nationwide admiration for her extraordinary courage and patriotism.
- Her pivotal role during the First Indian War of Independence in 1857 continues to inspire generations, making her a symbol of unparalleled bravery and resistance against colonial oppression.



ARVINDER SINGH SAHNEY BECOMES INDIAN OIL CHAIRMAN -

- Arvinder Singh Sahney has been appointed as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation as of November 13, 2024.
- His appointment follows the tenure of S. M. Vaidya. Previously, V. Satish Kumar held the position in an interim capacity. Sahney brings over thirty years of experience in the refinery and petrochemical sectors.



JUSTICE DY CHANDRACHUD RETIRES, LEAVES ENDURING LEGACY IN JUDICIARY -

- Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India on Sunday, after two years marked by groundbreaking rulings and significant reforms. His leadership has left a lasting impact on the Indian judiciary, shaping its future with transformative decisions and a focus on judicial independence, transparency, and accessibility.
- Justice D.Y. Chandrachud retired as the 50th Chief Justice of India after a transformative two-year tenure.
- Known for landmark rulings and judicial reforms that shaped Indian society and legal history.
- Served as a judge in the Supreme Court for 8 years, participating in 38 constitution benches.



life, pledging to bring the FIH together in a spirit of solidarity.

HEMANT SOREN TAKES OATH AS JHARKHAND CM ON NOV 28 -

- Hemant Soren takes oath as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand on November 28, following his meeting with Governor Santosh Kumar Gangawar to stake his claim to form the government.
- This follows the victory of the INDIA bloc, comprising Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and CPI (ML), in the recent state elections.
- The oath-taking ceremony will take place at Morabadi ground in Ranchi, marking the beginning of a new political chapter in the state.

**INDIA bloc (JMM, Congress, RJD, CPI-ML) won 56 seats.**

- NDA (BJP, AJSU, JD(U), LJP) won 24 seats.
- JMM emerged as the largest party with 34 seats.
- Congress secured 16 seats.
- RJD won 4 seats, and CPI (ML) won 2 seats.

TAYYAB IKRAM RE-ELECTED FIH PRESIDENT -

- Tayyab Ikram has been re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for a second consecutive term, a significant achievement for Pakistan's hockey.
- At the 49th FIH Congress in Muscat, Oman, Ikram secured 79 votes out of 126, surpassing his competitor, Marc Coudron of Belgium, who received 47 votes. His re-election not only signifies personal recognition but also reinforces Pakistan's growing influence in global hockey.
- Ikram, the former coach of Pakistan and China, will continue his role for a two-year term, completing the mandate of the previous FIH president, Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, who resigned in July.
- Ikram's gratitude towards the hockey community was evident as he promised to foster unity within the FIH. He also emphasized hockey's transformative power in his

**TULSI GABBARD'S NEW ROLE FOR US NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE -**

- Former Democratic Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard was appointed as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on November 13.
- Announcing the decision on Truth Social, Trump praised Gabbard's fearless spirit and commitment to defending constitutional rights and national security.
- **Appointment Date:** November 13, 2024.
- **Appointed By:** U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

**Responsibilities as DNI**

- Oversees 18 U.S. intelligence agencies.

- Directs the implementation of the National Intelligence Program.
- Prepares the President's Daily Brief on national security.
- Serves as the principal intelligence advisor to the President, National Security Council, and Homeland Security Council.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTS K SANJAY MURTHY AS NEXT CAG -

- **The government has announced the appointment of K Sanjay Murthy as the next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.** A 1989-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, Murthy will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu.
- Currently serving as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Murthy is set to take over one of India's most significant constitutional roles, responsible for ensuring financial accountability and transparency in public expenditure.
- K Sanjay Murthy will be the next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. Appointed under Article 148(1) of the Constitution of India.

VALDECY URQUIZA ELECTED NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTERPOL -

- **Brazilian Federal Police Commissioner Valdecy Urquiza has been elected as the new Secretary General of Interpol at the organization's 92nd General Assembly, held in Glasgow, Scotland, from November 4 to 7, 2024.**

- Urquiza will take over the role from the outgoing Secretary General, Jurgen Stock, on November 7, 2024, marking a significant leadership transition in the world's largest police organization.

DONALD TRUMP SET TO BACK IN THE WHITE HOUSE AS 47TH PRESIDENT OF USA -

- **Donald Trump has clinched a critical victory in Wisconsin, securing 276 electoral votes—well above the 270 needed—to reclaim the White House as America's 47th president.**
- **Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump expressed gratitude for the "extraordinary honor" bestowed upon him by the American people, acknowledging his unique role as both the 45th and now the 47th president.**
- **President – Donald Trump**
- **Vice President – JD Vance**
- Donald Trump made history by becoming the first president in 120 years to return to power after being voted out post-first term. His re-election followed a sweeping victory in swing states North Carolina, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.



PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

'BAL VIVAH MukT BHARAT 'CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY UNION MINISTER -

- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annapurna Devi, launched the national campaign "Bal Vivah MukT Bharat" in New Delhi.
- Aimed at eradicating child marriage and empowering young girls, the campaign aligns with the vision of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.
- It includes the launch of the Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal, an innovative tool for citizen engagement and enforcement of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.



PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU UNVEILS SANSKRIT AND MAITHILI TRANSLATIONS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION -

- On 26th November 2024, marking Samvidhan Diwas and the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Indian Constitution in New Delhi.
- The event celebrated the rich diversity of India's linguistic heritage and reaffirmed the significance of the Constitution as the guiding framework for the country.
- Prominent dignitaries, including Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, attended the occasion held in the newly renamed Samvidhan Sadan.

25 MILLION APPLICATIONS FOR PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME -

- On November 6, 2024, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme has received attention. Over 25 million applications

have been submitted since its inception. This initiative aims to uplift artisans and craftspeople across India.

- The PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched in September 2023. It focuses on empowering traditional artisans. The scheme aims to enhance their skills and improve their livelihoods.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES PM-VIDYALAXMI SCHEME FOR EDUCATION FUNDING -

- The government of India approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme and an important equity infusion into the Food Corporation of India (FCI). These decisions aim to enhance access to quality higher education and strengthen food security in India.
- The PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme is a new initiative with a budget of Rs 3,600 crore over five years, starting from the fiscal year 2024-25. It targets meritorious students in both private and public Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs). The scheme is rooted in the National Education Policy 2020.



NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME: EMPOWERING WOMEN SHGS WITH DRONES-

- It provides 14,500 Women SHGs with drones from 2024-26 for agricultural rental services like applying fertilizers, pesticides.
- Central Empowered Committee with cross-department oversight. Financial Aid: 80% assistance, up to ₹8 lakh; remaining via AIF loan.



- Training: 15-day for SHG members. Monitoring: IT-based MIS (Drone Portal) for tracking and fund management.

DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHES 'ESHRAM – ONE STOP SOLUTION' FOR UNORGANISED WORKERS' WELFARE -

- **Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the upgraded 'e-Shram: One Stop Solution' portal, aimed at enhancing access to social security schemes for over 300 million unorganised workers in India.**



- The initiative consolidates data from various central ministries into a single repository, simplifying the registration process and ensuring that potential beneficiaries are identified state and district-wise.
- **This upgrade reflects the government's commitment to welfare, following the earlier launch of the eShram portal in August 2021, which has already seen over 300 million registrations.**
- **The One Stop Solution integrates ten central schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), enabling seamless access for workers.**

Mandaviya noted that 60,000 to 90,000 workers join the platform daily, indicating growing trust in the initiative. He urged unorganised workers to register to take advantage of various government welfare schemes.

WHAT IS UNIQUE LAND PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ULPIN)? -

- **Approximately 30% of rural land parcels in India have received a Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN).** This initiative aims to assign a 14-digit alpha-numeric identity to each land parcel. The data is sourced from the Ministry of Rural Development's portal.
- **ULPIN stands for Unique Land Parcel Identification Number. It is part of the Digital India Land Records**

Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). Each ULPIN is a unique identifier for land parcels, streamlining land record management across India.

- The initiative was launched in 2021. It is a continuation of the earlier National Land Record Modernisation Programme, which began in 2008. The program was revamped and implemented as a central sector scheme on April 1, 2016.

PM-YASASVI SCHEME -

- **The PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.** This



- This scheme aims to uplift students from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified Tribes (DNT).
- It provides access to quality education, addresses financial barriers, and supports academic growth.
- **PM-YASASVI consolidates previous scholarship initiatives. It includes the Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs and the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs.** These initiatives were merged into PM-YASASVI in 2021-22 to streamline support for disadvantaged students.
- The main goal of PM-YASASVI is to promote educational empowerment. It seeks to help vulnerable groups complete their education. This initiative encourages individual growth and contributes to a more inclusive society.

PM GATISHAKTI: THREE YEARS OF INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

- **The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched on October 13, 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks three years of transformative achievements in India's infrastructure landscape.**
- The initiative has significantly improved project execution by integrating data from over **44 central ministries and 36 states and union territories, leading**

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to reduced logistics costs and enhanced service delivery.

- As of now, over 200 major infrastructure projects have been assessed, focusing on multimodal connectivity and efficient resource allocation.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT: FREE HEALTH COVERAGE FOR SENIORS 70+ -

- In a significant expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card on October 29, 2024, providing free healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, irrespective of income.
- This extension, rolled out on Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, enables seniors to avail free treatment worth up to ₹5 lakh annually at AB PMJAY empaneled hospitals.
- The initiative, however, excludes seniors in Delhi and West Bengal due to non-implementation by these state governments.

ARMENIA BECOMES 104TH FULL MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE -

- Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a significant milestone for global solar energy collaboration.
- The ISA, established in 2015, aims to scale up solar energy adoption, reduce costs, and facilitate innovation. Under India's leadership, the ISA has launched impactful projects worldwide.
- Armenia's membership highlights its commitment to sustainable energy solutions, contributing to the ISA's goal of mobilizing USD 1000 billion by 2030 for solar energy deployment.

CYCLONE FENGAL CROSS TN-PUDUCHERRY COAST: IMD AND ISRO ON HIGH ALERT -

- The deep depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal, likely to intensify into Cyclone Fengal, is set to

make landfall between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram on November 30, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.



- ISRO and IMD are actively monitoring the system, with ISRO satellites EOS-06 and INSAT-3DR providing real-time updates. IMD issued an orange alert for Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, and Cuddalore, and a yellow alert for Chennai, Tiruvallur, and other districts. Heavy rains in the Cauvery delta region have already caused significant crop damage.

COP29 CLIMATE TALKS END WITH \$300 BILLION PLEDGE -

- The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku concluded with a controversial agreement to triple climate finance for developing nations to \$300 billion annually by 2035.
- This falls drastically short of the \$1.3 trillion annually requested by developing countries until 2030.
- The deal was met with strong opposition from India and other developing nations, who criticized both the process and the outcome, describing the financial pledge as insufficient and unfairly distributed.



GWALIOR UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST SELF-SUFFICIENT GAUSHALA WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART CBG PLANT -

In a groundbreaking initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first modern, self-sufficient gaushala in Laltipara, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.



- The gaushala, named Adarsh Gaushala, houses a state-of-the-art Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant, marking a major milestone in India's journey toward

achieving sustainable development and promoting green energy solutions.

- This project reflects Modi's vision of turning "Waste to Wealth", highlighting how organic waste can be transformed into valuable resources.

GURU GHASIDAS-TAMOR PINGLA TIGER RESERVE: INDIA'S 56TH TIGER RESERVE

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhopender Yadav, recently announced the notification of the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh as the 56th Tiger Reserve in India.



- This monumental step in wildlife conservation marks a significant milestone for the country's efforts to preserve its tiger population and biodiversity.
- Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is located in Chhattisgarh, covering a sprawling area of 2,829.38 sq. km, making it the third-largest tiger reserve in India after:
- Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh.
- Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam.

MEA CONFIRMS INDIA AS HEADQUARTERS FOR BIOFUEL ALLIANCE -

- In a significant development for the renewable energy sector, India has officially signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), paving the way for the establishment of the Alliance's Secretariat in India.
- The agreement was signed by Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) from the Ministry of External Affairs, and Pankaj Jain, Secretary of the Ministry of



Petroleum and Natural Gas, who is also the Interim Director General of the GBA.

- The agreement enables the GBA to set up its Secretariat in India, staffed by a mix of Indian and international personnel.
- This establishment will facilitate the GBA in achieving its goals related to biofuel promotion and development.

CENTRE DOUBLES STUBBLE BURNING PENALTY POST SUPREME COURT DIRECTIVE -

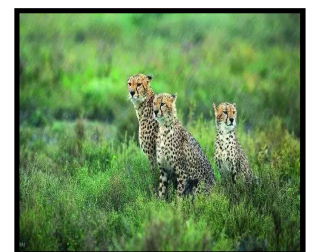
- In response to the Supreme Court's criticism of the "toothless" penalties under the Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 1986, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has doubled the fines on stubble burning. This move aims to curb stubble burning and address the worsening air quality in Delhi and nearby regions.

Key Updates and Penalties for Stubble Burning

- Revised Penalties
- Farmers with Less Than Two Acres: ₹5,000 fine
- Farmers with 2-5 Acres: ₹10,000 fine
- Farmers with Over 5 Acres: ₹30,000 fine
- Implementation
- Penalties enforced through the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act of 2021.
- Rules apply to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and NCR areas in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN FORM JOINT PANEL FOR CHEETAH PROJECT -

- In response to recent incidents of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh straying into neighboring Rajasthan, a joint corridor management committee has been established between the two states.
- The committee's primary focus will be on the conservation of these felines, ensuring the development of suitable habitats, and facilitating the future relocation of cheetahs



from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

- **The formation of a ten-member joint committee by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan aims to develop and manage a cheetah corridor between the two states, ensuring safe movement of cheetahs.**
- The committee consists of forest officers from both states, led by the Principal Chief Conservators of Forest (PCCFs) (wildlife) of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

RECORD GREENHOUSE GAS LEVELS HIT NEW HIGHS IN 2023 -

- **In 2023, greenhouse gas levels reached a new high. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported a rise of over 10% in just two decades.** This surge is alarming. It marks the urgent need for action to combat climate change.



The average global concentrations of key greenhouse gases in 2023 were:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂): 420 parts per million (ppm)
- Methane (CH₄): 1934 parts per billion (ppb)
- Nitrous oxide (N₂O): 336.9 ppb
- These levels are higher than in pre-industrial times:
- CO₂: 151% of pre-industrial levels
- Methane: 265%
- Nitrous oxide: 125%

INDIA SECURES ISA PRESIDENCY AGAIN, ASHISH KHANNA NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL -

- **India and France have been re-elected as the president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), respectively, at the seventh ISA assembly held in New Delhi.** During the inaugural day of the assembly, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi announced that India would continue to hold the presidency until 2026.

- **India and France have been re-elected as president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).** India will hold the presidency until 2026.
- Emphasized the transformation of solar energy from vision to reality, highlighting its role in promoting a cleaner and sustainable future.

INDIA'S BIRD POPULATION DECLINES SIGNIFICANTLY, VULTURES HIT HARDEST -

- **India has seen a worrying decline in its bird population over recent decades, especially between 1992 and 2002, when some species, like vultures, faced severe reductions.**



- The Living Planet Report 2024 draws attention to this issue, making India the only country to have a specific section on its bird crisis in the report.
- **Vultures in India have experienced an alarming drop in numbers: The White-rumped Vulture population fell by 98%.**
- The Indian Vulture and Slender-billed Vulture populations decreased by 93%. These vultures, which play an important role in the ecosystem as scavengers, have been declining rapidly due to several threats.

PM MODI INAUGURATES GAIL'S FIRST CBG PLANT IN JHARKHAND -

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated GAIL (India) Limited's Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Ranchi, Jharkhand, via virtual mode during a ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, marking Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024.**



- **This facility, with a feedstock processing capacity of 150 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) and a production capacity of 5 Tonnes Per Day (TPD), represents an investment of**

₹26 crore and aims to convert the organic fraction of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) into renewable energy.

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE ASSEMBLY KICKS OFF IN NEW DELHI -

- The Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly will be held in New Delhi from November 3-6, 2024, with representatives from 120 countries attending.



- Led by Shri Pralhad Joshi, India's Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, the assembly focused on strengthening international cooperation on solar energy to tackle energy access problems and climate change.

BLUE REVOLUTION: 4 YEARS OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPAD AYOJANA -

- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), launched in 2020, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at transforming India's fisheries sector and enhancing the welfare of fishermen.
- This scheme, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, addresses critical issues in fish production, productivity, quality, technology, and infrastructure while strengthening the fisheries value chain.
- With an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore over five years (2020-21 to 2024-25), PMMSY targets inland fisheries and aquaculture, ensuring robust food security and



supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises through its Central Sector Sub-scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), which has a budget of over Rs. 6,000 crore.

- On its 4th anniversary in September 2024, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh, introduced several initiatives.

CABINET APPROVES PM E-DRIVE SCHEME FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE REVOLUTION -

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme to promote electric mobility in India.
- The scheme, with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over two years, aims to expedite EV adoption, improve air quality, and reduce the environmental impact of transportation.
- **Subsidies and Incentives:** Rs. 3,679 crore allocated for subsidies to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and e-buses, supporting over 28 lakh electric vehicles.
- **E-Voucher System:** Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers will be generated for buyers, which will be signed and submitted to dealers, enabling OEMs to claim reimbursements.
- **E-Ambulances:** Rs. 500 crore dedicated to the introduction of e-ambulances, ensuring safer, more comfortable patient transport with new safety standards.
- **E-Bus Procurement:** Rs. 4,391 crore has been allocated to procure 14,028 e-buses for nine cities with populations exceeding 4 million and for intercity routes, promoting cleaner mass mobility.



REPORTS & INDICES

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2024 REPORT -

- **Recent findings from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlight staggering hidden costs within global agrifood systems.** The study estimates these costs at approximately \$12 trillion annually, with 70% linked to unhealthy diets.
- This has important implications for public health and environmental sustainability.
- The study identifies 13 dietary risk factors contributing to non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- **Key concerns include low intake of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, alongside excessive sodium and high consumption of processed meats.** These dietary patterns vary across different agrifood systems.

INDIA'S HISTORIC RISE: RANKED 6TH GLOBALLY IN WIPO PATENT FILINGS 2023 -

- **India has made remarkable progress in intellectual property (IP) filings, securing 6th place globally for the first time in 2023, according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Global Patent Filing Report.**
- This achievement reflects a robust growth of 15.7% in patent filings, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth in India. With more than 64,480 patents filed in 2023, India's contributions are now among the top 10 nations globally across major IP rights, including patents, trademarks, and industrial designs.
- **Record Growth in India: India recorded 64,480 patent filings in 2023, reflecting a 15.7% year-over-year increase.** This was the largest growth rate among the top 20 patent-filing countries.
- **Global Patent Filing Surge:** Globally, over 35 lakh patents were filed, with China leading at 1.64 million, followed



by the USA, Japan, South Korea, and Germany. India stands sixth, ahead of Germany, with a consistent rise in patent activity.

SINGAPORE TOPS HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX AGAIN -

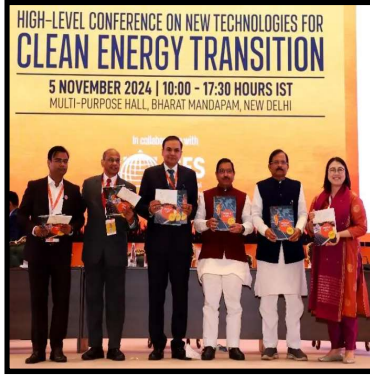
- **The Henley Passport Index revealed that Singapore holds the title of the world's most powerful passport. Singaporean citizens can travel to 195 countries without needing a visa.** This ranking marks the strength of Singapore's diplomatic relationships worldwide.
- The Henley Passport Index ranks passports based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a visa. It is updated quarterly. The index is a useful tool for understanding global mobility and the strength of a country's passport.
- **Singapore:** 1st place, 195 countries.
- France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain: 2nd place, 192 countries.
- **United States:** 8th place, 186 countries.
- **India:** 83rd place, 58 countries. These rankings reflect the ease of travel for citizens of these countries.



ISA LAUNCHES WORLD SOLAR REPORT SERIES -

- **The 3rd edition of the World Solar Report series was launched at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, spotlighting key areas in the global transition to sustainable energy.** This year's release includes four reports: the World Solar Market Report, World Investment Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries.

- Launched at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by Pralhad Joshi, India's Minister for New and Renewable Energy and President of the ISA Assembly.



- **First introduced in 2022**, this report series provides comprehensive insights into the global solar industry's progress, challenges, and investment trends.
- The report series covers global solar growth, investment trends, technological advancements, and green hydrogen potential in Africa.
- Comprises four reports, **World Solar Market Report, World Investment Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries.**

RECENTLY, THE INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C), WHICH RUNS UNDER THE UNION MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) MADE IMPORTANT PROJECTIONS RELATED TO CYBER FRAUDS -

- **I4C was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2020 to deal with all types of cyber crimes** including cyber fraud in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- **To act as a nodal point to curb Cybercrime in the country.** To strengthen the fight against Cybercrime committed against women and children. To act as an early warning system for Law Enforcement Agencies for proactive Cybercrime prevention and detection.

Key Highlights of the I4C Projection-

- **Indians are expected to lose over Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2025 to cyber fraud, siphoning off 0.7% of India's GDP.** From January to June, 2024 Rs 11,269 crore was lost to financial fraud.

- **Approximately 4,000 mule bank accounts are identified daily by I4C.** I4C has identified 18 ATM hotspots across the country from where money was fraudulently withdrawn. A mule account refers to a bank account that is used to facilitate illegal activities such as money laundering and fraudulent transactions.
- **The government has identified "scam compounds" in South East Asian countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos** from cyber fraudsters. Most scams have origins in China or Chinese-linked entities.
- International Scam Compounds resemble call centres and have emerged as a hub of investment scams. **Fraudsters make calls to unsuspecting people from Indian mobile phone numbers and dupe people of their money through various methods like lottery and prize scams, etc.**
- **Illegal Activities:** Cyber scams can be used for terror-financing and money laundering.

2024 GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) -

- The 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report highlights the alarming interconnections between violent conflict and multidimensional poverty across various nations. **According to the report, approximately 1.1 billion people live in acute multidimensional poverty, with 455 million residing in conflict-affected regions.**
- The analysis emphasizes that these areas see higher poverty rates and slower progress in poverty reduction.
- **The report was jointly published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and includes updated data from 112 countries and over 1,359 subnational regions.**

DEFENCE

INDIA TESTS K-4 MISSILE FROM INS ARIGHAAT -

- India has achieved a significant milestone by **successfully testing the K-4 nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of 3,500 km from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal.**
- This test strengthens India’s nuclear deterrence and places the nation among the select few capable of launching nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea.
- **Missile Type:** Nuclear-capable ballistic missile.
- **Range:** Approximately 3,500 km.
- **Platform:** Tested from INS Arighaat, a nuclear-powered submarine.
- **Location:** Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Visakhapatnam.
- **Significance:** First submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) test from a submarine.



INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTS LARGEST COASTAL DEFENCE EXERCISE, ‘SEA VIGIL-24’ -

- The Indian Navy will conduct the fourth edition of its nationwide coastal defence exercise, Sea Vigil-24, on November 20 and 21.
- This year’s exercise will be the largest to date, covering India’s extensive coastline and involving six government ministries and 21 organizations, showcasing an unprecedented level of participation.
- **Event:** Sea Vigil-24, the fourth edition of India’s largest coastal defence exercise.
- **Dates:** November 20-21, 2024.
- **Scope:** The exercise will cover India’s entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **Participants:** Involves six government ministries, 21 organizations, and multiple defense agencies.



MHA GREENLIGHTS CISF’S FIRST ALL-WOMEN UNIT -

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the creation of the Central Industrial Security Force’s (CISF) first-ever all-women battalion, announced on 12th November, 2024.**
- This historic move aims to promote gender equality and inspire more women to contribute to the CISF’s mission of securing the nation’s strategic assets.
- **MHA has approved the formation of the Central Industrial Security Force’s (CISF) first-ever all-women battalion.**
- This historic decision was announced by CISF on November 12, 2024. The battalion aims to promote gender equality in the security sector.
- It encourages women to join the CISF’s mission to protect India’s strategic assets.



SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TRIALS FOR DRDO’S PINAKA WEAPON SYSTEM -

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed a series of flight tests for the Guided Pinaka Weapon System, conducted as part of the Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials.** This critical milestone involved three phases of testing across different field firing ranges, demonstrating the system’s operational effectiveness, precision, and advanced capabilities.
- **Range:** The system’s ability to strike targets at extended distances.
- **Accuracy:** Precision of strikes over varying ranges.



- **Consistency:** Repeated effectiveness in hitting designated targets.
- **Rate of Fire:** Performance in engaging multiple targets in a single salvo.

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST SPACE DEFENSE EXERCISE ANTARIKSHA ABHYAS – 2024 -

- The Defence Space Agency, under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, is conducting Antariksha Abhyas – 2024, a groundbreaking three-day exercise from November 11 to 13, 2024. This first-of-its-kind space exercise aims to simulate and address the growing threats to space-based assets and services.
- Antariksha Abhyas – 2024 is a three-day space defense exercise conducted from November 11 to 13, 2024.
- Organized by the Defence Space Agency under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, the exercise focuses on simulating threats to and from space-based assets and services.



ARMENIA BECOMES INDIA'S LEADING DEFENCE EXPORT DESTINATION -

- Armenia has emerged as India's leading destination for defence exports. In the fiscal year 2023-24, it achieved a record in defence exports, totalling Rs 21,083 crore (approximately \$2.63 billion).
- This marks a 32.5% increase from the previous year. Rising security concerns in Eurasia have prompted Armenia to shift away from its historical reliance on Russian arms, seeking diversification and self-reliance in its defence strategy.
- Historically, Armenia relied heavily on Russia for military supplies, receiving about 94% of its arms from Moscow between 2011 and 2020. This included advanced



weaponry like the Iskander missile system and Su-30SM fighter jets.

- However, the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war revealed weaknesses in Russian support. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan expressed frustration over Russia's failure to deliver contracted weapons. This dissatisfaction prompted Armenia to seek alternative defence partnerships, leading to closer ties with India.

INDIA STRENGTHENS NAVY WITH FOURTH NUCLEAR SUBMARINE -

- India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), designated S4*, was officially launched into the water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, according to official sources.
- This advanced submarine represents a significant leap in capability and size compared to its predecessor, INS Arihant (S2), which primarily served as a technology demonstrator under the Advanced Technology Vessel program.
- The fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), codenamed S4*, was launched on October 16, 2024.



SIMBEX 2024 -

- The 31st edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is taking place from 23 to 29 October 2024 in Visakhapatnam. The Republic of Singapore Navy Ship RSS Tenacious arrived on 23 October to participate in this event.
- SIMBEX started in 1994 as 'Exercise Lion King'. It has evolved into a key maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). Over the years, it has grown in scope and complexity.
- The primary aim of SIMBEX 2024 is to strengthen the strategic partnership between India and Singapore.

Key objectives include

- Enhancing interoperability between naval forces.

- Improving maritime domain awareness.
- Improving cooperation to tackle shared maritime challenges.

INDIA-CHINA LAC AGREEMENT -

- India recently announced a pivotal agreement regarding patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. **This development is seen as a potential stepping stone toward normalizing relations between the two nations following tensions that escalated in 2020.**
- The pact entails a structured approach to disengagement and resolution of the long-standing border disputes, **specifically in areas like the Depsang Plains and Demchok.**
- **The agreement allows both nations to restore mutual patrolling rights in the Depsang Plains and the Demchok region, areas where disputes existed even before the 2020 border incursions.** Indian troops will now be permitted to patrol up to Patrolling Points (PP) 10 to 13 in the Depsang Plains and the Charding Nullah in Demchok.
- **Notably, areas where previous disengagements occurred—such as Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, and Gogra-Hot Springs—are explicitly excluded from renegotiation.**

INDIA ROLLS OUT ITS FIRST MADE-IN-INDIA C295 AIRCRAFT BY SEPTEMBER 2026 -

- India is set to mark a significant milestone in its aerospace industry with the rollout of the first locally assembled C295 military transport aircraft from the Vadodara facility in September 2026.
- **This initiative, part of the “Make in India” campaign, represents a robust collaboration between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems.** The facility was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime



Minister Pedro Sanchez, highlighting the deepening defense ties between India and Spain.

- The Vadodara final assembly line (FAL) will produce over 85% of the C295 aircraft components domestically, excluding the engines. **The project is expected to create approximately 10,000 jobs across the country, with 18,000 components being manufactured indigenously.**
- PM Modi emphasized that the factory symbolizes the new work culture in India, showcasing the rapid progress in the country’s manufacturing capabilities. “Just two years ago, the construction of the factory had started, and now it is ready for aircraft production,” he stated.

INDIA-VIETNAM 5TH JOINT EXERCISE 'VINBAX' BEGINS IN AMBALA -

- **The 5th India-Vietnam military exercise, Vinbax, started in Ambala, Haryana, marking the first time both armies and air forces participated jointly.**
- Last year this military exercise between the two countries took place in Vietnam.
- **The Indian Army contingent consists of 47 personnel, represented by a regiment of the Corps of Engineers as well as personnel from other branches and services.**

**LAUNCH OF INDIA’S FIRST INDIGENOUS MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL ‘SAMARTHAK’ -**

- **On October 14, 2024, the Indian Navy marked a significant milestone with the launch of the first ship, ‘Samarthak,’ under the Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.**
- The vessel was launched by Shashi Tripathi, President of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association, and the ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff.
- This launch reflects the Indian Navy’s commitment to indigenous shipbuilding, aligning with the Government of India’s vision for ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ a

SPORTS

INDIA DEFENDS WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY TITLE WITH 1-0 WIN OVER CHINA -

- India's Women's Hockey Team successfully defended their title at the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, defeating China 1-0 in the final.
- **The victory marked India's third ACT title, showcasing their dominance in the tournament's history alongside South Korea.**
- Deepika's stunning reverse-hit goal in the 31st minute was the difference, securing India's back-to-back championship win.

BIHAR TO HOST KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES AND PARA GAMES IN 2025 -

- **In a landmark development, Bihar will host the prestigious Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) and the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) in April 2025, showcasing the state's growing capabilities in hosting major sporting events.**
- This follows the successful organization of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, further cementing Bihar's reputation in the sports arena.
- The announcement was made by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, who emphasized the importance of sports in achieving the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

INDIA'S SPORTS INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED TO GROW TO \$130 BILLION BY 2030 -

- **A recent report predicts that India's sports sector could grow to \$130 billion by 2030 at an annual rate of 14 percent, which is almost double the growth of India's GDP, driven by increased government investments.**
- A shift towards a multi-sport culture is also evident. Furthermore, the rise of digital platforms is reshaping how fans engage with sports.

- **The sports sector has the potential to create 10.5 million jobs by 2030. It could also generate \$21 billion in indirect tax revenue.** This economic boost will benefit various industries linked to sports.



- The growing interest in sports will stimulate demand for sports goods and services. As a result, a thriving ecosystem will emerge, enhancing overall economic growth.

NADA SUSPENDS BAJRANG PUNIA FOR FOUR YEARS OVER DOPING VIOLATION -

- **In a significant development, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has imposed a four-year suspension on Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia for violating the anti-doping code.**
- The suspension follows his refusal to provide a urine sample for a dope test during selection trials for the national wrestling team on March 10, 2024.
- **This decision, which extends beyond NADA's initial provisional suspension in April 2024, has barred him from competitive wrestling and coaching opportunities abroad.**



REETIKA HOODA STRIKES GOLD AT WORLD MILITARY CHAMPIONSHIPS -

- **In a remarkable feat for Indian wrestling, Reetika Hooda clinched the gold medal in the women's 76kg category at the World Military Championships, becoming the**



second Indian woman to win gold at the event.

- **Reetika Hooda becomes the second Indian woman to win gold at the World Military Championships. Jyoti Sihag secured gold in the 55kg category just a day earlier.**
- 2024 marked the first year India sent a women's team to the World Military Championships.

INDIA TO HOST FIRST KHO KHO WORLD CUP WITH IOA SUPPORT -

- India will host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup at IGI Stadium, New Delhi, from January 13-19, 2025, marking a historic milestone for traditional sports. The tournament will feature 24 teams from six continents.
- **Team members:** 15 players per side, 12 in the field in 4 batches, and 3 extra. Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) President: Sudhanshu Mittal.

INDIA SUBMITS FORMAL BID FOR 2036 OLYMPICS -

- **India has officially submitted a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games,** marking a significant step in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of hosting the prestigious event.
- **The bid was submitted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on October 1, 2023, as part of the ongoing effort to elevate India's global sporting profile.** This would be the first time India hosts the Olympics, fulfilling a dream long cherished by its citizens.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been vocal about India's aspirations, reiterating the country's determination to bring the games to Indian soil. **At the 141st IOC session in Mumbai, Modi emphasized, "We will leave no stone unturned in organizing the Olympics in India in 2036."**



- With the country's growing sports infrastructure and participation in global sporting events, this bid is seen as a transformative opportunity for India's sports sector.

38TH NATIONAL GAMES TO BE HELD IN UTTARAKHAND -

- **The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has chosen Uttarakhand as the host for the 38th Summer National Games,** scheduled to take place from 28th January to 14th February 2025.



- This announcement marks a significant achievement for the state, as it will be hosting the prestigious event for the first time, followed by the upcoming Winter Games, which will be held outside Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for the first time.
- The 37th National Games, held in Goa from 25th September to 9th November 2023, paved the way for Uttarakhand's momentous turn to showcase its capabilities on the national sporting stage.

CRICKET AT THE LA28 OLYMPICS: THE RETURN OF THE SPORT IN T20 FORMAT -

- **Cricket, one of the most popular sports globally, is set to make a comeback at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28),** pending approval by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- **This inclusion marks the sport's second appearance at the Olympic Games, following its debut in Paris 1900.** However, unlike its traditional two-innings format, cricket at LA28 will be played in the Twenty20 (T20) format, which is a shorter and faster-paced version of the game.
- Let's dive deep into the rules, format, and significance of T20 cricket and its reintroduction at the Olympics.

IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. Ajay Banga is the president of which of the following organization ?
a) World Bank
b) World Health Organization
c) United Nations
d) WMO
- Q2. What is the currency name of Palestine ?
a) Shekel
b) Dollar
c) Real
d) Won
- Q3. The Queen's Stepwell, Patan is in which state ?
a) Uttar Pradesh
b) Bihar
c) Gujarat
d) Goa
- Q4. United Nations Population is based at ?
a) New York
b) London
c) Paris
d) Geneva
- Q5. What is the origin of Sabarmati River that was recently seen in the news ?
a) Mahabaleshwar hills
b) Barwani hills
c) Aravalli hills
d) Mahadeo Hills
- Q6. Who has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India ?
a) Jitendra Kumar
b) K Sanjay Murthy
c) Ardhendu Sen
d) Bhaskar Khulbe
- Q7. What type of satellite is India's GSAT-N2 (GSAT-20), which was launched by SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket ?
a) Navigation satellite
b) Communication satellite
c) Weather monitoring satellite
d) Earth observation satellite
- Q8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment in which country ?
a) United States of America
b) France
c) United Kingdom
d) Russia
- Q9. Oreshnik hypersonic missile, which was seen in the news, is developed by which country ?
a) France
b) China
c) Russia
d) India
- Q10. Which public broadcaster recently launched the OTT platform 'WAVES' ?
a) Prasar Bharati
b) All India Radio
c) Doordarshan
d) None of the Above
- Q11. What is the name of the campaign launched in India to eliminate gender-based violence ?
a) Beti Bachao
b) Shakti Abhiyan
c) Ab Koi Bahana Nahi
d) Nirbhaya Initiative
- Q12. Recently, which country began its first nationwide population census in 40 years, a step aimed at modernizing data collection and planning in a country long impacted by conflict and political divisions ?
a) Iraq
b) Iran
c) Oman
d) Afghanistan
- Q13. Which country has recently conferred an Honorary rank of General to the Indian Army chief, General Upendra Dwivedi ?
a) Nepal
b) Bhutan
c) Vietnam
d) Sri Lanka
- Q14. Tata Power has signed a MoU with which organisation for financing clean energy projects worth \$4.25 billion in India ?
a) ADB
b) WB
c) NHB
d) IMF
- Q15. Guyana and Dominica have conferred their top awards on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his exceptional contributions to the global community and efforts in strengthening bilateral ties with the two Caribbean nations. What is the capital of Guyana ?
a) Georgetown
b) Kigali
c) Kampala
d) Gitega

- Q16. In November 2024, which global initiative, launched by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva during the G20 meeting in Rio de Janeiro, focuses on uniting countries, international organizations, and philanthropic institutions to address hunger and poverty ?
a) Sustainable Development for Food Equity
b) Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
c) Poverty and Nutrition Action Partnership
d) World Hunger Eradication Forum
- Q17. Who is the chairperson of a Municipal Corporation ?
a) Collector b) Mayor
c) Sarpanch d) M L A of the area
- Q18. What is the main source of income for banks ?
a) Interest on banks
b) Difference between the interest charges on borrowers and depositors
c) Interest on deposits
d) None of these
- Q19. "Religion can never be separated from politics" is said by
a) BR Ambedkar b) GK Gokhale
c) Mahatma Gandhi d) Swami Vivekananda
- Q20. The ocean resources till 200 nautical miles is classified under which zone ?
a) Exclusive Economic Zone
b) Export-processing Zone
c) Special Economic Zone
d) None of these
- Q21. Which of the following is represented by 'Lorenz Curve' ?
a) Employment b) Inflation
c) Deflation d) Income Distribution
- Q22. What happens to demand when price increases ?
a) increases b) decreases
c) remains same d) can't be determined
- Q23. Deficit financing implies
a) replacing new currency with worn out currency
b) public revenue in excess of public expenditure
c) printing new currency notes
d) public expenditure in excess of public revenue
- Q24. Which is the first payment bank in India ?
a) Fino Payments Bank
b) Airtel Payments Bank
c) Aditya Birla Payments Bank
d) Paytm Payments Bank
- Q25. What is the currency of Bangladesh ?
a) Rupiah b) Riyal c) Ruble d) Taka
- Q26. Ottawa is the capital of which country ?
a) Canada b) Fiji
c) Palau d) Vietnam
- Q27. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is in which city ?
a) Bengaluru b) Chennai
c) Mumbai d) Hyderabad
- Q28. The purpose of Round Revolution is ____ ?
a) Horticulture Production b) Oil seeds Production
c) Cotton Production d) Potato Production
- Q29. When is National Wildlife Week 2024 observed ?
a) September 1-7 b) October 2-8
c) November 10-16 d) December 20-26
- Q30. Shigeru Ishiba has been elected as the prime minister of which country ?
a) Malaysia b) Indonesia
c) Japan d) Mexico
- Q31. Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated 'Banjara Virasat Museum' in which state ?
a) Odisha b) Maharashtra
c) Karnataka d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q32. Which organization recently faced criticism from India for its report on religious minorities ?
a) International Buddhist Confederation
b) Amnesty International
c) United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
d) Human Rights Watch
- Q33. Which state will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Hornbill Festival 2024 from 1 December to 10 December, in a vibrant cultural showcase attracting global visitors ?
a) Tripura b) Nagaland
c) Assam d) Meghalaya

- Q34. Which Indian city will host the Malabar International Naval Exercise 2024 from October 8 to 18, aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing interoperability among participating countries, and addressing shared maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific regions ?
a) Mumbai b) Visakhapatnam
c) Chennai d) Jodhpur
- Q35. Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 ?
a) Gabriel Garcia b) Alexander Pushkin
c) Han Kang d) Haruki Murakami
- Q36. Which state is the host of 38th Summer National Games ?
a) Gujarat b) Uttarakhand
c) Himachal Pradesh d) Haryana
- Q37. Which country developed a hypersonic ballistic missile named Kinzhal ?
a) India b) China
c) Israel d) Russia
- Q38. Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) is a joint mission of which two space organizations ?
a) NASA and ISRO b) ISRO and JAXA
c) ESA and NASA d) CNSA and ISRO
- Q39. What is the name of the first vessel launched under the two Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project by the Indian Navy ?
a) Viksit b) Kaveri
c) Samarthak d) Samudra
- Q40. Which state has become the third state to conduct a caste-based census ?
a) Kerala b) Maharashtra
c) Telangana d) Gujarat
- Q41. When we produce a good by exploiting natural resources, it is an activity of the
a) Secondary sector b) Tertiary sector
c) Primary sector d) Organized sector
- Q42. Which of the following belongs to the private sector?
a) TISCO b) Railways
c) LIC d) Post Office
- Q43. The resolution of PurnaSwaraj was adopted in which session ?
a) Karachi Congress b) Haripur Congress
c) Lahore Congress d) LucknowCongress
- Q44. The principle of Majoritarianism led to a Civil war in
a) Srilanka b) Georgia
c) Belgium d) Ukraine
- Q45. If the rupee depreciates, how the exporters are affected ?
a) They are unaffected b) They are in loss
c) They are in profit d) They get credit crunch
- Q46. SEBI is _____.
a) Constitutional body b) Advisory body
c) Statutory body d) Non-statutory body
- Q47. National Income of India is compiled by
a) Finance Commission
b) Indian Statistical Institute
c) National Development Council
d) Central Statistical Organization
- Q48. What will you call a system of taxation under which the poorer sections are taxed at higher rates than the richer sections ?
a) Progressive tax b) Proportional tax
c) Regressive tax d) Degressive tax
- Q49. Consider the following statements about Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Nigeria:
1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Nigeria's highest national distinction, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON).
2. Queen Elizabeth was the first foreign dignitary to receive the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) in 1969.
Which of the above statements are correct ?
a) Only 1 b) Only 2
c) Both d) None
- Q50. Jauljibi Mela is celebrated at the confluence of which two rivers ?
a) Ganga and Yamuna
b) Goriganga and Kali
c) Alaknanda and Mandakini
d) Bhagirathi and Alaknanda

Q51. Consider the following statements about the Indian Navy's Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-24':

1. The fourth edition of the Sea Vigil-24 exercise will be held on November 20-21, 2024.
2. Sea Vigil-24 will involve only the Indian Navy and Coast Guard in its operations.
3. Sea Vigil-24 focuses on securing coastal assets like ports, oil rigs, and Single Point Moorings, and raising awareness about maritime security among coastal communities.
4. The Sea Vigil exercise was launched in 2018 to enhance coastal defence.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1 b) Only 2
c) Only 3 d) All four

Q52. Consider the following statements about Birsa Munda:

1. Birsa Munda belonged to the Munda tribe in the Chhotanagpur Plateau area and played a major role in the tribal freedom movement against British colonial rule.
2. Birsa Munda's religious movement, Birsaism, was based entirely on Hinduism, and he encouraged his followers to abandon their tribal roots and adopt Hindu traditions.
3. The Munda Rebellion, led by Birsa Munda, was also known as the Ulgulan or Tamar Revolt, and it played a crucial role in the passage of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1 b) Only 2
c) All three d) None

Q53. Consider the following statements about the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) list for 2024:

1. State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank have been retained as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) by the RBI for 2024.
2. D-SIBs are required to maintain higher capital buffers to withstand financial shocks and reduce the risk to the broader economy.
3. Starting April 2025, ICICI Bank will be required to increase its Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital by 20 basis points (bps), bringing its CET1 requirement from 60% to 80% of the capital conservation buffer.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1 b) Only 2
c) Only 3 d) None

Q54. Consider the following statements regarding the functioning of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL):

1. NARCL focuses on acquiring high-value NPAs of ₹500 crore and above from commercial banks.
2. The resolution of NPAs acquired by NARCL is managed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. The government provides a guarantee for part of the residual amount if NARCL is unable to recover the full value of the loans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only d) 1, 2, and 3

Q55. Consider the following constitutional provisions related to the CAG of India:

1. The CAG is appointed by the Prime Minister of India under Article 148 of the Constitution.
2. The CAG is appointed for a term of five years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
3. The salary and conditions of service of the CAG cannot be varied to their disadvantage during their tenure.
4. The CAG can be removed by the President on grounds of proved misbehavior or incapacity after an address by Parliament.

Which of the provisions given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q56. Consider the following statements about hypersonic missiles:

1. Hypersonic missiles fly at a speed of at least Mach 5.
2. Hypersonic missiles strictly follow a ballistic trajectory.
3. Hypersonic missiles can not be maneuvered during flight to target specific areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

- Q57. Which of the following statements are correct about Nigeria ?
1. Nigeria is a landlocked country.
 2. Nigeria is Africa's largest country by population.
 3. The Equator passes through Nigeria.
 4. Nigeria is part of the Sahara Desert.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 3 and 4 only
 - d) 1 and 4 only
- Q58. Consider the following statements regarding Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):
1. GRAP is a framework designed to combat air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.
 2. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is responsible for implementing GRAP.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Q59. Consider the following statements:
1. Recently, Britain has agreed to return sovereignty of the all Chagos Islands to Mauritius
 2. Britain has controlled the Chagos Islands since 1816.
- Which of the above statements is/ are correct ?
- a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Both
 - d) None of the above
- Q60. Consider the following statements with reference to classical languages:
1. Recently, Union Cabinet has recognized five additional languages—Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali as classical languages
 2. Till date, only five language have recognised as a classical language
 3. In 2004, Tamil became the first language to recognised as a classical language of India.
- How many statements is/ are correct ?
- a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) All statements
 - d) None
- Q61. Consider the following statements:
1. Recently, the central government has reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 2. The government notified 3 new external members in MPC which term will began from November 1, 2024.
 3. The MPC comprises three RBI members and three external members, serving for four years or until further notice.
 4. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was formed under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act of 1934 by the Central Government.
- How many statements is/ are correct ?
- a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Only 3
 - d) All of the above
- Q62. With reference to the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, consider the following statements:
1. It is the second highest honour in Indian cinema.
 2. This award was first presented to actress Devika Rani.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Q63. Consider the following:
1. Nilgiri Mountain Railway
 2. Kalka Shimla Railway
 3. Hubballi Junction, Karnataka
 4. Nagpur's Diamond Crossing
- How many of the above are the UNESCO-recognised world heritage sites under Indian Railways ?
- a) Only two
 - b) Only three
 - c) All four
 - d) None
- Q64. With reference to the Leopards in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Leopard census is conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
 2. As per the 2022 census, Odisha has the largest population of leopards in the country.
 3. Leopard is classified as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN Red List.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

- Q65. Which of the following are part of Indirect farm subsidies provided by the government ?
1. Farm loan waivers
 2. Seeds and pesticides subsidy
 3. Renumeration under PM KISAN Scheme
 4. Investments in agricultural research
- Select the correct answer using the code given below
- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - c) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Q66. Which ministry is responsible for the implementation of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme ?
- a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
 - b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
 - c) Ministry of Heavy Industries
 - d) Ministry of Power
- Q67. Which of the following features is true of India's Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) ?
- a) The mission will use a Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3)
 - b) The mission will focus primarily on detecting water on Venus
 - c) It will use a high-altitude orbit to study Venus' surface and atmosphere
 - d) It will carry a single payload, fully developed by international collaborators.
- Q68. Regarding thermobaric weapons, consider the following statements:
1. They use the atmosphere's oxygen to fuel the explosion, creating a powerful blast.
 2. These weapons are specifically banned under the Hague Conventions.
 3. They are most effective in open fields with large target areas.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) All three
 - d) None
- Q 69. An island between India and Sri Lanka is?
- a) Chorao
 - b) Divar
 - c) Ilha Grande
 - d) Kachchatheevu
- Q 70. Which launch vehicle is used for heavier payloads, like Chandrayaan missions?
- a) PSLV
 - b) HSLV
 - c) LVM3
 - d) SSLV

ANSWERS

1- a	2-a	3-c	4-a	5-c	6-b	7-b	8-a	9-c	10-a
11-c	12-a	13-a	14-a	15-a	16-b	17-b	18-b	19-c	20-a
21-d	22-b	23-d	24-b	25-d	26-a	27-d	28-d	29-b	30-c
31-b	32-c	33-b	34-b	35-c	36-b	37-d	38-a	39-c	40-c
41-c	42-a	43-c	44-a	45-c	46-c	47-d	48-c	49-b	50-b
51-c	52-b	53-b	54-b	55-c	56-a	57-b	58-a	59-d	60-b
61-c	62-b	63-a	64-b	65-a	66-c	67-a	68-a	69-d	70-c